

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 57TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1998-2000) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER, 2000
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (75)

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (46)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (45)

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. 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 - on leave)

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 DaSilva, 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. (Absent)

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. (Absent)

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.

Dr. Bheri Ramsaran, M.P.

Mrs. Bijulee Moti, M.P.

Mr. B.H. Robeson Benn, 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 Opposition (29)**(i) People's National Congress (25)**

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P. Leader of the Opposition (Absent - on leave)

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 (Absent)

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. (Absent)

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. (Absent)

Mr. John S. DeFreitas, M.P. (Absent)

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

Dr. Dalglish Joseph, M.D., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. Andrew Hicks, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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.

(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. (Absent - on leave)

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 for that day's sitting had been granted to-

The Hon. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth,

The Hon. Moses Nagamootoo,

Mr. Desmond Hoyte,

Mr. Alston Kisson,

Mr. Lance Carberry,

Mr. Kadim Khan,

Dr. Dagleish Joseph,

Mr. Andrew Hicks,

Mr. Sherwood Lowe,

Mr. Neaz Subhan, and

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine.

(ii) **Further Messages of Condolences on Death of Speaker**

The Speaker stated that since the last Sitting, further messages of condolence had been received following the death of the late Speaker.

These he communicated to the Assembly as follows:

(i) **A Letter from the President of the National Assembly of Cuba**
(Dated 17th October, 2000)

“Having heard about the lamentable and sudden death of Derek C. Jagan, Speaker of the National Assembly, which occurred yesterday, I write to you, the National Assembly and the people to express sincere condolences for the irreplaceable loss of such an outstanding politician and friend of Cuba.

Please convey my condolences to his relatives”.

(ii) **A communication from the Embassy of the Democratic**
People’s Republic of Korea
(Dated 21st October, 2000)

“The Embassy of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea presents its compliments to the National Assembly of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and has the honour to transmit the following condolence message from Comrade Choe Thae Bok, Chairman of the Supreme People’s Assembly of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in connection with the passing away of His Excellency Mr. Derek Jagan, Speaker of the National Assembly.

Upon hearing the news of sudden passing away of His Excellency Mr. Derek Jagan, Speaker of the National Assembly of Guyana, the Supreme People’s Assembly of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea extends heartfelt condolence to his bereaved family and relatives.

Although he has passed away, he will be long remembered for his high quality of service to the National Assembly and a great contribution to the development of the country”.

(iii) **A letter from the President of the Central Islamic Organisation of Guyana**
(Dated 20th October, 2000)

“The Central Executive Council of the Central Islamic Organisation of Guyana, wishes to express our deep condolence to the Members of Parliament on the passing of the Speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Derek Jagan, S.C., O.R.

We pray God forgive him and grant him a resting place in his grave and paradise on the day of Resurrection.

May all the relations be granted with patience and understanding in these times of trial”.

(iv) **A letter from the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Republic of**
Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Hector McLean, M.P.
(Dated 23rd October, 2000)

“Only last night I returned to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago after an absence of one week and learnt of the sudden death of Speaker Derek Jagan.

On behalf of all of us at the House of Representatives, I join in the expression of heartfelt condolences to the Members of the National Assembly of Guyana, the People of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and to the Jagan family, on the passing of the honourable and distinguished Speaker Jagan.

The late Speaker Jagan will forever be remembered as a good friend of Trinidad and Tobago and as one who identified with our struggles in the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

We join the people of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and all who knew the late Speaker Jagan, in mourning the passing of a humble and outstanding gentleman”.

(v) **A letter from Mr. Dennis Morgan, A.A., Chairman of the Police Service Commission, of which the late Speaker was a Member from 1987 to 1992 (Dated 27th October, 2000)**

“The Commission was saddened to learn of the sudden death of Mr. Derek Jagan, SC, OR, late Speaker of the National Assembly.

Moreso because Mr. Jagan was both active and fit and showed no signs of illness.

He would long be remembered for the distinction he earned as Speaker of the National Assembly and his profound knowledge of the rules of parliamentary procedure.

On behalf of the Police Service Commission, I wish to express profound condolence on the recent passing of Mr. Derek Jagan.

May his soul rest in peace”.

(vi) **A message from the Chairman of The Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China (Dated 18th October, 2000)**

“Shocked to learn of the unfortunate passing away of His Excellency Derek Jagan, Speaker of the National Assembly of your country, I wish, on behalf of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China and in my own name, to express my deep condolences to the National Assembly of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

His Excellency Derek Jagan was highly respected by the Guyanese people. His passing away is a huge loss to your country. He is a friend of the Chinese people. Under his direct care, the friendship and co-operation between the Parliaments of China and Guyana have been developing continuously.

Please convey my deepest sympathies to the family members of His Excellency Derek Jagan”.

(vii) **A sympathy card from the Producers of the Hansard, FCE Systems**

(viii) **A communication from the Honorary Consul for Guyana,
in Trinidad and Tobago
(Dated 19th October, 2000)**

“On behalf of the Consulate of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana in Trinidad and Tobago and the Guyanese Community, I extend deep condolences on the passing of the Speaker of the House Attorney Derek Jagan.

His long and distinguished service to the Government and people of Guyana will always be held in high esteem”.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 3/2000

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. 3/2000 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$899,061,230, for the period ended 5th October, 2000 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Paper presented on 2000-10-23)

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. 3/2000 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$899,061,230, for the period ended 5th October, 2000 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.”

ITEM 2 - CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 4/2000

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. 4/2000 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$5,160,155,540, for the period ending 31st December, 2000.

(Paper presented on 2000-10-23)

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. 4/2000 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$5,160,155,540, for the period ending 31st December, 2000.”

ITEM 3 - REPORT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS FOR 1995, 1996, 1997 AND 1998

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 years 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 and refer the Report to the Government for consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 92(M51) published 2000-10-31)

Dr. Leslie Ramsammy seconded and spoke to the motion.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

The Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.53 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



W.M ZEPHYR
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

3rd November, 2000