

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 26TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (1998 - 1999) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON THURSDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 1999**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (77)**

**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 (47)**

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

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, O.R., J.P., M.P., Minister of Agriculture and  
Parliamentary Affairs

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

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

\*The Hon. Charles R. Ramson, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

\*The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth D.A. Bisnauth, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry (Absent - on leave)

\*The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

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

\*The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

\*The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

\*The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Health and Labour

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

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

\*The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Livestock and Fisheries

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

\*The Hon. C. Anthony Xavier, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics (Absent)

\*The Hon. Shaik K. Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

\*The Hon. J. Ronald Gajraj, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

**\*Non elected Minister**

Mr. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.

Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.

Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.

Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P.

Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.

Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P.

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mr. Hari Narayen Ramkarran, S.C., M.P.

Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.,  
Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.

Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, M.P.

Mr. Joseph M. DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Mr. Heeralall Mohan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomerook/Supenaam)

Mr. Ramratan, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Geoffrey A. Fraser, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Mr. Ramsundar Sankat, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Eustace S. Rodrigues, M.S., M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)

Mr. Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)

**Members of the Minority (29)**

**(i) People's National Congress (25)**

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P.

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P., Chief Whip

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P.

Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P.

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.

Mr. Kadim A. Khan, M.P.

Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.

Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.

Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. John S. DeFreitas, M.P.

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Joseph L. Hamilton, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Sherwood A. J. Lowe, M.P.

Mr. Andrew Hicks, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Neaz Subhan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Colin Bynoe, M.P.

Ms Sandra M. Adams, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Mr. Kelley Andres, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Thakechand Ramnauth, M.P.

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

4.

(ii) **The United Force (2)**

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

Mr. Matthew R. Charlie, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)

(iii) **Alliance for Guyana (2)**

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.

Mr. Albertino Peters, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)

**OFFICERS**

Mr. Frank A. Narain, C.C.H., 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**

(i) **Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the Hon. M. Shree Chan and Mr. Aubrey Norton for that day's sitting.

(ii) **Inaccurate Report In The Guyana Chronicle**

The Speaker made the following statement:

“Honourable Members, in today’s Guyana Chronicle, at page 3, under the headline “PNC members walk out of Parliament”, there is a report by Wendella Davidson of what is alleged to have taken place in the National Assembly last night.

The report is wholly inaccurate, misleading and a clear breach of the privilege of the Assembly.

I do not know if the reporter was present in the Assembly. If she was, she must have been sleeping or did not hear and see what took place.

The reporter obviously has no idea of the practice and/or procedure of the National Assembly.

Contrary to what was stated in the article, I did not refuse to grant the Hon. Member Dr. Dalgleish Joseph an extension. In fact, the National Assembly and not the Speaker has that power and that is why the Hon. Member, Mr. Dunstan Barrow, had moved a motion to that effect.

There were several other inaccuracies in the report.

It is not true as reported that after the Hon. Member, Mr. Barrow, moved the motion he attempted to speak and that I asked him to take his seat.

In fact, as soon as the Hon. Member moved the motion, he rightly sat down as no debate is permitted on such a motion. The Hon. Member did not attempt to speak nor did I ask him to take his seat and then put the motion. After the Hon. Member, Mr. Barrow, moved the motion and sat down, I then put the motion to the Assembly. On the voting, it was my view that the motion was negatived and I said “ I think the noes have it”.

No one called for a division.

As no division was requested, I called on the Hon. Dr. Henry Jeffrey, Minister of Health and Labour, who was next listed to speak, to do so.

The Hon. Minister stood up to do so and then the Hon. Member, Mr. Barrow, stood up and, as is the practice, the Hon. Minister sat down.

I then asked the Hon. Member, Mr. Barrow, if there was a problem and as he did not reply, I requested him to please take his seat. I then again called on the Hon. Minister, Dr. Jeffrey, who stood up to speak, whereupon, the Hon. Member, Mrs. Deborah Backer, stood up and the Hon. Minister again sat down. The Hon. Member, Mrs. Backer, then asked for a division and I informed her that it was then too late to request a division. I then again called on the Hon. Minister who again stood up to speak. It was at this stage that the PNC Members walked out.

It was misleading for the reporter to give readers the impression that I first called on the Hon. Minister to speak after I had denied the request by the Hon. Member, Mrs. Backer, or that the Hon. Member, Mrs. Backer, requested a division immediately after the voting. This was not so as I have already stated.

I hope the Editor of the Guyana Chronicle will correct the false report and ensure that in future, the procedures and debates in the National Assembly are accurately reported.

A misrepresentation of Parliamentary debates is a serious breach of privilege and could involve enforcement of restriction on reporting, censure or other punishment of the offender.”

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1999 (1999 BUDGET)**

Assembly resumed the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 1999.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. E. Lance Carberry  
The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports  
Mr. Raphael G. C. Trotman  
The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs  
Mr. Navindranauth Chandarpal.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 5.06 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.49 p.m, the sitting was resumed.

**RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE 1999 BUDGET**

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Ms Sandra M. Adams  
The Minister of Human Services and Social Security  
Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence  
Dr. Moti Lall  
Mrs. Cyricula A. DeJesus

8.

Mr. Joseph M. DeSouza

The Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Local Government

Mr. Kelley Andres

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai

Mr. Albertino Peters.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 9.54 p.m., the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> April, 1999.



D. C. JAGAN

**Speaker of the National Assembly**

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,**

**Public Buildings,**

**Georgetown.**

**8<sup>th</sup> April, 1999.**