

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 58TH 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, 23RD 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. Reëpu 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. 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. (Absent - on leave)

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. Kisson, M.P.

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

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P.

Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P. (Absent-on leave)

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 - Pomerook/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)

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

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. (Absent - on leave)

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 Gouveia, M.P.

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 - 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. (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 Mr. Moses Nagamootoo as a Minister

The Speaker stated that he had been informed that Mr. Moses Nagamootoo, who was Minister of Information, had resigned as a Minister, with effect from 18th September, 2000.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave for that day's Sitting had been granted to:-

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, and
Mr. Lawrence Rodney.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.-

By the Minister of Health and Labour:

Annual Review of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee
for the year 1999.

(Circulated)

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

Suspension of Standing Order No. 46(2) and (3)

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 46(2) and (3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Thursday, 23rd November, 2000, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2000 - Bill No. 12 of 2000.

(Notice Paper No. 93(M52 Govt 46) published 2000-11-20)

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.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

(1) ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 12/2000

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make certain amendments in the laws relating to registration of persons and to elections to choose the President, members of the National Assembly and members of the regional democratic councils and for matters connected therewith.

6.

(2) ENERGY SECTOR (HARMONISATION OF LAWS) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 13/2000

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to harmonise laws governing regulatory functions in the restructured electricity and energy sector.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

ITEM 1 - ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 12/2000

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make certain amendments in the laws relating to registration of persons and to elections to choose the President, members of the National Assembly and members of the regional democratic councils and for matters connected therewith.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. E. Lance Carberry

“ Dr. Leslie Ramsammy

Mr. Joseph Hamilton.

The Minister of Health and Labour was speaking 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 Health and Labour continued and concluded his speech.

7.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mr. Kelley Andres

Mr. Raphael Trotman.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports was speaking when the time for the suspension of the Sitting was reached.

At 6.30 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly agreed to continue sitting beyond 6.30 p.m., uninterrupted.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports continued and concluded her speech.

While Mr. Navindranauth Chandarpal was speaking, the Speaker vacated and Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan took the Chair for a short while.

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo also spoke to the motion.

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 11 were passed as printed.

Clause 12

Mr. Lance Carberry, on behalf of and as authorised by, Mr. Raphael Trotman moved the following amendment to the proposed section 11A being inserted in the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03:

Substitution of the following for subsection (4) and for the Table below that subsection:

8.

“(4) The ten geographical constituencies shall elect twenty-five of the members of the National Assembly. The number of members to be elected from each geographical constituency mentioned in the first column of the Table below shall be as shown in the second column of the Table.

GEOGRAPHICAL CONSTITUENCIES	NUMBER OF ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTED
No. 1	2
No. 2	2
No. 3	2
No. 4	6
No. 5	2
No. 6	3
No. 7	2
No. 8	2
No. 9	2
No.10	2

The Amendment moved by Mr. Carberry was put and negatived on the following division:

FOR

Dr. Roopnaraine
 Mr. Charlie
 Mr. Nadir
 Mr. Bynoe
 Mr. Hicks
 Mr. Lowe
 Mrs. Lawrence
 Mr. DeFreitas
 Mr. Goveia
 Mrs. DeJesus
 Miss Persico
 Mr. Khan
 Mr. Carberry
 Mr. Hoyte

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AGAINST

Mr. Ramdas
 Mr. Sankat
 Mr. Fraser
 Mr. Ramratan
 Mr. Mohan
 Mr. DeSouza
 Mr. Benn
 Mrs. Moti
 Dr. Ramsaran
 Mrs. Sukhai
 Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
 Dr. Ramsammy
 Mr. Ramjattan
 Mr. Nagamootoo
 Mr. Lumumba
 Dr. Lall
 Mr. Kissoon
 Mrs. Edwards
 Mr. DeSantos
 Mr. Chandarpal
 Mr. Chand
 Mr. Alli
 Mr. Ramotar
 Mr. Mohamed
 Miss Teixeira
 Mr. Nokta
 Mr. DeSouza
 Mr. Collymore
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Rohee
 Mr. Persaud
 Mr. Hinds

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Thereafter, the Members of the People's National Congress withdrew from the Chamber.

10.

Dr. Rupert Roopnarain moved the following amendment to the proposed section 11B being inserted in the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03:

Substitution of the following for subsection (8):

“(8) The order in which the names of candidates appear on a List shall be the order in which the Representative of that List shall appoint members as elected to the National Assembly and the Clerk shall ascertain that members of each list have been named in that order.”

The amendment was put and negatived.

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs moved the following amendments to the proposed section 11B being inserted in the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03:

Renumbering of subsection (8) as subsection (9).

Insertion of the following as subsection (8):

- “(8) In the extraction from the lists and declaration of names of the candidates who have been elected account shall be taken -
- (i) of the total number of females on each party’s national top-up lists and the lists for geographical constituencies, taken together, being at least one-third of the number of persons on those lists as mentioned in paragraphs (5), (6) and (7); and
 - (ii) of the proportion that women form of the electorate.”

The amendments were put and carried.

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs moved the following amendment to section 39A (1) (a), being inserted in the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03:

Insertion of the following after the word “party:” at the end of paragraph (a):

“but the serial numbering on the ballot paper under paragraph (a) and the serial numbering on the counterfoil, under paragraph (c), shall be done in such a manner as to ensure that the two sets of serial numbers cannot be correlated.”

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 12 was passed as amended.

Clause 13

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs moved the following amendment to subsection (2):

Substitution of “99 to 101 (inclusive)” for “99, 100, 101”

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 13 was passed as amended.

Clauses 15 to 24 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2000 was read the third time and passed as amended on the following division:

FOR

Mr. Ramdas
 Mr. Sankat
 Mr. Fraser
 Mr. Ramratan
 Mr. Mohan
 Mr. DeSouza
 Mr. Benn
 Mrs. Moti
 Dr. Ramsaran
 Mrs. Sukhai
 Mrs. Sahoye-Shury
 Dr. Ramsammy
 Mr. Ramjattan
 Mr. Nagamootoo
 Mr. Lumumba
 Dr. Lall
 Mr. Kisson
 Mrs. Edwards
 Mr. DeSantos
 Mr. Chandarpal
 Mr. Chand
 Mr. Alli
 Mr. Ramotar
 Mr. Mohamed
 Miss Teixeira
 Mr. Nokta
 Mr. DeSouza
 Mr. Collymore
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Rohee
 Mr. Persaud
 Mr. Hinds

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AGAINST

Dr. Roopnaraine
 Mr. Charlie
 Mr. Nadir

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ADJOURNMENT

At 7.52 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.**

23rd November, 2000.