

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 61ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1995) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY, 4TH AUGUST, 1995

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (72)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Derek C. Jagan, S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (42)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House)

The Hon. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Senior Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip) (Absent)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development

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The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development (Absent)

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The Hon. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Senior Minister of Health

The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Senior Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P.

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

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The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development

The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President

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The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

*Non-elected Member

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.
 Mr. Komal Chand, M.P.
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P. (Absent)
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.
 Mr. Alston A. Kisson, M.P.
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P.
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)
 Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
 Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini) (Absent)
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)
 Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
 Mr. Kum Karan Ramdas, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
 Mr. Ramrattan, M.P., a/k Balkarran (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/
 West Demerara)

Members of the Minority (29)

(i) People's National Congress (26)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P.
 Miss Anna Ally, M.P.
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P., a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P.
 Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.

3.

(ii) **Working People's Alliance (2)**

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.

Mr. Matheson Williams, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs) (Absent)

(iii) **The United Force (1)**

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members:

Mr. M. Idris Deen for that sitting, and Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad up to 31st August, 1995.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:
Annual Reports (3) of the Central Housing and Planning Authority for the years 1991, 1992 and 1993.

(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance:
Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 1995 (No. 29 of 1995), made under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, on 30th June, 1995, and published in an Extraordinary issue of the Official Gazette dated 26th July, 1995.

(Circulated)

4 August

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

NO. 17 - RENTAL FOR UNIT FOR MRS. JANET JAGAN, O.E., M.P.,
AT UNITED NATIONS

Question by Mrs. Clarissa Riehl (For Oral Answer)

With reference to Question No. 5 to which a written answer was given on January 13, 1994, would the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs say what was the rental paid for the "one bedroom unit with utilities" occupied by Mrs Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P., on her assignment to the Guyana Mission to the United nations?

(Notice Paper No. 82 (Q18 Op18) published 31.7.95)

Oral Answer by the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P., was temporarily assigned to Guyana's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York for the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Mrs. Jagan assumed duty with effect from November 10, 1993. Her assignment ended on December 23, 1993.

For the purpose of accommodation, the Permanent Mission rented a one-bedroom unit with utilities at a cost of US\$384 per month for the period October to December, 1993. During the three-month period - October to December, 1993, the said unit was used at various times by the Hon. Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency The President, Mrs. Janet Jagan and Ambassador Odeen Ishmael during their participation in the work of the General Assembly. Mrs. Janet Jagan occupied the unit from November 10 to December 23, 1993.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Release of Funds by Government to University of Guyana

A request by the Minority Leader to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the release of funds by the Government to the University of Guyana was not allowed by the Speaker as the matter did not qualify.

(At this stage, the members of the People's National Congress withdrew from the Chamber).

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 46(2) AND (3)

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 46(2) and (3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Friday, 4th August, 1995, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 1995 - Bill No. 15/1995 published 31.7.95.

(Notice Paper No. 81(M62 Govt50) published 31.7.95)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1995 - Bill No. 15/1995
published 31.7.95

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read a first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution in accordance with articles 66 and 164.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONSITEM 1 - CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

The Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security moved the following motion which was put and carried:

WHEREAS as a member state of the International Labour Organisation, Guyana is obligated to examine Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation;

AND WHEREAS Article 19 states that all Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference must be submitted to the Competent Authority of member states whether ratification of such Conventions is contemplated or not;

AND WHEREAS the submission of Conventions and Recommendations adopted at sessions of that Conference should always be accompanied or followed by a statement or proposals setting out the Government's view as to the action to be taken on the instruments;

AND WHEREAS Guyana adheres to the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation of which it is a member since 1966;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana proposes to use the provisions of the Conventions and Recommendations adopted from time to time by the International Labour Conference as aims of policy and to ratify those Conventions which are in keeping with the social philosophy of the Guyanese society:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve the conclusions set out in the State Paper on the following Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the 75th and 76th Sessions of the International Labour Conference held in June, 1988 and June, 1989, respectively:-

- (a) Safety and Health in Construction Convention, 1988, No. 167
- (b) Safety and Health in Construction Recommendation, 1988, No. 175
- (c) Employment Promotion and Protection against Unemployment Convention, 1988, No. 168
- (d) Employment Promotion and Protection against Unemployment Recommendation, 1988, 176
- (e) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989, No. 169,

AND BE FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the decision of this National Assembly be conveyed to the Director General of the International Labour Organisation.

(Notice Paper No. 79 (M60 Govt 48) published 20.7.95)

ITEM 2

CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

The Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security moved the following motion which was put and carried:

WHEREAS as a member state of the International Labour Organisation, Guyana is obligated to examine Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation;

AND WHEREAS Article 19 states that all Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference must be submitted to the competent Authority of member states whether ratification of such Conventions is contemplated or not;

AND WHEREAS the submission of Conventions and Recommendations adopted at sessions of that Conference should always be accompanied or followed by a statement or proposals setting out the Government's view as to the action to be taken on the instruments;

AND WHEREAS Guyana adheres to the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation of which it is a member since 1966;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana proposes to use the provisions of the Conventions and Recommendations adopted from time to time by the International Labour Conference as aims of policy and to ratify those Conventions which are in keeping with the social philosophy of the Guyanese society;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve the conclusions set out in the State Paper on the following Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the 77th Session of the International Labour Conference held in June, 1990:-

- (a) Chemicals Convention, 1990, No. 170
- (b) Chemicals Recommendation, 1990, No. 177
- (c) Night Work Convention, 1990, No. 171
- (d) Night Work Recommendation, 1990, No. 178,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the decision of this National Assembly be conveyed to the Director General of the International Labour Organisation.

(Notice Paper No. 80 (M61 Govt49) published 20.7.95)

BILL - Second Reading - Deferred

ITEM 3 - CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1995 - Bill No. 15/1995 published 31.7.95

At the request of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution in accordance with articles 66 and 164.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.25 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



D. C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

4th August, 1995.