

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1979

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 198th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY 12TH NOVEMBER, 1979

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (61)

Speaker

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (44)

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

Senior Ministers (11)

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

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Minister of Works and Transport

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. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Health, Housing and Labour

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

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

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

* Cde. M. Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Justice (Absent)

* Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

* Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A., M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection

Ministers (2)

Cde. D.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister - Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne)

Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister, Office of the Prime Minister (Absent)

* Non elected Minister

Ministers of State (9)

- Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, H.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi) (Absent)
- Cde. P. Duncan, J.P., M.P., Minister of State, Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives
- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., H.P., Minister of State - Regional Mazaruni/Potaro) (Absent)
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West ~~Demerara~~) (Absent)
- Cde. J.R. Thomas, H.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of State for Youth and Sport, Ministry of National Development (Absent)
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)
- * Cde. F.U.A. Campbell, M.P., Minister of State for Information, Ministry of National Development

Parliamentary Secretaries (6)

- 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. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture
- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., H.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives
- Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Transport

Other Members (14)

- Cde. W.G. Carrington, C.C.H., H.P.
- Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, M.P.
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
- Cde. W. Hussain, M.P.
- Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P.
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
- Cde. A. Salim, M.P.
- Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
- Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P.
- Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, M.P. (Absent).

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 (Absent)

* Non elected Minister

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Opposition Chief Whip (Absent)
 Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.
 Cde. C. Collymore, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, 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. (Absent)
 Cde. P. Sukhai, M.P.

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. N.F. Singh, J.P., M.P.
 Mr. N.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly (F.A. Narain, A.A.)
 Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (M.B. Henry)

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Appointment of Cde. J.G. Ramson as a Parliamentary Secretary

The Speaker informed the Assembly that Cde. J.G. Ramson had been appointed Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Transport, with effect from 25th October, 1979.

On behalf of Members and himself, the Speaker extended congratulations to Cde. Ramson.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to

(a) Cde. Burnham and Cde. Van Sluytman for that day's sitting, and

(b) Cde. Kennard from 7th to 24th November, 1979.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC..

By the Minister of Finance:

Consumption Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1979 (No. 87), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, on the 22nd of October, 1979, and published in the Gazette on the 27th of October, 1979.

(ST: 49/11)(Circulated)

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PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - DEATH OF CDE. VINCENT RAMBEER TEEKAH

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. Vincent Rambeer Teekah and pays tribute to the distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and other relatives.

The Deputy Speaker and Mr. Singh spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried with Members standing.

ITEM 2 - DEATH OF CDE. LEONARD ADOLPHUS DURANT

The Minister - Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne), moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. Leonard Adolphus Durant and pays tribute to the distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and other relatives.

The Deputy Speaker and Mr. Singh spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried with Members standing.

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY TO CDE. STOBY

Before the next item on the Order Paper was considered, the Speaker informed Members that Cde. Stoby had recently lost his father.

On behalf of Members and himself, the Speaker extended sympathy to Cde. Stoby.

ITEM 3 - ACQUISITION OF THE UNDERTAKING CARRIED ON BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF NEW AMSTERDAM

The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources moved the following motion, and the following amendment thereto:-

Motion

WHEREAS the Electricity Act, Chapter 56:01, provides for the Guyana Electricity Corporation to have the exclusive right to generate and sell energy within the areas prescribed in the First Schedule to the Act;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor and Town Council of New Amsterdam are empowered by the New Amsterdam Electric Lighting Order 1900 made under the Electric Lighting Ordinance 1890, as amended from time to time, to supply electricity to the area mentioned in the First Schedule to the said Order;

AND WHEREAS by virtue of the New Amsterdam Electric Lighting Order (Extension) Ordinance 1961 and the New Amsterdam Electric Lighting Order (Extension) (Amendment) Act 1971 the Order continues in force until 1st January 1981;

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 24(1) of the Electricity Act, Chapter 56:01, that the Electricity Corporation may acquire the undertaking of any local authority or person authorised to supply electricity within an area;

AND WHEREAS such provision requires a resolution of the National Assembly that it is in the public interest that the undertaking of the Mayor and Town Council of New Amsterdam for the supply of electricity should be managed and worked by the Electricity Corporation:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That it is in the public interest that the undertaking carried on by the Mayor and Town Council of New Amsterdam should be acquired by the Guyana Electricity Corporation.

Amendment

Deletion of the words "should be acquired" and substitution of the words "for the supply of electricity should be managed and worked" in the Resolve Clause.

The Deputy Speaker and Mr. Singh spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources replied.

The motion was then put and carried as amended.

ITEM 4 - CONFIRMATION OF CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) NO. 2
ORDER 1979 (No. 87)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

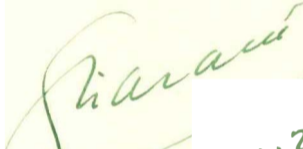
That this National Assembly in accordance with section 5 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1979 (No. 87), which was made on 22nd October, 1979, and published in the Gazette on 27th October, 1979.

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.55 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 3.12.79
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
30th November, 1979.