

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1978

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 137th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

FRIDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 1978

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (48)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., M.P., Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P.A. Reid, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development (Absent - on leave)

Senior Ministers (8)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives

*Cde. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Health, Housing and Labour (Absent - on leave)

*Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Natural Resources (Absent)

*Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Finance

*Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Minister of Works and Transport (Absent - on leave)

*Cde. G.A. King, M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection

*Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)

*Cde. F.R. Wills, S.C., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice (Absent)

Ministers (4)

Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, M.P., Minister of Information

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House

* Cde. C.V. Mingo, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

* Cde. V.R. Teekah, M.P., Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture

*Non elected Minister

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Ministers of State (9)

- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Cde. P. Duncan, J.P., M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives
- Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister (Absent)
- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro) (Absent)
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
- Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Health, Housing and Labour
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of National Development
- * Cde. A. Salim, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice) (Absent)
- * Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (North West) (Absent)

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

- Cde. M.M. Ackman, C.C.H., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip
- Cde. E.L. Ambrose, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives
- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture

Other Members (21)

- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P.
- Cde. W.G. Carrington, M.P.
- Cde. L.A. Durant, M.P.
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
- Cde. W. Hussain, M.P.
- Cde. S. Jaiserrisingh, M.P.
- Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., M.P.
- Cde. M. Nissar, M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Ramsahoye, M.P.
- Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P.
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
- Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P., M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
- Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P.
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, M.P.

Members of the Opposition (16)(i) People's Progressive Party (14)Leader of the Opposition (1)

Cde. C. Jagan, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

* Non elected Minister

Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.
 Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., Opposition Chief Whip
 Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.
 Cde. C. Collymore, M.P.(Absent)
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.
 Cde. L. Lalbahadur, M.P.(Absent)
 Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
 Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Cde. R. Ally, M.P.
 Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. Dindayal, M.P.
 Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P.
 Mrs. E. Da Silva, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly (F.A. Narain)
 Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (A. Knight)

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

(i) Cdes. Burnham, Reid, Green and Kennard for that sitting,

(ii) Cde. Naraine for the period 27th January to 19th February, 1978.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Finance:

Report of the Directors of the New Widows and Orphans' Fund for the year 1971.

(G. 105/54 V)(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERSQuestion No. 20

Cde. Ally asked the Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture say how many new schools will be built to house Community High Schools for the new school year commencing in September, 1977?

Will the Minister further say where these schools will be built?

Will he further say whether it is true that some of the present primary schools will be used to house Community High Schools and if so, will he indicate what are the schools which will be so used?

The Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture gave the following reply:

ANSWER: New buildings were not constructed to house Community High Schools in the school year beginning September, 1977; however, under the Second Education Project which is being financed by a loan from the World Bank provision has been made for the construction of seven buildings in 1980 to house schools which carry Community High School programmes. These schools will be situated at:-

Cumberland/Canje
Blairmont
Golden Grove
Lodge
Friendship
Stewartville, and
Charity.

As from September, 1977, Community High School programmes were introduced fully or in part in All-age schools (as distinct from Primary Schools) in various parts of the country depending on the facilities which can be provided. There are 28 such schools which are as follows:-

Vryman's Erven	New Amsterdam, Berbice
Belladrum	West Coast Berbice
Buxton	East Coast Demerara
Beterverwagting	East Coast Demerara
Campbellville	Sheriff Street, Georgetown
Lodge	335 Hadfield Street, Lodge, Georgetown
Houston	East Bank Demerara
Wales	Wales Estate, West Bank Demerara
Vreed-en-Hoop	West Coast Demerara
Ituni	Demerara River
Leguan	Enterprise, Leguan
Johanna Cecilia	Essequibo
Anna Regina	Cotton Field, Essequibo
Bartica	Seventh Avenue, Bartica
Port Kaituma	North West District
St. Ignatius	Lothem, Rupununi
Soesdyke	East Bank Demerara
Parika/Salem	East Bank Demerara
Port Mourant	Corentyne, Berbice
Ann's Grove	East Coast Demerara
Linden	Rockstone, Demerara River
Kwakwani	Berbice River
North West	Mabaruma, North West District
David Rose	West Ruimveldt, Georgetown
Fort Wellington	West Coast Berbice
Kitty	Station Street, Georgetown
Bourda	Charlotte & Oronoque Streets, Georgetown
St. John's	Edinburgh, Leonora, West Coast, Demerara.

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Question No. 21

Cde. Ally asked the Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture say whether or not he knows that the children of the No. 48 and No. 56 Schools, Corentyne, were informed that the two schools will be converted into Community High Schools from September, 1977, and that they will have to go to the Nos. 59 - 51 and No. 45 Primary Schools?

If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister say whether he is aware of the fact that the schools to which the children are to be removed are already overcrowded, so much so that one hundred of them from the No. 59 School are being accommodated in the No. 58 Community Centre?

Is the Minister aware that the No. 56 School at present accommodates 721 children, and that there are 540 children at the No. 48 School?

Is the Minister aware that there is an unfinished secondary school building at No. 54 Village and that if this building is completed it could take care of all the children from the Nos. 59 - 51 and No. 45 School?

The Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture gave the following reply

ANSWER: It is not true that the children of the No. 48 and No. 56 Schools, Corentyne, were informed as stated. Moreover, the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture has not taken such a decision. Since the answer to the question is in the negative it is not necessary to reply to the second question.

The Minister is aware that the No. 56 School accommodates about 721 children and the No. 48 School about 558.

The Minister is also aware that the Local Authority has taken action to erect a building at No. 54 Village; the building has not been completed but in the meantime, it is being used to house a Nursery School.

A supplementary question was asked by Cde. Ally.

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PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS Second and Third Readings

ITEM 1 - CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 1/1978
published 7.1.78

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND
THE CUSTOMS ACT.

Cde. N. Porsaud and Mr. Singh spoke to the motion.

The Minister 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 2 - INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 2/1978
published 7.1.78

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND
THE INCOME TAX ACT.

Cde. N. Porsaud and Mrs. Da Silva spoke to the motion.

Mr. Singh was speaking to the motion.

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 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 30th January, 1978.


NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
30th January, 1978.