

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

ON THE 94TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST  
SESSION (1992-1997) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M

ON THURSDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1997

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. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister and First Vice-President

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House)

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

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Minister of Local Government

\*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., 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., Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

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

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

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

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

The Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P., Minister of Information

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. 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

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.  
 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.  
 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)  
 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)

(There is one vacancy)

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.  
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.  
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P., Chief Whip  
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.  
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.  
 Miss Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent)  
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.  
 Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly  
 Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Mr. Simon Ng-See-Quan, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. David Subnauth, J.P., M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent)  
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mrs. Cyrylda 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. (Absent)  
 Mr. Humkumchand, 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.  
 Dr. Abraham A.C. Fung-A-Fat, A.A., 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 2.00 p.m.

#### PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

#### OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

Dr. Abraham A.C. Fung-A-Fat, A.A., M.P.

The Speaker announced that following the resignation of Dr. Kenneth F.S. King as a Member of the National Assembly with effect from 1st January, 1997, and his call upon the representative of the list of candidates in which Dr. King's name was included, he was informed that the name of Dr. Abraham A.C. Fung-A-Fat, A.A., had been extracted from the said list and that Dr. Fung-A-Fat was, on 6th March, 1997, declared to be an elected Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy.

The Speaker stated that before Dr. Fung-A-Fat 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 Dr. Fung-A-Fat was present, the oath was administered to him by the Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Assumption of Office of President by Prime Minister

The Speaker stated that following the death on 6th March, 1997, of Dr. Cheddi Jagan, President of Guyana, the Prime Minister, the Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, had assumed the Office of the President in accordance with article 95 of the Constitution.

Mr. Hinds had ceased to be a Member of the National Assembly and had vacated his seat in the Assembly.

The vacancy in the Assembly had to be filled by a person whose name is to be extracted from the list of candidates in which Mr. Hinds' name was included, i.e., the People's Progressive Party/Civic List, by the representative or, in his inability to do so, by the deputy representative, of the said list.

As Dr. Jagan was the representative of that list, the Speaker informed the Assembly that he had, in accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, called upon the deputy representative of the list, to extract from that list, the name of a person to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

(ii) Appointment of Hon. Janet Jagan as Prime Minister and First Vice-President

The Speaker stated that with the assumption of the office of President, Mr. Samuel Hinds ceased to be Prime Minister and that that office had become vacant.

The Speaker said that he was informed that Mrs. Jagan, O.E., an elected Member of the National Assembly, was appointed Prime Minister and First Vice-President with effect from 17th March, 1997.

(iii) Appointment of Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud as Second Vice-President

The Speaker announced that he was informed that the Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), had been appointed Second Vice-President.

(iv) Appointment of Mr. Dunstan Barrow as Chief Whip

The Speaker stated that he was informed that the Minority Leader had appointed Mr. Dunstan Barrow to be Chief Whip.

(v) Congratulations

The Speaker extended Congratulations and best wishes to His Excellency Mr. Samuel Hinds, the Hon. Janet Jagan, the Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud and Mr. Dunstan Barrow on their elevation to the new Offices.

He also congratulated Dr. Abraham Fung-A-Fat on his election as a Member of the National Assembly. He welcomed Dr. Fung-A-Fat to the Assembly and extended best wishes to him.

(vi) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave from that sitting had been granted to Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh and Mr. Phillip Bynoe.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

TRIBUTE TO DR. CHEDDI JAGAN, LATE PRESIDENT OF GUYANA

The Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House) moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That we, the Members of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana, at this Special Sitting of the Assembly held on Thursday, 27th March, 1997 =

●place on record our profound grief at the great loss to Guyana by the death on Thursday, 6th March, 1997, of the President of Guyana, Dr. Cheddi Jagan,

- pay tribute to the long and distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament for fifty years since 1947, as a Political Leader, the longest serving Parliamentarian, the first designated Leader of the House, one of the first six Ministers of the Government, the first Premier, the first designated Leader of the Opposition and the President of Guyana, and
- direct that an expression of our heartfelt sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives.

(Notice Paper No. 106 (M86 Govt 71) published 21.3.97)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Dunstan Barrow  
The Minister of Labour, Human Services and  
Social Security  
Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine  
The Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Mr. Manzoor Nadir  
The Minister of Health.

The motion was then put and carried.

Thereafter, Members stood and observed two minutes silence as a mark of respect for the late President.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.07 p.m., on a motion by the Second Vice-President and 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.

27th March, 1997.