

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE 67TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST  
SESSION (1992-1995) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON TUESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER, 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)

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

\*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development

\*The Hon. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Absent)

\*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 (Absent - on leave)

\*The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Senior Minister of Finance

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

\*The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development (Absent-on leave)

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

The Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P., Senior Minister of Local Government

\*Non-elected Member

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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.  
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.  
 Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P. (Absent)  
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.  
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.  
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.  
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.  
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P.  
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P. (Absent-on leave)  
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.  
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)  
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)  
 Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)  
 Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)  
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)  
 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. (Absent)  
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.  
 Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip  
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P. (Absent)  
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 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  
 (Absent)  
 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)  
 (Absent)  
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.  
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P.  
 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.  
 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.

(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 2.08 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave from that day's sitting had been granted to the following Members:

Mr. Winslow Zephyr

Dr. Kenneth King

(ii) Thanks to Police Band

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, expressed thanks to the Members of the Guyana Police Band and of the Joint Services Choir for the renditions which they gave in the Public Buildings Compound in the form of Christmas music and songs, before the sitting commenced.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC. -

(1) By the Senior Minister of Home Affairs:

Annual Report of the Guyana Prison Service for the year 1993.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security for the year 1994.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Senior Minister of Finance:

(i) Financial Paper No. 2/1995 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$554,001,356, for the period ended 23rd November, 1995 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Circulated)

(ii) Financial Paper No. 3/1995 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,556,508,417, for the period ended 23rd November, 1995.

(Circulated)

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY

19 Dec

ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

By the Minority Leader, Dr. Patrick McKenzie and Mr. Phillip Bynoe

The Speaker informed the Assembly that he had received written notifications from the Minority Leader, Dr. Patrick McKenzie and Mr. Phillip Bynoe seeking leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss matters claimed to be definite, urgent and of public importance.

The Speaker stated that he could not allow the claims by Dr. McKenzie and Mr. Bynoe as those claims did not qualify as matters which could properly be raised on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly.

He agreed to allow the claim by the Minority Leader.

The Speaker reminded Members that under the Standing Orders, only one motion for the adjournment of the Assembly was allowed at a Sitting.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY

AND MOVED BY A MINISTER -

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 68(1)

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. 68(1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to consider at its sitting on Tuesday, 19th December, 1995, Financial Papers Nos. 2 and 3 of 1995.

(Notice Paper No. 91 (M71 Govt 58) published 13.12.95)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (FREE ENTRY OF SKILLED NATIONALS) BILL 1995 - BILL  
No.21/1995

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read a first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to promote the free entry of skilled nationals of qualifying Caribbean Community States.

- (2) IWOKRAMA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR RAIN FOREST CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
BILL 1995 - Bill No. 22/1995

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read a first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the sustainable management and utilisation of approximately 360,000 hectares of Guyana's Tropical Rain Forest dedicated by the Government of Guyana as the Programme Site for the purposes of research by the Iwokrama International Centre to develop, demonstrate and make available to Guyana and the international community systems, methods and techniques for the sustainable management and utilisation of the multiple resources of the Tropical Forest and the conservation of biological diversity; and for matters incidental thereto.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/1995

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Senior Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Assembly to proceed upon the motion to approve Financial Paper No. 2/1995 and thereafter moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED :

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1995 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$554,001,356 for the period ended 23rd November, 1995 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly ~~agree~~ with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:-

"RESOLVED, That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1995 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$554,001,356, for the period ended 23rd November, 1995 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund."

ITEM 2 - FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 3/1995

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Senior Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Assembly to proceed upon the motion to approve Financial Paper No. 3/1995 and thereafter moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/1995 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,556,508,417, for the period ended 23rd November, 1995.

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:-

"RESOLVED, That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/1995 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,556,508,417, for the period ended 23rd November, 1995.

BILL - Second and Third ReadingsITEM 3 - DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (DECLARATION OF AREAS) BILL 1995 -Bill No. 19/1995 published 21.11.95

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the declaration of certain areas of land owned by the Guyana Sugar Corporation Limited, as drainage and irrigation areas, for the construction of certain works therein and for purposes connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 24.11.95)

8.

Dr. Patrick McKenzie spoke to the motion. Thereafter the Senior Minister of Agriculture replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was taken through its remaining stages and was passed with the following corrections:-

Clause 5

The words "section 6(6)" were substituted for the words "section 6(7)" in the first line.

Clause 6

The words "20th November, 1995" were substituted for the words "14th February, 1994" in subsection (7)(a).

The word "not" was inserted between the words "but" and "defined" in subsection (7)(c):

REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY

ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE -

Increases in Emoluments for Public Officers

In accordance with the permission granted earlier by the Speaker, the Minority Leader moved the adjournment of the Assembly and spoke on the question of increases in Emoluments for Public Officers.

The following Ministers spoke:

The Minister in the Office of the President

The Senior Minister of Finance.

Thereafter the Minority Leader replied.

The discussion on the matter was then concluded.



## CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Before the adjournment, the Speaker thanked Members for their co-operation and assistance given to him during 1995. He extended good wishes for 1996 to Members and their families, to the Staff of the National Assembly and to the Media.

Mr. Winston Murray, on behalf of the People's National Congress, Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, on behalf of the Working People's Alliance, Mr. Manzoor Nadir, on behalf of The United Force, and the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the People's Progressive Party/Civic, thanked the Speaker and reciprocated the good wishes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.04 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.

19th December, 1995.