

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 54<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (1998-2000) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON THURSDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST, 2000**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (76)**

**Speaker (1)**

The Hon. Derek C. Jagan, O.R., 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

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 (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)

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 (Absent)

\*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, C.C.H., 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.

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

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

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

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 - Pomeroun/Supenaam)

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

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)

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

(There is one vacancy)

**Members of the Opposition (29)**

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

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P. Leader of the Opposition

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

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. Cyrida A. DeJesus, M.P.

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

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

Mr. John S. DeFreitas, M.P.

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Dr. Dagleish Joseph, M.D., M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent)

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)

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. (Absent - on leave)

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)

**OFFICERS**

Mr. Frank A. Narain, C.C.H., Clerk of the National Assembly

Mrs. Lilawtie Coonjah, Principal Assistant Secretary (Finance) (Performing the functions of Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, in the absence on leave of Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs)

**COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The Sitting commenced at 2.05 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read Prayers.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**(i) Resignation of Mr. Hari Narayen Ramkarran**

The Speaker informed the Assembly that he had received a letter dated 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2000, from Mr. Hari Narayen Ramkarran resigning his seat as a Member of the National Assembly.

With Mr. Ramkarran's resignation, a seat in the National Assembly became vacant. The vacancy has, in accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, to be filled by a person whose name has to be extracted from the list of candidates from which Mr. Ramkarran's name was extracted.

As Mr. Ramkarran's name was extracted from the People's Progressive Party/Civic List of Candidates, the Speaker, in accordance with section 99A of the said Act, had called upon the representative of the list to further extract from that list the name of a person who was willing to become a Member of the National Assembly, to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

(ii) **Leave**

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to-  
Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, and  
Mr. Winston Murray for that day's sitting, and  
Mrs. Cyrilda DeJesus from 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2000,  
and  
Mr. Raphael Trotman up to 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2000.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**BILL - Third Reading - Deferred**

**ITEM 1 - CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 9/2000**  
**published 2000-07-17**

At the request of the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the third reading of the following Bill was deferred to a later stage:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution  
in accordance with articles 66 and 164.  
(Read a first time on 2000-07-20).

**BILL - Report from Select Committee and Third Reading**

**ITEM 2 - PESTICIDES AND TOXIC CHEMICALS CONTROL BILL 1998 -**  
**Bill No. 12/1998 published 1998-10-15**

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs -

- (i) The Report of the Special Select Committee on the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Bill 1998 was adopted, and
- (ii) The Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Bill 1998, was read the third time and passed as amended.

**BILL - Third Reading****ITEM 1 - CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 9/2000****published 2000-07-17**

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs moved the third 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 2000-07-20).

The motion was put and at the final voting in the Assembly, the Bill was supported by the votes of the following forty-five (45) elected Members of the Assembly, i.e., by more than two-thirds of all sixty-five (65) elected Members of the Assembly:

Mr. Peters	Mr. Ramdas
Dr. Roopnaraine	Mr. Sankat
Mr. Charlie	Mr. Fraser
Mr. Nadir	Mr. Mohan
Mr. Andres	Mr. DeSouza
Ms. Adams	Mrs. Moti
Mr. Bynoe	Dr. Ramsaran
Mr. Hamilton	Mr. Zephyr
Dr. Joseph	Mrs. Sukhai
Mr. DeFreitas	Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
Mrs. DeJesus	Dr. Ramsammy
Miss Persico	Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Allen	Dr. Lall
Mr. Carberry	Mr. Kissoon
Mrs. Riehl	Mrs. Edwards
Mr. Barrow	Mr. Chandarpal
Mr. Hoyte	Mr. Chand
	Mr. Alli
	Mr. Ramotar
	Mr. Belgrave
	Mr. Mohamed
	Miss Teixeira
	Mr. Nokta
	Mr. DeSouza
	Mr. Collymore
	Mrs. Chandarpal
	Mr. Persaud
	Mr. Hinds

**MOTIONS****ITEM 3 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/2000**

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

**In Committee of Supply**

The Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance signified the recommendation of the Cabinet and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/2000 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$947,826,408, for the period ended 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2000 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Paper presented on 2000-07-27)

After consideration of the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

**Assembly resumed.**

On a motion by the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

“RESOLVED,

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/2000 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$947,826,408, for the period ended 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2000 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.”

**ITEM 4 - REPORT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC  
ACCOUNTS FOR 1994**

The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (Mr. Dunstan Barrow) moved the following motion:

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly adopts the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on its Examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 1994 and refer the Report to the Government for consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 81 (M40) published 2000-07-20)

Dr. Moti Lall seconded and spoke to the motion.

The following other Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Lance Carberry

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs.

The motion was then put and carried.

**ITEM 5 - REVIEW OF PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly approves of the establishment of a Special Select Committee to review the Public Holidays constituted under the Public Holidays Act, Chapter 19:07, and to report thereon to the National Assembly.

(Notice Paper No. 80 (M39 Govt35) published 2000-07-20)

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs replied.


The motion was then put and carried on the following division:



<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Declined To Vote</u>
Mr. Ramdas	Mr. Andres	Mr. Peters
Mr. Sankat	Ms Adams	Dr. Roopnaraine
Mr. Fraser	Mr. Bynoe	Mr. Charlie
Mr. Mohan	Mr. Lowe	Mr. Nadir
Mr. DeSouza	Mr. Hamilton	
Mrs. Moti	Dr. Joseph	
Dr. Ramsaran	Mr. DeFreitas	
Mr. Zephyr	Mrs. DeJesus	
Mrs. Sukhai	Miss Persico	
Mrs. Sahoye-Shury	Mr. Allen	
Mr. Rodney	Mr. Carberry	
Dr. Ramsammy	Mr. Barrow	
Mr. Lumumba	Mr. Hoyte	
Dr. Lall		
Mr. Kisson		
Mrs. Edwards		
Mr. DeSantos		
Mr. Chandarpal		
Mr. Chand		
Mr. Alli		
Mr. Ramotar		
Mr. Belgrave		
Mr. Mohamed		
Miss Teixeira		
Mr. Nokta		
Mr. DeSouza		
Mr. Collymore		
Mrs. Chandarpal		
Mr. Persaud		
Mr. Hinds		
<u>30</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 3.15 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.

3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2000.