

Official Report

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION (2015-2019) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN

113TH Sitting

Friday, 26TH April, 2019

Assembly convened at 2.10 p.m.

Prayers

[Mr. Speaker in the Chair]

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I was informed by way of letter, dated 25th April, 2019, from Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon, M.S., that he has resigned his seat as a Member of Parliament with effect from that date. With Mr. Harmon's resignation a seat in the National Assembly has become vacant. The vacancy is, in accordance with section 99(a) of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, to be filled by a person whose name is to be extracted from the list of candidates from which Mr. Harmon's name was extracted. As Mr. Harmon's name was extracted from the A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance For Change's (APNU/AFC) list of candidates, I have, in accordance with section 99(a) of the said Act, called upon the representative of the said list to further extract from that list the name of a person who is willing to become a Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

Hon. Members, following the resignation of Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon, M.S., and my call upon the representative of the list of the A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance For Change's list of

candidates, I have been informed that the name of Mr. Mervyn Williams was extracted from the list and that Mr. Mervyn Williams was on 25th April, 2019 declared by the Guyana Elections Commission to be an elected Member of the National Assembly. Before Mr. Williams can take part in the proceedings of the National Assembly he will have to make and subscribe the Oath of Office before the Assembly, as required by article 167 of the Constitution. As Mr. Williams is present, he can now make and subscribe the Oath which will be administered to him by the Clerk of the National Assembly.

The Oath of Office was administered to and subscribed by the following Member:

Mr. Mervyn Williams

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I was informed by way of letter, dated 4th April, 2019, from Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine that he has resigned his seat as a Member of Parliament. With Dr. Roopnaraine's resignation a seat in the National Assembly has become vacant. The vacancy is in accordance with section 99(a) of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, to be filled by a person whose name is to be extracted from the list of candidates from which Dr. Roopnaraine's name was extracted. As Dr. Roopnaraine's name was extracted from the A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance For Change's list of candidates, I have, in accordance with section 99(a) of the said Act, called upon the representative of the said list to further extract from that list the name of a person who is willing to become a Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

Hon. Members, following the resignation of Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine and my call upon the representative of the list of the A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance For Change's list of candidates, I have been informed that the name of Ms. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley was extracted from the list and that Ms. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley was on 25th April, 2019 declared by the Guyana Elections Commission to be an elected Member of the National Assembly. Before Ms. Sarabo-Halley can take part in the proceedings of the National Assembly she will have to make and subscribe the Oath of Office before the Assembly, as required by article 167 of the Constitution. As Ms. Sarabo-Halley is present, she can now make and subscribe the Oath which will be administered to her by the Clerk of the National Assembly.

The Oath of Office was administered to and subscribed by the following Member:

Ms. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I was informed by way of letter, dated 4th April, 2019, from Mr. Carl Greenidge that he has resigned his seat as a Member of Parliament with effect from that date. With Mr. Greenidge's resignation a seat in the National Assembly has become vacant. The vacancy is in accordance with section 99(a) of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, to be filled by a person whose name is to be extracted from the list of candidates from which Mr. Greenidge's name was extracted. As Mr. Greenidge's name was extracted from the A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance For Change's list of candidates, I have, in accordance with section 99(a) of the said Act, called upon the representative of the said list to further extract from that list the name of a person who is willing to become a Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

Hon. Members, following the resignation of Mr. Carl Greenidge and my call upon the representative of the list of the A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance For Change's list of candidates, I have been informed that the name of Ms. Donna Mathoo was extracted from the list and that Ms. Donna Mathoo was on 25th April, 2019 declared by the Guyana Elections Commission to be an elected Member of the National Assembly. Before Ms. Mathoo can take part in the proceedings of the National Assembly she will have to make and subscribe the Oath of Office before the Assembly, as required by article 167 of the Constitution. As Ms. Mathoo is present, she can now make and subscribe the Oath which will be administered to her by the Clerk of the National Assembly.

The Oath of Office was administered to and subscribed by the following Member:

Ms. Donna Mathoo

2.25 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I was informed by way of letter dated the 25th April, 2019, from Mr. Hans Dominic Gaskin, that he has resigned his seat as a Member of Parliament (MP) with effect from that date. With Mr. Gaskin's resignation, a seat in the National Assembly has become vacant. The vacancy is, in accordance with section 99(a) of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, to be filled by a person whose name is to be extracted from the List of Candidates

from which Mr. Gaskin's name was extracted. As Mr. Gaskin's name was extracted from A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance For Change's (APNU/AFC's) List of Candidates, I have, in accordance with section 99(a) of the said Act, called upon the representative of the said list to further extract from that list the name of a person who is willing to become a Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

Hon. Members, following the resignation of Mr. Hans Dominic Gaskin and my call upon the representative of the A Partnership for National Unity/Alliance For Change's list of candidates, I have been informed that the name of Mr. Reynard Ward was extracted from the list and that Mr. Reynard Ward was on the 25th April, 2019, declared by the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) to be an elected Member of the National Assembly. Before Mr. Ward can take part in the proceedings of the National Assembly, he will have to make and subscribe the Oath of Office before the Assembly, as required by Article 167 of the Constitution. As Mr. Ward is present, he can now take and subscribe the oath which will be administered to him by the Clerk.

The Oath of Office was administered to and subscribed by the following Member:

Mr. Reynard Ward

Resignations of Members of Parliament of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C)

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I was informed by way of letter dated the 16th April, 2019, from Ms. Gail Teixeira, that she has resigned her seat as a Member of Parliament with effect from that date. With Ms. Teixeira's resignation, a seat in the National Assembly has become vacant. The vacancy is, in accordance with section 99(a) of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03 to be filled by a person whose name is to be extracted from the list of candidates from which Ms. Teixeira's name was extracted. As Ms. Teixeira's name was extracted from the People's Progressive Party/Civic's (PPP/C's) List of Candidates, I have, in accordance with section 99(a) of the said Act, called upon the representative of the said list to further extract from that list the name of a person who is willing to become a Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

Hon. Members, I was informed by way of letter dated the 17th April, 2019, from Mr. Odinga Lumumba, that he has resigned his seat as a Member of Parliament with effect from that date. With

Mr. Lumumba's resignation, a seat in the National Assembly has become vacant. The vacancy is, in accordance with section 99(a) of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, to be filled by a person whose name is to be extracted from the list of candidates from which Mr. Lumumba's name was extracted. As Mr. Lumumba's name was extracted from the People's Progressive Party/Civic's List of Candidates, I have, in accordance with section 99(a) of the said Act called upon the representative of the said list to further extract from that list the name of a person who is willing to become a Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

Hon. Members, I was informed by way of letter dated 12th April, 2019, from Mr. Adrian Anamayah, that he has resigned his seat as a Member of Parliament with effect from that date. With Mr. Anamayah's resignation, a seat in the National Assembly has become vacant. The vacancy is, in accordance with section 99(a) of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, to be filled by a person whose name is to be extracted from the list of candidates from which Mr. Anamayah's name was extracted. As Mr. Anamayah's name was extracted from the People's Progressive Party/Civic's List of Candidates, I have, in accordance with section 99(a) of the said Act, called upon the representative of the said list to further extract from that list the name of a person who is willing to become a Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy in the Assembly. I thank you.

Congratulations to new Members of Parliament

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I would like, on my behalf and on your behalf, to congratulate Ms. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, Ms. Donna Mathoo and Mr. Reynard Ward on their becoming Members of the National Assembly. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Mervyn Williams for again being elected a Member of the National Assembly. I welcome them all to the Assembly and extend best wishes to them for the future. I thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave from Sitting

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, leave from today's Sitting has been granted to the Hon. Member, Mr. Winston Jordan.

Passage of No-Confidence Motion

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, before we continue further with our business, I wish to address you on a particular matter which is of importance I deem to all of us. I hold it useful and helpful to relate to you, Hon. Members, the events which have occurred and which have impacted on us. You would recall that your Speaker at the 111th Sitting of this House on 21st December, 2018, declared passed a no-confidence motion which was moved by the Opposition. In the interim, between the declaration of the Speaker and the date named for the next Sitting, which was the 3rd January, 2019, a number of issues arose, which, in the opinion of the Speaker, required definitive settlement by a duly constituted and fully mandated body outside of the National Assembly.

Those issues which arose related to interpretation of certain provisions of the Constitution. The bodies fully charged with the authority to render full and binding interpretation of provisions of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic Guyana are, the High Court of Guyana, the Court of Appeal of Guyana and the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) which is the highest and final Court to which Guyana must turn for the resolution of any legal issue.

The present state of things is that the High Court has considered the constitutional issues. The findings of the High Court have been appealed to the Court of Appeal of Guyana and the findings of the Court of Appeal have been appealed to the Caribbean Court of Justice. Both the Government and the Opposition have engaged the appellate jurisdiction of the Courts. That Court known as the CCJ, which is the final Court of Appeal of Guyana, has fixed 9th and 10th May, 2019, to hear arguments in the appeal. At the close of the hearing, the CCJ will issue directions as to the next course of action.

Your Speaker, who is named a Respondent in those cases, has appeared with independent Counsel before the Court, but, in accordance with its notification to each of the Courts, has taken no part in the contentious aspects of the case.

The practical effects of the findings of the High Court and the Court of Appeal are as follows: The High Court in its findings confirmed that the vote in favour of the no-confidence motion was validly passed and that the Government should resign and within three months call elections.

The findings of the High Court were appealed to the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal found that the no-confidence motion was not validly passed.

It is important to emphasise that the decision of the Court of Appeal was delivered on the very day after which the three months period for the naming of a date for elections would have expired.

The effect of the decision of the Court of Appeal is that the Government is returned to the same position of authority which it possessed before the no-confidence motion was debated on 21st December, 2018. The present position is, therefore, that the Government continues to exercise its authority to govern the country without limitation.

After the decision of the CCJ is rendered, the Speaker will inform the National Assembly of the consequences of the decision of that court.

2.40 p.m.

One of the effects of the findings of the High Court is that persons who hold dual citizenship cannot lawfully occupy a seat in the National Assembly. A number of the Members of Parliament - four Ministers and three Members of the Opposition, who held or who still hold dual citizenship, have taken steps to put themselves in order by resignation from the National Assembly. You would have witnessed a ceremony in this regard which took place earlier and would have heard the pronouncements of the Speaker. As information on this and other related matters take place, I shall ensure that, Hon. Members, are notified.

Hon. Members, I thank you for your kindness and attention.

Death of Mr. Ishak Bashir

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I was informed of the death of Mr. Ishak Bashir, a former Member of Parliament who died on the 1st February 2019 at his residence after a brief illness. Mr. Bashir was 84 years old having been born on the 18th September 1935. Mr. Bashir came from the People's Progressive Party/Civic.

Elections were held on the 16th July 1975 under the system of proportional representation (PR). The Third Parliament of Guyana commenced when the National Assembly first met on the 26th July, 1973. The ceremonial opening of the Third Parliament took place at the Eleventh Sitting of the National Assembly on the 29th October, 1973. The PPP did not attend and participate in the work of Parliament until the 24th May, 1976. During the latter part of the Third Parliament and on

the 116th Sitting of the Parliament of the National Assembly, Mr. Bashir, first became a Member of the National Assembly on the 18th January, 1977, and continued working until the Third Parliament was dissolved on the 25th October, 1980.

Elections were held on Monday, 15th December, 1980, under the system of proportional representation. The Fourth Parliament of Guyana commenced when the National Assembly first met on the 30th January, 1981. Mr. Bashir was again elected to be a Member of the National Assembly on the 28th December, 1980 and worked in the Fourth Parliament until it was dissolved on the 31st October, 1985. Elections were held on Monday, 9th December, 1985. The Fifth Parliament of Guyana commenced, and the National Assembly first met on the 3rd February, 1986. Mr. Bashir was again elected to be a Member of the National Assembly on the 24th December, 1985 and continued working in the Fifth Parliament until the 3rd March, 1991 when he ceased to be a Member of the National Assembly on that day.

On the 29th August, 1992, the Fifth Parliament whose life was extended from time to time from the 3rd February, 1986 to the 10th June, 1992 was dissolved. On the 10th December, 1992, Mr. Bashir was appointed Chairman of the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs. Mr. Bashir continued to work in that organ until he ceased to be Chairman on the 31st May, 2001.

Death of Mr. Francis Vibert De Souza

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, I was also informed of the death of Mr. Francis Vibert De Souza, who died on the 29th December, 2018 at his residence in Eccles, East Bank Demerara. Mr. De Souza was 73 years old having been born on the 31st December, 1944. Mr. De Souza came from the People's Progressive Party/Civic. Following the General and Regional Elections, which were held on the 5th October, 1992, the Sixth Parliament of Guyana commenced when the National Assembly first met on the 17th December, 1992. Mr. De Souza first became a Minister of the Government with effect from 20th November, 1992, and was designated Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development. On the said date, 20th November, 1992, Minister De Souza was also assigned responsibility for assisting the Prime Minister with specific matters pertaining to Amerindian affairs. Mr. De Souza served through the Sixth Parliament until the Parliament was dissolved on the 29th October, 1997. Elections were again held on Monday 15th December, 1997.

The Seventh Parliament of Guyana commenced when the National Assembly first met on the 26th February, 1998. Mr. De Souza was again appointed a Minister of the Government with effect from 24th December, 1997 and was designated Minister of Amerindian Affairs. Mr. De Souza worked in the Seventh Parliament until the Parliament was dissolved on the 15th February, 2001. Mr. De Souza ceased to be a legislator on the 22nd March, 2001.

Hon. Members, please let us stand and observe one-minute silence as a mark of respect for the late Mr. Ishak Bashir and Mr. Francis Vibert De Souza.

Minute of silence observed.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Members, please be seated.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

The following Reports were laid:

- (1) Women and Gender Equality Commission Report on “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”.
- (2) Final Report into the Investigation of Employment Practices at the Guyana Elections Commission and the Appointment of Roxanna Myers to the Post of Deputy Chief Election Officer. *[Speaker of the National Assembly]*
- (3) 1. Loan Contract No. 4698/BL-GY dated December 10, 2018 between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for an amount of US\$11,640,000 to finance the Strengthening of the Energy Sector Program. Under this Loan Contract, the IDB will finance a policy-based reform program that will contribute to the development of the Oil and Gas Sector and cleaner energy sources for electricity generation through:
 - (i) Developing a management and planning framework for the Oil and Gas Sector; and
 - (ii) Contributing towards the development of the policy framework to diversify the electricity generation matrix.

2. Annual Report of the National Insurance Scheme for the year 2016.
3. The Petroleum (Exploration and Production) (Tax Laws) (Tullow Guyana B.V. Eco (Atlantic) Guyana Inc. and Total E&P Guyana BV) Order 2019 – No. 2 of 2019.
4. End of Year Outcome Statement for 2018.
5. (i) Loan Contract No. 4676/BL-GY dated February 11, 2019 between the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for an amount of US\$21,160,000 to finance expenditure related to the Energy Matrix Diversification and Institutional Strengthening of the Department of Energy (EMISDE).

(ii) Loan Contracted No. 4659/BL-GY dated February 11, 2019 between the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for an amount of US\$6,000,000 to finance expenditures related to establishing an Electronic Single Window for Trade (ESW) Project.

(iii) Bilateral Debt Settlement Agreement signed on March 18, 2019 between the Kuwait Investment Authority, State of Kuwait and the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana for US\$64,860,594.15.

[Minister of Finance]

- (4) Audited Financial Statements of the Institute of Applied Science and Technology for the year ended 31st December, 2014. *[Minister of State]*
- (5) Audited Financial Statement of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport Corporation for the year ended 31st December 2016. *[Minister of Public Infrastructure]*
- (6) 1. Annual Report of the Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest) for the year 2016.

2. Annual Report of the Guyana National Bureau of Standards for the years 2012 and 2013.

3. Annual Report of the Competition and Consumer Affairs Commission for the years 2012 and 2013.

4. Annual Report of the Guyana National Printers Limited for the year 2015.

[*Minister of Business*]

2. 55 p.m.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

The following Report was laid:

(1) Report of the Special Select Committee on the Food Safety Bill 2016 – Bill No. 22/2016.

[*Minister of Agriculture Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Food Safety Bill 2016.*]

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND FIRST READINGS

The following Bills were introduced and read for the first time:

INTERCEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2019 – Bill No. 1/2019

A BILL intituled:

“AN ACT to amend the Interception of Communications Act.” [*Minister of Public Telecommunications*]

PROCUREMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2019 – BILL No. 2/2019

A BILL intituled:

“AN ACT to amend the Procurement Act.” [*Minister of Finance*]

CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT OF SCHEDULES) BILL 2019 – Bill No. 4/2019

A BILL intituled:

“AN ACT to amend the Customs Act.” [*Minister of Finance*]

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL 2019 – Bill No. 5/2019

A BILL intituled:

“AN ACT to amend the National Accreditation Council Act 2004.” [*Minister of Education*]

NATIONAL ACCREDITATION COUNCIL ACT 2004 (VALIDATION) BILL 2019 – Bill No. 6/2019

A BILL intituled:

“AN ACT to validate the commencement of and all acts and things done under the National Accreditation Council Act 2004.” [*Minister of Education*]

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF MR. ABDUL KADIR, FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret on the death of Mr. Abdul Kadir, on 28th June, 2018, and pays tribute to his dedicated service to the Parliament of Guyana as a Member of Parliament where he served in the Eighth Parliament, from 17th April, 2001 to 2nd May, 2006, and to the people of Guyana;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives. [*Minister within the Ministry of Communities*]

Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture [Ms. Patterson–Yearwood]: I present to this Assembly a motion entitled: “Sympathy on the Death of Mr. Abdul Kadir, former Member of Parliament”.

“BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret on the death of Mr. Abdul Kadir, on 28th June, 2018, and pays tribute to his dedicated service to the Parliament of Guyana as a

Member of Parliament where he served in the Eighth Parliament, from 17th April, 2001 to 2nd May, 2006, and to the people of Guyana;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives.”

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few more words about the late Abdul Kadir. He was born on the 8th December, 1961 in the village of Buxton, East Coast Demerara, Guyana. Born under the name Michael Seaforth, Kadir was converted to Islam in 1974 and changed his name. He was married to Isha Roberts, which the union produced nine children and 43 grandchildren. He was a fruitful man.

Abdul Kadir, was a Guyanese politician who served as a member of this National Assembly from 2001 to 2006, representing the People’s National Congress/Reform (PNC/R), where he served as a member of the Natural Resources Committee. During the period 1994 to 1996, Abdul Kadir served as Mayor of the Town of Linden.

He was a Chemical Engineer by profession, graduated from the Universities of Guyana and the West Indies, Kadir began working with the Linden Mining Enterprise Ltd. (LINMINE) in 1981 as a Project Engineer. In 1992, he was promoted to the position of Senior Supervisor responsible for the Construction and General Engineering Department. Prior to Mr. Kadir’s work at LINMINE, he worked as a Plant Operator with the then Guyana Water Authority (GWA) and as a Planning Engineer with the Guyana Builders’ Consortium Co-op Society. He could be described as a technically competent Civil Engineer with more than 30 years’ engineering and management experience at different levels.

Being a man who travelled extensively throughout the Caribbean, South America, Canada, England and the Middle East, Abdul Kadir was fluent in English, Spanish, French and Arabic. He was well known for his expertise in martial arts and other sporting activities such as swimming and cycling.

It can be said that Abdul Kadir had a very hectic social life, he was involved in several social organisations where he held positions such as: Chairman of the Watooka Day and Mackenzie High

Schools Parents/Teachers' Association (PTAs); Vice President of the Caribbean Association of Professional Engineers; and the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authority, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker permit me to quote the sayings of one of Mr. Kadir's 43 grandchildren. She said, "Looking back at the good times and the bad times", it did not matter how persons saw her grandfather. "To me he is a hero, my hero." She said she could always remember him trying his utmost to pass on his knowledge to them in the best way he could. She said that everyone knew her grandfather to be a very religious and independent individual and his words, "Success is patience, prayers and perseverance and to never stop worshiping Allah", will always be with her.

It is known to all of Guyana that Abdul Kadir died in the United States on the 20th June, 2018 at age 66. On the 12th July, 2018, his body was interred at the Christiansburg Cemetery, Linden, Guyana following a Janaza at the Mackenzie Sports Club Ground.

I will close by saying, the people of Linden and Guyana have lost a great man, a stalwart, a bold and courageous man. I ask this National Assembly that we direct an expression of sympathy to be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children, grandchildren and relatives. Thank you. [*Applause*]

Motion Proposed

Mr. Rutherford: I rise to support the sympathy motion for Mr. Abdul Kadir. This National Assembly records its deepest regret on the death of Mr. Abdul Kadir on the 28th June, 2018 and pays tribute to his dedicated service to the Parliament of Guyana as a Member of Parliament where he served in the Eight Parliament from 17th April, 2001 to 2nd May, 2006...

3.10 p.m.

I can add very little to Minister Yearwood's statement on Mr. Kadir. But, I can say that I was a family friend to Mr. Kadir and many of our children would have entered the same classes. Mr. Kadir was known in the Linden area as supportive of sports and as very supportive of all activities at the Watooka Day Primary School and at the Mackenzie High School. As Minister Yearwood would have said, Linden, Guyana and the National Assembly (NA) are lesser for the passing of Mr. Kadir. I want to support this motion and further say that, on my personal behalf, family and

the National Assembly, the National Assembly directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [*Applause*]

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Hon. Member for his statement.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion carried.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, while we pay tribute to the memory and service of Mr. Abdul Kadir, let us pay a moment to recognise, among us, the presence of relatives of Mr. Abdul Kadir. It would be appropriate if you would rise for a brief moment.

[Family members of Mr. Abdul Kadir rose.]

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. The House will ensure that the expression of sympathy is appropriately delivered to the family. I thank you.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTIONS

SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF MR. HEERALALL MOHAN, FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret on the death of Mr. Heeralall Mohan, on 1st November, 2018, and pays tribute to his dedicated service to the Parliament of Guyana as a Member of Parliament where he served in the Seventh and Eighth Parliaments, from 26th February, 1998 to 2nd May, 2006, and to the people of Guyana;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives. [*Mr. Rohee*]

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, there is a motion in the name of Mr. Clement Rohee. Mr. Rohee is absent and I am unaware that anyone has been proposed as an alternative to Mr. Rohee to move this motion. In accordance with the rules and practice, we will then proceed to the next item on our list, as announced by the Clerk, which is Committee's Business - Motions.

COMMITTEES BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ADOPTION OF THE SEVENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS IN RELATION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Article 212S of the Constitution provides for the establishment of an Indigenous Peoples' Commission;

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with Article 212S (2) (a) (b) (c) of the Constitution, the Indigenous People's Commission shall consist of –

- a) not more than ten members, nominated by entities, by a consensual mechanism determined by the National Assembly, after the entities are determined by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all elected members of the National Assembly;*
- b) three persons, at least one being a woman nominated by the Toshaos Council and two persons including one woman nominated by Amerindian organisations determined by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all elected members of the National Assembly; and*
- c) a member who shall be a nominee, without the right to vote, chosen by and from each of the following Commissions, the Human Rights Commission, Ethnic Relations Commission, Women and Gender Equality Commission and the Rights of the Child Commission unanimously agreed on the following entities to nominate one person each as members of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission."*

AND WHEREAS, in keeping with article 212 (2) (a) of the Constitution, the Committee on Appointments, having deliberated on the identification of the entities for nomination to the

Indigenous Peoples' Commission, unanimously agreed on the following entities to nominate one person each as members of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission:

- (i) Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs;
- (ii) Ministry of Public Health;
- (iii) Ministry of Social Protection;
- (iv) Private Sector Commission;
- (v) Environmental Protection Agency;
- (vi) Bar Association of Guyana;
- (vii) Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners Association;
- (viii) Forest Products Association;
- (ix) Inter-Religious Organisation; and
- (x) National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI)

AND WHEREAS, the Committee also unanimously agreed on the consensual mechanism to guide the process for consultation and nomination of Members to the said Indigenous Peoples' Commission with reference to article 212S(a) of the Constitution herein of the First Schedule;

AND WHEREAS, the Committee invited the National Toshias Council and the five (5) Amerindian Organisations namely, the National Amerindian Development Foundation (NADF), the Amerindian Action Movement of Guyana (TAAMOG), the Guyana Organisation of Indigenous Peoples (GOIP), Amerindian Peoples Association, and North Rupununi (NRDDB) to submit their nominees;

AND WHEREAS, the Toshias Council on March 17, 2017, submitted three (3) nominees to the Indigenous Peoples' Commission (IPC);

AND WHEREAS, only four (4) Amerindian organisations submitted two (2) nominees through a process of selection.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly adopts the 7th Report of the Committee on Appointments in relation to the appointment of Members of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission, which recommends the list of entities proposed in the second "*And Whereas*" clause, to be consulted to nominate members of the Indigenous Peoples' Commission in keeping with article 212 S (2) (a) of the Constitution;

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the consensual mechanism, outlined in the First Schedule attached. [*Hon. Minister of Social Cohesion with responsibility for Culture, Youth and Sport*]

Minister of Social Cohesion with responsibility for Culture, Youth and Sport [Dr. Norton]:

Mr. Speaker, I beg that this motion be deferred to a later date.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Hon. Member. The Hon. Member has requested that the motion be deferred. All Members seem to be in favour.

Motion deferred.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON ITS EXAMINATION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF GUYANA FOR THE YEAR 2015

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on its examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 2015, be adopted and refer the Report to the Government for consideration.

[*Mr. Ali, Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee*]

Mr. Speaker: This motion stands in the name of the Hon. Member, Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who is not present in the House. If, however, there is the Deputy Chairman of the Committee present, then I would invite the Deputy Chairman of the Committee to move the motion.

ADOPTION OF THE FOURTH PERIODIC REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Fourth Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources be adopted. [*Mr. Lumumba, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources*]

Mr. Speaker: The presentation of this Report is in the name of Hon. Member, Mr. Odinga Lumumba, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources. Unless someone else has been named to present this Report, we will then proceed to the next item.

ADOPTION OF THE FIFTH PERIODIC REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Fifth Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources be adopted. [*Mr. Lumumba, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources*]

ADOPTION OF THE SIXTH PERIODIC REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Sixth Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources be adopted.” [*Mr. Lumumba, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources*]

Mr. Speaker: This stands under the name of the Hon. Member, Odinga Lumumba. You will recall that Mr. Lumumba has resigned, so these matters, the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Periodic Reports of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources, would not be considered by the House today.

Hon. Members, since we will not be proceeding with the consideration of the Reports which are included in our agenda for today, it would seem that we have come to the end of our business. This brings us to the end of our business for today. I would like to thank Hon. Members for their attention and the manner in which we conducted the business today. I believe that, before I ask for the Adjournment to be moved, I would take the opportunity to offer, as Speaker, my

congratulations and the congratulations of all Members of the House to the newly-raised Ministers, those Ministers who will be occupying new seats in different places, and all together to say that may good luck attend your efforts in all that you undertake. Accept our best wishes. I thank you.

Vice-President and Prime Minister [Mr. Nagamootoo]: Mr. Speaker, before moving the Motion of Adjournment, I would like to join you in congratulating those new Members who have been sworn in as Members of this august and honourable House and in congratulating several of the other Members of Parliament (MP) who have, as we could all notice, had some political mobility. Some from the back came in front, some who were at the back came in other positions to occupy ministerial offices. There are some changes in those offices which would be known subsequently.

I want to just note that when one observes the processes since the 21st of December, 2018, we on this side of the House, the Government of Guyana and His Excellency, the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, strictly adhered to the rule of law and to the requirements of the Constitution of Guyana. The changes and shifts that you have seen and the renewal with regards to some of the Members are all in accordance with our adherence to the requirements of the Constitution and the consequences of the ruling of the courts of Guyana thus far. I have the privilege to reassure Your Honour and this honourable House that this Government will at all times adhere to the rule of law and will comply with the Constitution of Guyana and will respect the ruling of our courts of law.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Nagamootoo: In saying those words, Your Honour, I will like to move the Adjournment of this House *sine die* to a date to be fixed.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the Hon. Prime Minister.

Adjourned accordingly at 3.24 p.m.