

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 47TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1998-2000) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON MONDAY, 10TH APRIL, 2000
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (76)

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 (46)

The Hon. Samuel A. A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister (Absent - Performing the functions of the Office of President)

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 (Absent)

*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. 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

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

*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. 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.

Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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.

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.

Mrs. Bijulee Moti, 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)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent)

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. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P.

Mr. Kadim A. Khan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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.D., M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

Mr. Sherwood A. J. Lowe, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Andrew Hicks, M.P.

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

Mr. Colin Bynoe, M.P.

Miss 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.

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(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) Leave

The Speaker informed the Assembly that, in the absence from Guyana of the President, the Prime Minister was performing the functions of the Office of President and had been granted leave from sittings of the Assembly for such period.

The Speaker also stated that the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs was consequently acting as Prime Minister.

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

Mr. Alston Kissoon and

Mrs. Volda Lawrence.

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY
AND MOVED BY A MINISTER**

Suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 46(2), 46(3) and 61(6)

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 46(2), 46(3) and 61(6) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Monday, 10th April, 2000, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2000 - Bill No. 5 of 2000. (Notice Paper No. 78 (M37 Govt 33) published 2000-04-07)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL -Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 1- CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 5/2000

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

A BILL Intituled AN ACT to alter the
Constitution in accordance with
articles 66 and 164.
(Read a first time on 2000-04-07)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. E. Lance Carberry
Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine
Mr. Manzoor Nadir
The Minister of Information.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs replied.

The motion for the Second reading of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2000 was put and was carried with the following forty-eight (48) Members voting in support thereof:

Dr. Roopnaraine

Mr. Charlie

Mr. Nadir

Mr. Norton

Mr. Ramnauth

Mr. Andres

Mr. Bynoe

Mr. Hamilton

Dr. Joseph

Mr. Trotman

Mr. DeFreitas

Mrs. Backer

Mrs. DeJesus

Miss Persico

Mr. Allen

Mr. Carberry

Mrs. Riehl

Mr. Barrow

Mr. Ramdas

Mr. Rodrigues

Mr. Sankat

Mr. Fraser

Mr. Ramratan

Mr. Mohan

Mr. DeSouza

Mrs. Moti

Dr. Ramsaran

Mr. Zephyr

Mrs. Sukhai

Mrs. Sahoye-Shury

Mr. Rodney

Dr. Ramsammy

Mr. Ramkarran

Mr. Lumumba

Dr. Lall

Mrs. Edwards

Mr. Chand

Mr. Alli

Mr. Ramotar

Mr. Belgrave

Mr. Mohamed

Miss Teixeira

Mr. Nokta

Mr. Nagamootoo

Mr. DeSouza

Mr. Collymore

Mrs. Chandarpal

Mr. Persaud

The Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the clauses of the Bill.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 7 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

A motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs that the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2000 be read the third time, was supported at the final voting in the Assembly by the votes of the following forty-eight (48) elected Members of the Assembly.

7.

Dr. Roopnaraine

Mr. Charlie

Mr. Nadir

Mr. Norton

Mr. Ramnauth

Mr. Andres

Mr. Bynoe

Mr. Hamilton

Dr. Joseph

Mr. Trotman

Mr. DeFreitas

Mrs. Backer

Mrs. DeJesus

Miss. Persico

Mr. Allen

Mr. Carberry

Mrs. Riehl

Mr. Barrow

Mr. Ramdas

Mr. Rodrigues

Mr. Sankat

Mr. Fraser

Mr. Ramratan

Mr. Mohan

Mr. DeSouza

Mrs. Moti

Dr. Ramsaran

Mr. Zephyr

Mrs. Sukhai

Mrs. Sahoye-Shury

Mr. Rodney

Dr. Ramsammy

Mr. Ramkaran

Mr. Lumumba

Dr. Lall

Mrs. Edwards

Mr. Chand

Mr. Alli

Mr. Ramotar

Mr. Belgrave

Mr. Mohamed

Miss Teixeira

Mr. Nokta

Mr. Nagamootoo

Mr. DeSouza

Mr. Collymore

Mrs. Chandarpal

Mr. Persaud

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

2000 BUDGET

MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2000

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2000.

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies, Programmes and Divisions in the Estimates were considered and were approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:-

01- OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

- 1 Head Office Administration
- 2 Presidential Advisory (Cabinet and Other Services)
- 3 Public Service Management
- 4 Amerindian Development
- Div. 501 Office of the President
- Div. 502 Office of the President – El Nino Emergency

53- GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE

- 1 Defence Headquarters

09- PUBLIC AND POLICE SERVICE COMMISSIONS

- 1 Public and Police Service Commissions
- Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25002)

10- TEACHING SERVICE COMMISSION

- 1 Teaching Service Commission
- Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25008)

11- ELECTIONS COMMISSION

- 1 Elections Commission

12 – PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

- 1 Public Utilities Commission

57- OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

- 1 Ombudsman

58- PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

- 1 Public Service Appellate Tribunal
- Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25009)

02- OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

- 1 Prime Minister's Secretariat

31 – MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 1 Ministry Administration
- 2 Public Works
- 3 Communication and Transport

Assembly resumed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 5.00 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.38 p.m., the sitting resumed.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply and resumed consideration of the Estimates of Expenditure for 2000.

In Committee of Supply

The following Agencies, Programmes and Divisions were considered and were approved by the Committee as presented with the respective amounts allocated thereto:-

Div. 518 Ministry of Public Works and Communications -
Bridges
Div. 519 Ministry of Public Works and Communications -
Sea Defences
Div. 520 Ministry of Public Works and Communications
Div. 521 Ministry of Public Works - Road Construction,
Rehabilitation and Studies

07 – PARLIAMENT OFFICE

1 National Assembly
Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25003)

21 – MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

1 Ministry Administration
2 Crops and Livestock Support Services
3 Fisheries
4 Hydrometeorological Services
5 Lands and Surveys
Div. 508 Ministry of Agriculture
Div. 510 Ministry of Agriculture – MMA III
Div. 512 Ministry of Agriculture – Artisanal Fisheries

04 – MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

1 Ministry Administration
2 Foreign Relations
Div. 506 Ministry of Foreign Affairs

52 – MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

- 1 Main Office
 - 2 Ministry Administration
 - 3 Attorney General's Chambers
 - 4 Office of the State Solicitor
 - 5 Deeds Registry
- Div. 514 Ministry of Legal Affairs

55 – SUPREME COURT

- 1 Supreme Court of Judicature
- 2 Magistrates' Department

56 – PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS

- 1 Public Prosecutions
- Div. 505 Constitutional Agencies (Code 25007)
-

41 – MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

- 1 Main Office
 - 2 National Education Policy –
Implementation and Supervision
 - 3 Ministry Administration
 - 4 Training and Development
 - 5 Education Delivery
- Div. 542 Ministry of Education – Primary Education
Improvement Programme
- Div. 543 Ministry of Education
- Div. 544 Ministry of Education – Secondary School
Reform Project
-

43 – MINISTRY OF HUMAN SERVICES & SOCIAL SECURITY

- 1 Ministry Administration
 - 2 Social Services
- Div. 503 Ministry of Human Services and Social Security – SIMAP
- Div. 504 Ministry of Human Services and Social Security

Assembly resumed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7.55 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 11th April, 2000.



L.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.**

10th April, 2000.