

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1975

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 59th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

THURSDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY, 1975

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (50)

Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister (2)

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., Prime Minister (Absent)
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development

Senior Ministers (8)

- The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Economic Development (Absent)
- # The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice (Absent)
 - # The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation
 - # The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources (Absent)
 - # The Honourable F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance (Absent)
 - # The Honourable S.S. Naraine, A.A., Minister of Works and Housing
 - # The Honourable G.A. King, Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection
 - # The Honourable G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., Minister of Agriculture (Absent)

Ministers (6)

- The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour
The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of Information and Culture
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House
- # The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education and Social Development (Absent)
 - # Dr. the Honourable D.M.R. Harper, Minister of Health (Absent)
 - # The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of Home Affairs

Ministers of State (9)

- The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State for Agriculture (Absent)
- The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne)
- The Honourable P. Duncan, J.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi) (Absent)
- The Honourable C.A. Nascimento, Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister

Non elected Minister

- The Honourable M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara) (Absent)
- The Honourable K.B. Bancroft, Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro) (Absent)
- # The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of State for Consumer Protection (Absent)
- # The Honourable A. Salim, Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice) (Absent)
- # The Honourable F.U.A. Carmichael, Minister of State - Regional (North West)(Absent)

Parliamentary Secretaries (7)

- Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Housing (Absent)
- Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Housing
- Miss M.M. Ackman, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip
- Mr. E.L. Ambrose, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)
- Mr. S. Prashad, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation
- Mr. J.P. Chowritmootoo, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Social Development
- Mr. R.H.O. Corbin, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Deputy Speaker (1)

- Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman, Deputy Speaker

Other Members (17)

- Mr. J.N. Aaron
- Mrs. L.M. Branco
- Mr. M. Corrica
- Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
- Miss J. Gill
- Mr. W. Hussain
- Miss S. Jaiserrisingh (Absent)
- Mr. K.M.E. Jonas (Absent)
- Mr. M. Nissar (Absent)
- Dr. L.E. Ramsahoye
- Mr. J.G. Ramson
- Mrs. P.A. Rayman
- Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P. (Absent)
- Mr. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., J.P.
- Mr. C. Sukul, J.P.
- Mr. H.A. Taylor (Absent)
- Mrs. L.E. Willems

Members of the Opposition - Liberator Party (2)

- Mr. M.F. Singh, Leader of the Opposition
- Mrs. E. DaSilva

OFFICERS

- Mr. F.A. Narain, Clerk of the National Assembly
- Mr. M.B. Henry, AMBIM, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

Non elected Minister

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Ambrose for that day's sitting.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First ReadingMOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975 -
Bill No. 10/1975

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONADOPTION OF ILO CONVENTIONS

The Minister of Labour moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Guyana Government has so far ratified twenty-six ILO Conventions including four of the six concerning basic human rights adopted by the International Labour Conference;

AND WHEREAS the International Labour Conference at its 34th Session held in Geneva on the 6th June, 1951, and at its 42 Session held in Geneva on the 4th June, 1958, adopted respectively the following two Conventions concerning basic human rights:

No. 100 - Equal Remuneration for Men and
Women for Work of Equal Value;

No. 111 - Discrimination (Employment and
Occupation);

AND WHEREAS Guyana as a Member of the ILO, which is pursuing socialist policies and programmes based on egalitarian concepts and principles, has decided as an aim of policy to ratify all the basic human rights Conventions of the ILO;

AND WHEREAS Sessional Paper No. 1/1975 on the ratification of these two basic human rights Conventions contains conclusions which clearly set forth the Government's intention to ratify the two remaining basic human rights Conventions concerning Equal Remuneration which provides for equal pay for men and women workers for work of equal value, and Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention which provides for equal opportunities in employment and occupation regardless of race, sex, creed, social extraction, etc;

AND WHEREAS further bearing in mind that this Government has taken steps to promote a number of relevant and useful activities among various organisations in Guyana in observance of International Women's Year;

AND WHEREAS further bearing in mind that the workers, employers, and women's organisations in Guyana fully support ratification of these two basic human rights Conventions which are of particular interest to women and which pose no obstacles to full application and, indeed, are in accord with national policies and public opinion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopt the conclusions contained in Sessional Paper No. 1/1975 on the International Labour Conventions on basic human rights, No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration and No. 111 concerning Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) adopted respectively on the 6th June, 1951, and 4th June, 1958, by the International Labour Conference;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the decisions of this National Assembly be conveyed to the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation and to the Workers' and Employers' Organisations and other interest groups in Guyana.

Mrs. Branco, Mrs. Willems, Mrs. Rayman, Mrs. DaSilva and Miss Ackman spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Labour replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.00 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
28th February, 1975.