

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 97TH 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, 22ND MAY, 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 (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., 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 (Absent - on leave)

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

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

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 (Absent)

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

*Non-elected Member

Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government
 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., J.P., M.P. (Absent)
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P. (Absent)
 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.
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P.
 Mr. Thakoor Silas, M.P.
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroun/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) (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 (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P. (Absent)
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P., Chief Whip
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.
 Miss Anna Ally, M.P. (Absent)
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 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.
 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)
 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) (Absent - on leave)
 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.
 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.

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(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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

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

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth,
Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte,
Miss Jean M.G. Persico,
Mr. Ivor Allen, and
Mr. Phillip Bynoe.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, on behalf of the
Minister of Finance:

Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1997 (No. 8 of 1997),
made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act,
Chapter 80:02, on 30th April, 1997, and published
in the Gazette on 17th May, 1997.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

BAUXITE NATIONALISATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 6/1997 published 22.5.97

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Bauxite Nationalisation Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 1 - COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 4/1997 published 11.4.97

Second Reading

The Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Companies Act 1991.

(Read a first time on 17.4.97)

Mr. Arthur Alexander spoke to the motion.

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

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

The Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

The words "a former-Act company" were
substituted for the words "a former company".

Clause 2 was passed as amended.

Assembly resumed.

Third Reading

On a motion by the Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, the the Companies (Amendment) Bill 1997 was read the third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 2 - LAW REVISION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 5/1997 published 11.4.97

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to
amend the Law Revision Act.

(Read a first time on 17.4.97)

Mr. Arthur Alexander spoke to the motion.

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs 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.

MOTIONS

ITEM 3 - ACCESSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was opened for signature at Paris on October 14, 1994 and later adopted by the inter-governmental Negotiating Committee;

AND WHEREAS the said Convention remained open at the United Nations Headquarters in New York until October 13, 1995;

AND WHEREAS the said Convention has been signed by 115 countries and ratified by 35 countries;

AND WHEREAS the said Convention must be ratified by 50 countries for it to come into force;

AND WHEREAS the Second Regional Meeting of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Desertification was held in Mexico City from June 17 to 19, 1996;

AND WHEREAS participation in the said Convention signals Guyana's solidarity with those nations that are experiencing serious desertification and drought, particularly those of Africa;

AND WHEREAS the said Convention can play a role in the development of a National Action Programme for the prevention of unsustainable development practices which could result in desertification;

AND WHEREAS the Regional Action Plan should provide a framework under the Convention from which Guyana would be able to benefit financially, technically and otherwise;

AND WHEREAS the said Convention should be viewed in broad environmental terms:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly hereby agree to the Secretary General of the United Nations being informed of Guyana's intention to accede to the said Convention and for Guyana to formally accede to the said Convention by the deposit of an appropriate instrument of accession.

(Notice Paper No. 110 (M90 Govt73) published 16.5.97)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mr. Robert Corbin.

Thereafter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 4 - CONVENTION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

The Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security moved the following motion:

WHEREAS as a member state of the International Labour Organisation, Guyana is obligated to examine Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation;

AND WHEREAS Article 19 states that all Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference must be submitted to the Competent Authority of member states whether ratification of such Conventions is contemplated or not;

AND WHEREAS the submission of Conventions and Recommendations adopted at sessions of that Conference should always be accompanied or followed by a statement or proposals setting out the Government's view as to the action to be taken on the instruments;

AND WHEREAS Guyana adheres to the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation of which it is a member since 1966;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana proposes to use the provisions of the Conventions and Recommendations adopted from time to time by the International Labour Conference as aims of policy and to ratify those Conventions which are in keeping with the social philosophy of the Guyanese society:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve the conclusion set out in the State Paper on the following Convention and Recommendation adopted at the 81st Session of the International Labour Conference held in June, 1994:-

- (a) Part-time Work Convention, 1994, No. 175.
- (b) Part-time Work Recommendation, 1994, No. 182;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the decision of this National Assembly be conveyed to the Director General of the International Labour Organisation.

(Notice Paper No. 111 (M91 Govt74) published 16.5.97)

Mr. Arthur Alexander spoke to the motion.

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

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.27 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.



B.C. JAGAN
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

22nd May, 1997.