

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 98TH 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, 10TH JULY, 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 (Absent - on leave)

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

Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government  
 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., J.P., M.P.  
 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. (Absent)  
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P. (Absent)  
 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 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)  
 Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)  
 Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 7 - 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)  
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.  
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent)  
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.  
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P., Chief Whip  
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P.  
 Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Miss Amna Ally, M.P.  
 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 (Absent)  
 Mr. Dharamdeo Sawh, M.P.  
 Mr. Simon Ng-See-Quan, M.P.  
 Mr. David Subnauth, J.P., M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)  
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.  
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.  
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)  
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P. (Absent)  
 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. (Absent)  
 Dr. Abraham A.C. Fung-A-Fat, A.A., M.P. (Absent)

(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. (Absent)

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 had been granted to -

The Prime Minister                    )  
Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, and ) for that day's sitting  
Mr. Ivor Allen                         }

Dr. Faith A. Harding up to 21st July, and

Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad up to 20th October.

FRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister of Home Affairs:

Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations 1997  
(No. 6 of 1997), made under section 103 of the Motor  
Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02, on  
13th June, 1997.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Education and Cultural Development:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Education and  
Cultural Development for the year 1994.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Chairman of the  
Select Committee):

Report of the Select Committee on the Integrity Commission  
Bill 1995.

(Circulated)

(4) By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

Social Impact Amelioration Programme Board (Amendment)  
Order 1997 (No. 9 of 1997) made under sections 3, 4 and  
5 of the Public Corporations Act 1988 (No. 21 of 1988)  
on 2nd May, 1997, and published in the Gazette on  
17th May, 1997.

(Circulated)

(5) By the Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House),  
on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production,  
Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their  
Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention)  
(Signed by the Government of Guyana on October 6, 1993).

(Circulated)

(6) By the Minister of Finance:

- ✓ (i) Financial Paper No. 1/1997 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$240,597,052 for the period ended 31st December, 1996 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Circulated)

- ✓ (ii) Financial Paper No. 2/1997 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$362,623,118 for the period ended 2nd July, 1997 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Circulated)

The Minister of Finance named Monday, 21st July, 1997, as the day for the consideration of the two Financial Papers.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### Presentation and First Reading

- (1) MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1997 - Bill No. 11/1997 published 21.6.97

The Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip), on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the  
Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

- (2) GUYANA CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1997 - Bill No. 12/1997 published 21.6.97

The Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip), on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend  
the Guyana Citizenship Act.

- (3) IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 13/1997 published 21.6.97

The Minister of Home Affairs (Government Chief Whip), on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to  
amend the Immigration Act.

- (4) SUMMARY JURISDICTION (OFFENCES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 7/1997  
published 14.6.97

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  
Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act.

- (5) PREVENTION OF CRIMES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 8/1997  
published 14.6.97

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  
Prevention of Crimes Act.

- (6) CATTLE STEALING PREVENTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 9/1997  
published 14.6.97

The Attorney General and Ministry 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  
Cattle Stealing Prevention Act.

- 7) SUMMARY JURISDICTION (PROCEDURE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 10/1997  
published 14.6.97

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  
Summary Jurisdiction (Procedure) Act.

- 8) FORESTS (EXPLORATORY PERMITS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 14/1997  
published 23.6.97

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the  
Forests Act to provide for the grant  
of exploratory permits and for matters  
connected therewith.

- 9) BANK OF GUYANA BILL 1997 - Bill No. 15/1997

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to revise and amend the law relating  
to the Bank of Guyana and to provide for related and  
consequential matters.

- 10) MOTOR VEHICLES INSURANCE (THIRD PARTY RISKS)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 -  
Bill No. 16/1997

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles  
Insurance (Third Party Risks) Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 1 - BAUXITE NATIONALISATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1997 - Bill No. 6/1997  
published 22.5.97

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

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

(Read a first time on 22.5.97)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Dunstan Barrow.

Thereafter, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal 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 amendment to Clause 2:

Substitution of the words "this Act" for the words  
"the Principal Act" in the last line.

MOTIONS

ITEM 2 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1997 (No. 8 of 1997)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 5(1) of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1997 (No. 8 of 1997), which was 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.

(Notice Paper No. 112(M92 Govt 75) published 22.5.97)



## ITEM 3 - RATIFICATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the following motion.

WHEREAS the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention) was opened for signature in Paris on January 13, 1993;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana signed the Chemical Weapons Convention on October 6, 1993;

AND WHEREAS the Chemical Weapons Convention provides for the prohibition and destruction of all chemical weapons and their production facilities with the exception of those considered for purposes not prohibited under the Convention as provided for in Article II.9;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana believes it to be in the national interest to promote a comprehensive international disarmament regime:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana approve of the ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention).

(Notice Paper No. 113 (M93 Govt 76) published 20.6.97)

Mrs Clarissa Riehl spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.03 p.m., on a motion by the Second Vice-President and Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 21st July, 1997.

  
D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

10th July, 1997.