

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 78TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1996) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1996

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 and Communications

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

*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 (Absent)

*The Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Senior Minister of Finance (Absent)

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 Local Government

*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

Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P. (Absent-on leave)
 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.
 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.
 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-on leave)
 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)(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. (Absent)
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P.
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P.
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Miss Amna 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. Dharamdeo Sawh, M.P.
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P.
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 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.
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P. a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P.
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P.
 Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Absent-on leave)

(There is one vacancy)

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.

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

(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.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh

The Speaker announced that following the resignation of Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard as a Member of the National Assembly with effect from 1st March, 1996, and his call upon the representative of the list of candidates in which Mr. Bernard's name was included, he was informed that the name of Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh had been extracted from the said list and that Mr. Sawh was, on 1st March, 1996, declared to be an elected Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy.

The Speaker stated that before Mr. Sawh could take part in the proceedings of the Assembly, he would have, as required by article 167 of the Constitution, to make and subscribe the oath of office.

As Mr. Sawh was present, the oath was administered to him by the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Congratulations and Welcome to Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh on his election and welcomed him back to the Assembly. He also extended best wishes to Mr. Sawh.

(ii) Resignation of Dr. Partick L. McKenzie A.A.

The Speaker announced that on 7th March, 1996, he had received a letter dated 29th February, 1996, from Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, resigning his seat in the National Assembly, with effect from 1st March, 1996.

With his resignation, Dr. McKenzie had, in accordance with paragraph (1)(a) of article 156 of the Constitution, vacated his seat in the Assembly.

The Speaker stated that, in accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, he had called upon the representative of the list of candidates in which Dr. McKenzie's name was included, to further extract from the said list the name of a person to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

The Speaker, on behalf of Members and himself, extended good wishes to Dr. McKenzie.

(iii) Leave

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

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth
Mr. Samad Baksh
Mr. Ivor Allen

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Senior Minister of Finance:

- (i) Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Order 1996 (No.5 of 1996), made under section 8 of the Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Act, Chapter 1:07, on 22nd February, 1996.

(Circulated)

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- (ii) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Order 1996 (No. 6 of 1996), made under section 5 of the Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Act, Chapter 27:11, on 22nd February, 1996.

(Circulated)

- (2) By the Senior Minister of Home Affairs:

Immigration (Amendment) Regulations 1996 (No. 2 of 1996), made under section 37 of the Immigration Act, Chapter 14:02, on 21st February, 1996, and published in the Gazette on 2nd March, 1996.

(Circulated)

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

Supply of Electricity

A request by Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the supply of electricity by the Guyana Electricity Corporation was allowed.

The motion accordingly stood over to 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/1996 - Deferred

At the request of the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) and with the leave of the Assembly, consideration of Financial Paper No. 1/1996 was deferred to the next sitting of the Assembly.

BILLS - Second Reading and Committee

ITEM 2 - INTEGRITY COMMISSION BILL 1995 - Bill No. 17/1995 published 4.11.95

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of an Integrity Commission and to make provisions for the purpose of securing the integrity of persons in public life.

(Read a first time on 27.10.95)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minority Leader
The Prime Minister
Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine
Mr. Phillip Bynoe
Mr. Manzoor Nadir
Mr. Arthur A. Alexander.

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.
The Bill was read a second time.

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, the Bill was committed to a Select Committee.

ITEM 3 - CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (FREE ENTRY OF SKILLED NATIONALS) BILL
1995 - Bill No. 21/1995 published 30.12.95

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

(Read a first time on 19.12.95)

Mr. Winston Murray was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.32 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Supply of Electricity

In accordance with the permission granted earlier, Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine moved the adjournment of the Assembly and spoke on the question of the Supply of Electricity by the Guyana Electricity Corporation.

7.

The following Members spoke on the matter.

Mr. Andy Gouveia

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

The Prime Minister

Dr. Kenneth King

The Minister in the Office of the
President.

Thereafter, Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine replied.

The discussion on the matter was then concluded.

BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 3 - CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (FREE ENTRY OF SKILLED NATIONALS) BILL 1995 -
Bill No. 21/1995 published 30.12.95

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the second reading of the Caribbean Community (Free Entry of Skilled Nationals) Bill 1995.

Mr. Winston Murray concluded his speech.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following correction: -

Substitution of the year "1996" for the year "1995" in the references to the short title.

ITEM 4 - IWOKRAMA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR RAIN FOREST CONSERVATION AND
DEVELOPMENT BILL 1995 - Bill No. 22/1995 published 30.12.95

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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 to 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 on biological diversity; and for matters incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 19.12.95)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Kenneth King

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

The Senior Minister of Health

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Short Title

The year "1996" was substituted for the year "1995".

Clauses 1 - 6 were passed as printed.

Clause 7

The following amendment by the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs was put and carried:

Substitution of the word "areas" for the words "an area" in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (1).

Clauses 8 - 12 were passed as printed.

Clause 13

The following amendment by the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs was put and carried:

Insertion of the words ", with the approval of the Government," between the words "may" and " make" in the first line of subsection (1).

Schedules

The First and Second Schedules were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

Third Reading

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 5 - TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996 - Bill No. 5/1996
published 24.2.96

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the following Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Town and Country Planning Act.

(Read a first time on 29.2.96)

MOTION

ITEM 6 - REPORTS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS FOR 1992 AND
1993 - Deferred

At the request of the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), and with the leave of the Assembly, the following motion was deferred to the next sitting:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopt the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee on its Examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the years 1992 and 1993, which were laid in the National Assembly on 27th October, 1995, and refer them to the Government for consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 90 (M70) published 14.11.95)

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.34 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.**

14th March, 1996.