

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 83RD SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1992-1996) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 28TH OCTOBER, 1996

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (43)

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

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R, 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 of Local Government (Absent)

*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 (Absent-on leave)

*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

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

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P. (Absent-on leave)

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

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 Information

*The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Works and Communications

*Non-elected Member

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, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent)
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P. (Absent-on leave)
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.
 Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P.
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P. (Absent-on leave)
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government
 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)
 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 (Absent-on leave)
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P., Chief Whip
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P.
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.
 Miss Amna Ally, M.P.
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P. (Absent-on leave)
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
 Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh, M.P.
 Mr. Simon Ng-See-Quan, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent)
 Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent-on leave)
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P.
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P. a/k Parag
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P. (Absent-on leave)
 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.

(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

The Hon. Carl Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Works and Communications

The Speaker informed Members that Mr. Carl Anthony Xavier had been appointed a Minister with effect from 15th October, 1996, and designated Minister in the Ministry of Public Works and Communications.

The Speaker stated that Mr. Xavier was not an elected Member of the National Assembly but, by virtue of holding the office of Minister, he had, in accordance with article 105 of the Constitution, become a Member of the Assembly.

Mr. Xavier who was present made and subscribed the Oath of Office.

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated the Hon. Carl Anthony Xavier on his appointment as a Minister, welcomed him to the Assembly and extended best wishes to him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Ministerial Changes

The Speaker informed Members that he had been informed that the following Ministerial changes had been made with effect from 15th October, 1996:-

- (a) The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, who was Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works and Communications, had been appointed Senior Minister of Local Government.
- (b) The Hon. Moses Nagamootoo, who was Senior Minister of Local Government, had been appointed Senior Minister of Information.

(c) The Hon. Clinton Collymore, who was Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, had been appointed Minister in the Ministry of Local Government.

(ii) Appointment of Mrs. Pauline Sukhai as Parliamentary Secretary

The Speaker stated that he had been informed that Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, an elected Member of the National Assembly, had been appointed a Parliamentary Secretary to assist the Senior Minister of Local Government, with effect from 22nd July, 1996.

He extended congratulations and best wishes to the Ministers and to the new Parliamentary Secretary.

(iii) Leave

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

The Hon. Ramnauth Bisnauth,
Mrs. Janet Jagan,
Dr. Hughley Hanoman,
Dr. Moti Lall,
Mr. Desmond Hoyte,
Miss Jean Persico,
Mr. Phillip Bynoe, and
Miss Joan Richards.

(iv) Sympathy on Death of Miss Teixeira's Mother

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, extended deepest sympathy to the Hon. Gail Teixeira on the recent death of her mother.

(v) New Public Address System

The Speaker, announced that following a request by the Parliament Office some time ago, the Government obtained through the Public Administration Project, a new Public Address System for use in the National Assembly.

Installation of the system commenced during the recess and was yet to be completed. However, the system could still be used.

He further stated that information on the use of the system would be prepared for the guidance of Members and would be circulated at a later date.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Prime Minister:

- (i) Annual Report of the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development for the year 1995.

(Circulated)

- (i) Annual Report of the Public Service Appellate Tribunal for the year 1995.
(Circulated)
- (2) By the **Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House):**
✓ Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Sugar Corporation for the year 1995.
(Circulated)
- 3) By the **Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development:**
Education Policy and Five-Year Development Plan for Guyana (January 1995)
(Circulated)
- (4) By the **Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:**
(i) National Policy for Occupational Safety and Health (March, 1996).
(Circulated)

(ii) National Plan of Action on Occupational Safety and Health (March 1996)
(Circulated)

✓(iii) National Plan of Action for Children to the year 2000 (1995)
(Circulated)

✓(iv) National Plan of Action for Children to the year 2000 - Executive Summary (1995).
(Circulated)

✓(v) Annual Report of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee for the year 1995.
(Circulated)
- (5) By the **Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs:**
Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year 1994.
(Circulated)
- (6) By the **Senior Minister of Finance:**
Annual Reports of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue for the years 1994 and 1995.
(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

(1) DENTAL REGISTRATION BILL 1996 - Bill No. 14/1996

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the registration of dental practitioners, dentist extenders and dental technicians and for purposes connected therewith.

(2) ROADS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996 - Bill No. 15/1996

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Roads Act.

(3) RICE FARMERS (SECURITY OF TENURE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996 - Bill No. 16/1996

The Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Rice Farmers (Security of Tenure) Act.

(4) GUYANA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996 - Bill No 17/1996

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Guyana National Bureau of Standards Act 1984.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - SECOND READING, COMMITTEE AND THIRD READING

ITEM 1 - CIVIL AVIATION BILL 1996 - Bill No. 13/1996 published 20.7.96

Second Reading

The Prime Minister moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision in respect of the regulation and control of Civil Aviation in Guyana and for purposes connected therewith.
(Read a first time on 27.7.96)

7.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Robert Corbin
Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine
Mr. Manzoor Nadir
Mr. Hukumchand.

Thereafter the Prime Minister replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 21 were passed as printed.

Clause 22

The following amendments by the Prime Minister were put and carried:

Substitution of the following for subsection (2):-
"(2) An order under subsection (1) may contain -

- (a) provisions respecting the securing of the provision or improvement of any road to the extent that the Minister responsible for roads considers such provisions or improvement necessary or desirable in consequence of any stopping up or diversion of a road under subsection (1) ; and
- (b) such consequential, incidental or supplemental provisions as appear to the Minister responsible for roads to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of the order."

Insertion of the following after subsection (2):-
"(3) An order made under this section is subject to affirmative resolution of the National Assembly.

(4) This section does not affect any power conferred on the Minister responsible for roads by any other enactment to authorise the stopping up or diversion of any road."

8.

Clause 22 was passed as amended.

Clauses 23 to 38 and the Schedule were passed as printed.

Assembly Resumed.

Third Reading

On a motion by the Prime Minister, the Civil Aviation Bill 1996 was read the third time and passed as amended.

MOTIONS

ITEM 2 RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was opened for signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, from June 4 - 14, 1992;

AND WHEREAS the aforesaid Convention remained open at the United Nations Headquarters in New York until June 19, 1993;

AND WHEREAS the aforesaid Convention was signed by Guyana on June 13, 1992;

AND WHEREAS participation in the aforesaid Convention enhances our capacity to effectively plan for Global Climate Change as a country with a low lying coast;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana is committed to making continued efforts to combat the effects of Global Climate Change;

AND WHEREAS Guyana became a party to the aforesaid Convention through ratification on August 29, 1994:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly endorses the decision to ratify the United Nations Framework on Convention Climate Change.

(Notice Paper No. 102 (M82 Govt67) published 19.7.96)

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9.

The Minister was still 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 4.32p.m., the sitting was resumed.

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Dr. Kenneth King
Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine
Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 3 - RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Convention on Biological Diversity was opened for signature at the "Earth Summit" in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil on June 5, 1992 after it was adopted by the Inter-governmental Negotiating Committee;

AND WHEREAS the aforesaid Convention remained open at the United Nations Headquarters in New York until June 4, 1993;

AND WHEREAS the aforesaid Convention was signed by Guyana on June 13, 1992;

AND WHEREAS participation in the aforesaid Convention enhances Guyana's capacity to effectively develop and exploit our biological diversity;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana is committed to safeguarding Guyana's biological diversity;

AND WHEREAS Guyana became party to the aforesaid Convention through ratification on August 29, 1994:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly endorses the decision to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity.

(Notice Paper No. 103 (M83 Govt.68) published 19.7.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine
Mr. Manzoor Nadir
Dr. Kenneth King.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 4 - ENDORSEMENT OF THE GEORGETOWN DECLARATION OF A NEW GLOBAL HUMAN ORDER (1996)

The Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS His Excellency President Cheddi Jagan has been tirelessly advocating for the reordering of developmental priorities globally and the introduction of principles of equity, justice and eco-justice in human and social development;

AND WHEREAS in pursuit thereof President Jagan has articulated a series of measures which the international financial institutions and the donor community need to urgently adopt, in a genuine Partnership between the countries of the North and the South;

AND WHEREAS these diverse views have been compiled in a manageable form and have been promulgated in the call for a new Global Human Order;

AND WHEREAS His Excellency's presentation has been the subject of various reviews and discussions the most noteworthy of which was the Conference of a New Global Human Order, which was convened in Georgetown, Guyana, from August 2-4, 1996;

AND WHEREAS the deliberations and conclusions of that forum have been distilled into the Georgetown Declaration on a New Global Human Order (1996):

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly endorses the Georgetown Declaration on a New Global Human Order.

(Notice Paper No. 104 (M84 Govt.69) published 21.10.96)

Dr. Kenneth King spoke to the motion.

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine spoke to the motion and moved the following amendment:-

Addition of the following after the words "New Global Human Order" in the resolve clause:-

"with the clear intention of ensuring that any new constitution will guarantee conditions of sustainable human development for all, especially women, youth, ethnic minorities and indigenous people".

The amendment was not seconded.

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

The Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

12.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.53 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.



I.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

28th October, 1996