

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 85TH 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, 19TH DECEMBER, 1996

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

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 (44)

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

*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

*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.F., M.P.

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 (Absent)

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

*The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

*Non-elected Member

2.

Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.
Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P. (Absent)
Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.
Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P. (Absent)
Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent)
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., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government
Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P. (Absent-on leave)
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)
Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No.8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
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. (Absent-on leave)
Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P., Chief Whip
Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.
Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P. (Absent)
Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P. (Absent)
Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.
Miss Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent-on leave)
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 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.
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. (Absent)
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.

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 2.03 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

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

Mr. Shaik Baksh
Mr. Winslow Zephyr
Mr. Desmond Hoyte
Mr. Winston Murray
Miss Anna Ally.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

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

✓ National Policy Paper on Women - November 1995.

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/1996

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. 2/1996 and thereafter moved the following motion:

4.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1996 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$616,834,027 for the period ended 15th November, 1996 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(The Paper was presented to the Assembly on 5.12.96)

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 Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:-

"RESOLVED, That this Assembly approve the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1996 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$616,834,027 for the period ended 15th November, 1996 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund."

ITEM 2 - FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 3/1996

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. 3/1996 and thereafter moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/1996 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$2,365,942,990 for the period ended 31st December, 1996.

(The Paper was presented to the Assembly on 5.12.96)

5.

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 Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:-

"RESOLVED, That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in the Financial Paper No. 3/1996 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$2,365,942,990 for the period ended 31st December, 1996.

BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 3 - FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (PROVISION FOR CONVERSION INTO PUBLIC COMPANIES) - Bill No. 18/1996 published 2.12.96

The Senior Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for converting financial institutions into public companies and for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 5.12.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 4 - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL 1996 - Bill No. 6/1996 published 26.7.96

Second Reading

The Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security moved the second reading of the following Bill:

6.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to afford protection in cases involving domestic violence by the granting of a protection order; to provide the police with powers of arrest where a domestic violence offence occurs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 29.2.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Miss Jean Persico

The Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security replied.

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill.

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2 was passed with the following corrections:-

The letter "(q)" was inserted before the definition "psychological abuse".

The word "deprivation" was substituted for the word "destruction" in the definition "psychological abuse".

Clause 3 was passed with the following amendments which were moved by the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:-

The words "than merely" were inserted after the word "otherwise" in subsection (1)(d).

The words "for the child" were inserted after the word "responsibility" in subsection (2)(b).

7.

Clauses 4 to 28 were passed as printed.

Clause 29 was passed with the following amendment which was moved by the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:-

Insertion of the words "protection order is served on the respondent;" after the words "when the" in subsection (5)(b).

Clause 30 was passed as printed.

Clause 31 was passed with the following corrections:-

The word "filed" was substituted for the word "filled" in subsection (1).

The words "subsection (1)" were substituted for the word "subsection" in subsection (2).

The word "officer" was substituted for the word "office" in subsection (2)(c).

Clauses 32 and 33 were passed as printed.

Clause 34 was passed with the following amendment which was moved by the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:-

The words "offence under section 32, he shall make an arrest without a warrant." were inserted after the word "an".

Clause 35 was passed as printed.

Clause 36 was passed with the following amendments which were moved by the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:-

Paragraph (c) of subsection (1) was deleted and the following substituted therefor:-

"(c) that the defendant not being in a locality in which are situated the premises in which a specified person including the person named in the protection order or any relevant child resides or works;"

Insertion of the words "grounds that a person who has been admitted to bail subject to one or more of the conditions set out in" after the words "reasonable" in subsection (2).

Clauses 37 - 42 were passed as printed.

Clause 43 was passed with the following correction:-

The word "persons" was substituted for the word "person" in subsection (3).

Clause 44 was passed with the following correction:-

Deletion of the word "or" in subsection (1)(h).

Clauses 45 to 48 and the Schedule were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

Third Reading

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 5 - ROADS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996 - Bill No. 15/1996 published 23.11.96

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Roads Act.

(Read a first time on 28.10.96)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. Robert Corbin
Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister replied.

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

9.

ITEM 6 - GUYANA NATIONAL BUREAU OF STANDARDS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996
Bill No. 17/1996 published 23.11.96 - DEFERRED

At the request of the Senior Minister of Trade,
Tourism and Industry, the second reading of the following
Bill was deferred:-

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

(Read a first time on 28.10.96)

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Before the adjournment, the Speaker thanked Members for their co-operation and assistance given to him during 1996. He extended good wishes for 1997 to Members and their families, to the Staff of the National Assembly and to the Media.

Mr. Robert Corbin, on behalf of the People's National Congress, Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, on behalf of the Working People's Alliance, Mr. Manzoor, 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 5.30 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, 1996.