

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 59TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST  
SESSION (1992-1995) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY, 26TH MAY, 1995

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (72)

Speaker (1)

The Hon. Derek C. Jagan, S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the  
National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's Progressive Party/Civic (42)

The Hon. Samuel A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister

The Hon. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Senior Minister of  
Agriculture (Leader of the House)

The Hon. S. Feroze Mohamed, M.P., Senior Minister of Home Affairs  
(Government Chief Whip)

The Hon. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry  
of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development

\* The Hon. Rev. Dr. Ramnauth Bisnauth, M.P., Senior Minister of  
Education and Cultural Development

The Hon. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and  
Minister of Legal Affairs

\* The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Senior Minister of Labour,  
Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Senior Minister of Foreign  
Affairs

The Hon. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Senior Minister of Health (Absent - on leave)

The Hon. M. Shree Chan, M.P., Senior Minister of Trade, Tourism  
and Industry

Mrs. Janet Jagan, O.E., M.P.

The Hon. Clinton C. Collymore, M.P., Minister in the Ministry  
of Agriculture

The Hon. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of  
Labour, Human Services and Social Security

\* The Hon. F. Vibert DeSouza, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public  
Works, Communications and Regional Development

\* The Hon. George E. Fung-On, M.P., Minister in the Office of  
the President

\* The Hon. Bharat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of  
Finance

Non-elected Member

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Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.  
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.  
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. Husman Alli, M.P.  
 Mr. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P.  
 Mr. Komal Chand, M.P.  
 Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, M.P.  
 Dr. Hughley H. Hanoman, M.P.  
 Mrs. Una A. James, M.P.  
 Mr. Alston A. Kissoon, M.P. (Absent)  
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.  
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.  
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.  
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P.  
 Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P.  
 Mr. Winslow M. Zephyr, M.P.  
 Mr. Reuben A. Gilbert, M.P.  
 Mr. Edward DaSilva, M.P.  
 Mr. Khadim Bacchus, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)  
 Mr. Samad A. Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)  
 Mr. Harrinarine Baldeo, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)  
 Mr. Joseph DeSouza, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)  
 Mr. Eugene La Cruz, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)  
 Mr. Bagot Paul, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)  
 Mr. Kum Karan Ramdas, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)  
 Mr. Ramrattan, M.P., a/k Balkarran (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/  
 West Demerara)

Members of the Minority (29)

(i) People's National Congress (26)

Mr. H. Desmond Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minority Leader  
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.  
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.  
 Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Chief Whip  
 Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P.  
 Dr. Kenneth F.S. King, M.P.  
 Mr. Deryck M.A. Bernard, M.P.  
 Mr. Dunstan Barrow, M.P.  
 Miss Anna Ally, M.P.  
 Miss Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P.  
 Mr. Arthur A. Alexander, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly  
 Mr. Simon H. Ng-See-Quan, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. David Subnauth, M.P.  
 Mr. Reynold N. David, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)  
 Mr. M. Idris Deen, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Mrs. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.  
 Mr. Kenrick Tyndall, M.P.  
 Mr. Phillip Bynoe, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)  
 Mr. Andy Gouveia, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P., a/k Parag  
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P.  
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.  
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)  
 Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P.

(There is one vacancy)

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P.

Mr. Matheson Williams, M.P. (National Congress of Local Democratic Organs)

(iii) The United Force (1)

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

OFFICERS

Mr. Frank A. Narain, A.A., 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.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 2.03. p.m., the sitting was suspended.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 2.39. p.m., the sitting was resumed.

ARRIVAL OF THE PRESIDENTS OF GUYANA AND SURINAME

The Speaker, His Excellency Dr. Cheddi Jagan, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, His Excellency Mr. Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan, President of the Republic of Suriname, and Mrs. Venetiaan entered the Chamber.

WELCOME BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, extended a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan, President of the Republic of Suriname, and Mrs. Venetiaan and the Members of the Surinamese Delegation and invited His Excellency to address the Assembly.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF SURINAME

His Excellency the President of Suriname addressed the Assembly.

**THANKS BY THE SPEAKER**

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Speaker thanked His Excellency for his address.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 2.56 p.m., the sitting was suspended.

**WITHDRAWAL OF THE PRESIDENTS OF GUYANA AND SURINAME**

The Speaker, His Excellency Dr. Cheddi Jagan, His Excellency Mr. Runaldo Ronald Venetiaan and Mrs. Venetiaan withdrew from the Chamber.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 3.14 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

(i) **Bank of Guyana Bill 1995**

The Speaker made the following statement:

"Hon. Members, no doubt you have observed that Bill No. 9 of 1995 - The Bank of Guyana Bill is not listed on today's Order Paper for the second reading and the continuation of the debate on it.

As you are aware, Bill No. 9 of 1995 was presented by the former Senior Minister of Finance, Mr. Asgar Ally, for the first reading on the 4th May, 1995, when it was read.

On Monday, the 22nd May, 1995, the Hon. Asgar Ally was absent and the Minister in the Ministry of Finance moved the second reading of the Bill. This course is permissible, as a Minister can act on behalf of another Minister "in accordance with constitutional practice which permits Ministers to act for each other on the grounds of the collective nature of the Government".

Hon. Members, as you will recall, a request was made by the Hon. Member, Mr. Murray, during the debate on the second reading of the Bill, and further debate on the Bill was deferred to Friday, 26th May, 1995.

In the meantime, the Hon. Asgar Ally has ceased to be a Minister and Member of the National Assembly on the 23rd May, 1995.

It is my humble opinion that since the former Senior Minister of Finance was the Member in charge of the Bill and he is no longer a Member of this Hon. House, the Minister in the Ministry of Finance cannot continue to act on behalf of the former Minister, and that Bill No. 9 of 1995 cannot be proceeded with.

Hon. Members, you would observe from today's Order Paper that the Minister in the Ministry of Finance is to present the Bank of Guyana Bill 1995, No. 14 of 1995 which contains similar provisions as Bill No. 9 of 1995.

In the circumstances, there is no rule or custom which prevents this being done, as Bill No. 9 of 1995 was not given or refused a second reading."

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave for that Sitting had been granted to Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Speaker:

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Sixth Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Monday, 22nd May, 1995.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

BANK OF GUYANA BILL 1995 - Bill No. 14/1995 published 23.5.95

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to revise and amend the law relating to the Bank of Guyana and to provide for related and consequential matters.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/1995

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 171(2) of the Constitution, the Minister in the Ministry of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation for the Assembly to proceed upon the motion to approve Financial Paper No. 1/1995 and thereafter moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/1995 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$639,111,280 for the period ended 31st December, 1994 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

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

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister in the Ministry of Finance, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

RESOLVED, That this National 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. 1/1995 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$639,111,280 for the period ended 31st December, 1994 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund."

ITEM 2 - SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 46(2) AND (3)

On a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 46(2) and (3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Friday, 26th May, 1995, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the following Bills:-

- (i) Bank of Guyana Bill 1995 - Bill No. 14/1995  
published 23.5.95
- (ii) Capital Issues (Control) Bill 1995 - Bill  
No. 12/1995 published 20.5.95
- (iii) Companies (Amendment) Bill 1995 - Bill  
No. 13/1995 published 20.5.95

BILLS - Second Reading

ITEM 3 - BANK OF GUYANA BILL, 1995 - Bill No. 14/1995 published  
23.5.95

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to revise and amend the law relating to the Bank of Guyana and to provide for related and consequential matters.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. Kenneth King  
Mr. Dunstan Barrow  
Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine  
Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Minister in the Ministry of Finance 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

Clause 1 - was passed with the following amendment:  
The words "29th May, 1995" were substituted for the words "such date as the Minister may by order appoint".

Clauses 2-27 - were passed as printed.

Clause 28 - was passed with the following amendment:  
The word "such" was inserted between the words "invest" and "balances" in subsection (2).

Clauses 29-64 - were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister in the Ministry of Finance, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 4 - CAPITAL ISSUES (CONTROL) BILL 1995 -Bill No. 12/1995  
published 20.5.95

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for  
the control of issues of prospectuses  
and for purposes connected therewith.

Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister in the Ministry of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.



ITEM 5 - COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1995 - Bill No. 13/1995  
published 20.5.95

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend  
the Companies Act.

Mr. Winston Murray spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister in the Ministry of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.21 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister of Agriculture (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



D.C. JAGAN

Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

26th May, 1995.