

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 56TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST  
SESSION (1992-1995) OF THE SIXTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1995

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

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 (43)**

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. Asgar Ally, M.P., Senior Minister of Finance (Absent - on leave)

\* 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

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. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Absent)

\* Non-elected Member

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.  
 Mr. Cyril C. Belgrave, M.P.  
 Mr. Fazil M. Ali, M.P.  
 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.  
 Dr. Moti Lall, M.P.  
 Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.  
 Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.  
 Mr. Lawrence E. Rodney, M.P. (Absent)  
 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)  
 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) (Absent)  
 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 (Absent)  
 Mr. Robert H.O. Corbin, M.P.  
 Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 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.  
 Mr. Aftabuddin Ahamad, M.P. (Absent)  
 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 - on leave)  
 Mr. Hukumchand, M.P., a/k Parag  
 Miss Joan C. Richards, M.P.  
 Miss Gwenneth A. Brouet, M.P. (Absent)  
 Mr. John A. Fredericks, M.P.  
 Mr. Ivan Peters, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)  
 Mr. Hubert K.H. Hyman, M.P.

(ii) Working People's Alliance (2)

Dr. Clive Y. Thomas, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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

(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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to the following Members:-

The Hon. Asgar Ally,

Mr. Winston Murray,

Mr. Andy Gouveia,

for that sitting,

and

Dr. Clive Thomas, up to the end of the month.

(ii) Resignation of Dr. Clive Y. Thomas, C.C.H., M.P.

The Speaker announced that he had received a letter dated 6th March, 1995, from Dr. Clive Thomas informing him that he would be resigning his seat in the National Assembly, with effect from 3rd April, 1995.

With Dr. Thomas's resignation, a seat in the Assembly would become vacant.

In accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, the Speaker stated that he had called upon the representative of the list of candidates in which Dr. Thomas's name was included, to further extract from the said list the name of a person to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**MEDICAL TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL 1994 - Bill No. 20/1994  
published 3.12.94**

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

A Bill intituled AN ACT to reform the law relating to medical terminations of pregnancies, to enhance the dignity and sanctity of life by reducing the incidence of induced abortion, to enhance the attainment of safe motherhood by eliminating deaths and complications due to unsafe abortion, to prescribe those circumstances in which any woman who voluntarily and in good faith wishes to terminate her pregnancy may lawfully do so and to provide for matters connected therewith.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**ITEM 1 - AFFIRMATION OF THE GUYANA CO-OPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK (DISSOLUTION AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ORDER 1995 (No. 2)**

In the absence of the Senior Minister of Finance, the following motion was deferred:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in terms of section 56 of the Co-operative Financial Institutions Act, Chapter 75:01, affirm the Guyana Co-operative Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank (Dissolution and Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 1995 (No. 2 of 1995), which was made on 8th February, 1995 and published in the Gazette on 11th February, 1995.

**BILLS - Second and Third Readings**

**Item 2 - GEORGETOWN SEWERAGE AND WATER (AMENDMENT) BILL 1995 - Bill No. 1/1995 published 4.2.95**

The Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Georgetown Sewerage and Water Act.

The following Members spoke to the motion;-

Mr. Robert Corbin  
Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development 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 3 - GUYANA WATER AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 1995 - Bill No. 2/1995 published 4.2.95**

The senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend  
the Guyana Water Authority Act.

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. Robert Corbin  
Mr. Manzoor Nadir.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development 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 4 - HOLIDAYS WITH PAY BILL 1995 - Bill No. 3/1995 published 4.2.95**

The Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to repeal and re-enact the Holidays with Pay Act, to provide for the grant and regulation of annual holidays with pay for all categories of workers, and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. Arthur Alexander  
Mr. Cyril Belgrave.

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security replied.

6.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed with the following amendments:-

Clause 1

Deletion of the words "and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by order, appoint" in Clause 1, and of the words "and commencement" in the marginal note.

Clause 2

Insertion of the word "a" between the words "means" and "worker" in (c).

Clause 4

Insertion of the words "/ or such other period therefrom mutually agreed upon between the employer and the worker," after the word "months" in subsection (2).

MOTION

ITEM 5 CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

The Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security moved the following motion:

WHEREAS as a member state of the International Labour Organisation, Guyana is obligated to examine Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation,

AND WHEREAS Article 19 states that all Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference must be submitted to the Competent Authority of member states whether ratification of such Conventions is contemplated or not;

AND WHEREAS the submission of Conventions and Recommendations adopted at sessions of that Conference should always be accompanied or followed by a statement or proposal setting out the Government's view as to the action to be taken on the instruments;

AND WHEREAS Guyana adheres to the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation of which it is a member since 1966;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana proposes to use the provisions of the Conventions and Recommendations adopted from time to time by the International Labour Conference as aims of policy

/...

and to ratify those Conventions which are in keeping with the social philosophy of the Guyanese society:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve the conclusions set out in the State Paper on the following Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the 74th session of the International Labour Conference held in September, 1987:-

- (i) Seafarers Welfare Convention, 1987, No. 163;
- (ii) Seafarers Welfare Recommendation, 1987, No. 173;
- (iii) Health Protection and Medical Care (Seafarers) Convention, 1987, No. 164;
- (iv) Social Security (Seafarers) Convention, (Revised) 1987, No. 165;
- (v) Repatriation of Seafarers Convention (Revised) 1987, No. 166;
- (vi) Repatriation of Seafarers Recommendation, 1987, No. 174;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the decision of this National Assembly be conveyed to the Director General of the International Labour Convention.

The following Members spoke to the motion:-

Mr. Arthur Alexander  
Mr. Cyril Belgrave

Thereafter, the Senior Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 3.12 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.

23rd March, 1995.