

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 35th SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1998 - 1999) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, 9th AUGUST, 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. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Prime Minister (Absent)

Mr. Samuel A. A. Hinds, M.P. (Absent)

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. 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 (Absent - on leave)

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

*The Hon. Satyadeow Sawh, M.P., Minister of Livestock and Fisheries (Absent)

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 - on leave)

*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

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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.

Mr. Navindranauth O. Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P.

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. (Absent)

Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.

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.

Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, M.P.

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

Mr. Heeralall Mohan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/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)
(Absent - on leave)

Mr. Kumkaran Ramdas, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs) (Absent-on leave)

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 Goveia, M.P.

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.(Absent - on leave)

Mr. John S. DeFreitas, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

Dr. Dalglish Joseph, M.P.(Absent)

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.

Mr. Neaz Subhan, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Colin Bynoe, M.P.

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

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

Mr. Thakechand Ramnauth, M.P.

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P. (Absent)

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

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

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

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

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.

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

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) **Resignation of Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds as Prime Minister**

(ii) **Appointment of Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo as Prime Minister**

The Speaker stated that he had been informed that the Hon. Samuel Hinds resigned the office of Prime Minister on 8th August, 1999, and that on 9th August, 1999, the Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo was appointed Prime Minister.

(iii) **Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to

the Hon. Moses Nagamootoo, up to 16th August, 1999,

the Hon. Anthony Xavier, up to 23rd August, 1999,

Mr. Kumkaran Ramdas, up to 24th August, 1999,

Mrs. Deborah Backer up to 27th August, 1999, and

Miss Sandra Adams, up to 29th September, 1999.

REQUEST FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Office of President

The Speaker referred to a written notification which he had received from Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte seeking to have discussed in the Assembly the question of the assumption of the Office of President on the vacation of the office by Mrs. Janet Jagan.

The request was not allowed by the Speaker as it did not qualify as one to be properly raised on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION REFORM COMMISSION

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana -

- express its grateful thanks and appreciation to the Chairman, Members, Secretary, and Staff of the Constitution Reform Commission for the Report on Constitutional Reform which was presented to the Special Select Committee on 17th July, 1999, and transmitted to the National Assembly on 22nd July, 1999.

6.

- refer the Commission's Report to a Special Select Committee for its consideration; and direct the said Committee to report to the National Assembly on its proposals for a reformed Constitution based on its considerations of the Constitution Reform Commission's Report and recommendations contained therein by 31st October, 1999.

(Notice Paper No. 68 (M27 Govt 23) published 5.8.99)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 2 - LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1999 - BILL No. 16/1999 published 31.7.99

The Minister of Local Government moved the second reading the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
Local Authorities (Elections) Act to
provide for the postponement of
elections of councillors of local
democratic organs.

(Read a first time on 29.7.99)

Mr. Joseph Hamilton proposed an amendment to the question.

The amendment was not in order and was not allowed by the Speaker.

The following Members spoke to the motion for the second reading of the Local Authorities (Elections) (Amendment) Bill 1999:

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Joseph Hamilton

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs.

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7.

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government 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 as printed.

ITEM 3 - EDUCATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1999 - BILL No. 15/1999 published 21.7.99

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Education Act.

(Read a first time on 22.7.99)

Dr. Faith Harding spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Education 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 as printed.

MOTION

ITEM 4 - THE ACP-EU NEGOTIATIONS ON A POST-LOME IV AGREEMENT

The Minister of Foreign Affairs moved the motion seeking the Assembly's endorsement of the preparations of the ACP Group for the current negotiations with the European Union on a Post-Lome IV arrangement; the ACP Negotiating Mandate; and particularly the ACP's positions, which remain divergent from those of the European Union on i. The political and institutional matters, ii The Trade issue, iii. Development finance, and iv. The Commodity Protocols.

(The full text of this motion appears on Notice Paper No. 66 which was published and circulated on 22nd July, 1999 - See copy at Appendix)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the Sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs continued and concluded his speech on the motion.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

Thereafter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILLS - Second Reading - Deferred

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the second reading of the following Bills was deferred:

- (i) **CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT FUND BILL 1999 - Bill No. 11/1999 published 3.7.99**
- (ii) **GUYANA LANDS AND SURVEYS COMMISSION BILL 1999- Bill No. 14/1999 published 2.7.99**

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.25 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

9th August, 1999