

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER
FOR THE 39TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(1998-1999) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 20TH DECEMBER, 1999
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS FOR SITTING

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs:

Report on the Establishment of the Oversight Committee on Constitutional

Reform and on the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

(Circulated)

F.A. NARAIN
Clerk of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE.
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

20th December, 1999

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 39th 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, 20th DECEMBER, 1999
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (78)

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 (48)

Mr. 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. Charles R. Ramson, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs
(Absent)

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

*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)

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 (Absent-on leave)

*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 (Absent-on leave)

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

*The Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility
for Finance

*The Hon. Geoffrey Da Silva, M.P., Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry

***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. M. Shree Chan, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

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. Kisson, M.P.

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

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Hari Narayan Ramkarran, S.C., M.P. (Absent)

Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P. (Absent-on leave)

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. (Absent)

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)

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. (Absent-on leave)

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

Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent)

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. (Absent-on leave)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. John S. DeFreitas, M.P.

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

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., 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.

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

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)

(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 2.08 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

OATH

Hon. Geoffrey Da Silva, M.P.

The Speaker stated that he had informed Members at the last sitting that Mr. Geoffrey DaSilva had been appointed Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry, with effect from 23rd November, 1999.

As Mr. Da Silva was present, he made and subscribed the oath.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) **Congratulations and Welcome to new Minister**

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker congratulated the Hon. Geoffrey Da Silva on his appointment as a Minister.

He welcomed Mr. Da Silva to the Assembly and extended best wishes to him.

(ii) **Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave from that day's sitting had been granted to -

the Hon. Gail Teixeira,

the Hon. Anthony Xavier,

Dr. Leslie Ramsammy,

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte,

Mr. Andy Goveia, and

Mr. Aubrey Norton.

(iii) **Thanks to GDF Band**

The Speaker, on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and himself, extended sincere thanks to the Guyana Defence Force under Major General Joseph Singh, and more particularly to the Force's Military Band under the Baton of Sergeant Anthony Price for the Christmas music which they had rendered at the Public Buildings before the sitting commenced.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the **Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs:**

Report on the Establishment of the Oversight Committee on Constitutional Reform and on the Terms of Reference of the Committee.

(Circulated)

The Minister made a short statement on the Report.

(2) By the **Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance:**

(i) State Pensions (George Walcott) Order 1999 (No. 14 of 1999).

(Circulated at sitting on 11th November, 1999)

(ii) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Order 1999 No. 39 of 1999)

(Circulated)

(iii) Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments)

Order 1999 (No. 40 of 1999)

(Circulated)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA BY HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT BHARRAT JAGDEO

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs read the following message:-

“It is with deep sympathy that we have learnt of the tragedy that swept several areas of Venezuela which has resulted in the tragic loss of many lives and severe damage to property and infrastructure. The daily reports emanating from Caracas reveal the sad plight of thousands of people due to this natural disaster.

Our heart is today with our brothers and sisters in Venezuela and I express deep sympathy to the Government and people of Venezuela. I have already dispatched a cable of sympathy to President Hugo Chavez, in which I communicated our country’s commitment to help so as to ease the sufferings of the victims of the recent floods.

In this light, we have been in consultation with the Venezuelan Ambassador to Guyana to determine what form of relief Guyana can provide to people affected.

Following these discussions, my administration has approved an initial sum of \$15 million in humanitarian assistance for Venezuela. We will also take necessary measures to reach out in solidarity with our neighbour as they cope with this natural disaster.

I am sure that all the people of Guyana share the sense of loss and grief in our sister Republic. We will continue to monitor the situation and extend assistance on behalf of the Guyanese people as far as possible.”

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION - Deferred

ITEM 1 - VENEZUELA'S CLAIM TO THE TERRITORY OF ESSEQUIBO

At the request of the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, and with the leave of the Assembly, the motion in the name of the Minister of Foreign Affairs on Venezuela's claim to the territory of Essequibo was deferred.

BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

**ITEM 2 - GUYANA LANDS AND SURVEYS COMMISSION BILL 1999 -
BILL NO. 14/1999 published 1999-07-02**

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission, to provide for its functions and for other purposes connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 1999-07-01)

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mrs. Deborah Backer
Mr. Thakechand Ramnauth
Mr. Manzoor Nadir
Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs replied.

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

Clauses 1 to 3 were passed as printed.

Clause 4

The following amendment by Dr. Roopnaraine to paragraph (a) of subsection (1) was negatived:

Addition of the words “subject to the oversight of the National Assembly”.

The following amendment by Dr. Roopnaraine to paragraph (f) of subsection (1) was carried:

Deletion of the words “for the time being directed by the Minister”.

The following amendment by Dr. Roopnaraine to paragraph (g) of subsection (1) was negatived:

Substitution of the word “State” for the word “President”.

The following amendment by Dr. Roopnaraine to paragraph (h) of subsection (1) was negatived:

Addition of the words “, subject to the prior approval of the National Assembly”.

The following amendment by Dr. Roopnaraine to paragraph (p) of subsection (1) was negatived:

Insertion of the words “, sea defences” between the words “roads” and “and”.

The following amendment by Dr. Roopnaraine to paragraph (r) of subsection (1) was negatived:

Insertion of the words “for the approval of the National Assembly” between the word “prepare” and “land”.

The following amendment by Dr. Roopnaraine to paragraph (t) of subsection (1) was not proceeded with:

Insertion of the words “, policies and resolutions of the National Assembly” between the words “laws” and “relating”.

9.

The following amendment by Dr. Roopnaraine to subsection (2) was negatived:

Insertion of the words “who shall report his actions to the National Assembly at the meeting next held after giving his approval under this subsection”.

Clause 4 was passed as amended.

Clause 5

The following amendment by Dr. Roopnaraine was carried:

Substitution of the words “any Government Department or Official, or any person acting under contract with the Commission” for the words “any person”.

Clause 5 was passed as amended.

Clauses 6 to 48 were passed as printed.

SCHEDULE

The words “as the Minister shall determine” which were omitted by the Printers were inserted at the end of paragraph 3.

The Schedule was passed as corrected.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission Bill 1999 was read the third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 3 - FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1999 - BILL No. 18/1999 **published 1999-12-04**

The Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Income Tax
(In Aid of Industry) Act and the Property Tax Act.

(Read a first time on 1999-12-06)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Winston Murray

Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance 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.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR GREETINGS

Before the adjournment, the Speaker thanked Members for their co-operation and assistance given to him during 1999. He extended good wishes for Christmas and for 2000 to Members and their families, to the Staff of the National Assembly and to the Media.

Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, Mr. Manzoor Nadir, Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine and the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs thanked the Speaker and reciprocated the good wishes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.55 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.

20th December, 1999