

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 36TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD  
SESSION (1983-1984) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 hrs

ON MONDAY 1984-11-19

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

Speaker (1)

\*Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly  
Members of the Government - People's National Congress (61)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Prime Minister

Other Vice-President and First Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Social Infrastructure and  
First Deputy Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

\*Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Vice-President,  
Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General  
Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Vice-President, National Development  
and Deputy Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)

Other Deputy Prime Minister (1)

\*Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Planning

Senior Ministers (8)

\*Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs  
\*Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs  
Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of National Mobilisation  
Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines  
\*Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance  
Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister of Forestry  
Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Health and  
Public Welfare  
\*Cde. M.L. Parris, M.P., Minister of Education

Ministers (6)

Cde. Urmia Johnson, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of  
National Development (Absent - on leave)  
Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister within the Ministry  
of Education (Absent - on leave)  
\*Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P., Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives  
Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of Youth and Sport  
within the Ministry of Education (Absent)  
Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Transport within the Vice-Presidency  
of Social Infrastructure (Absent - on leave)  
\*Cde. Dr. S.P. DaSilva, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of  
Agriculture

\* NBN↓elected Member

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Ministers of State (2)

- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection (Absent - on leave)  
 Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.S., M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Regional Development (Absent - on leave)

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

- Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Housing, within the Ministry of Health and Public Welfare  
 Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Youth  
 Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, National Development

Government Chief Whip (1)

- Cde. Bidiawattie Tiwari, M.P., Government Chief Whip

Other Members (24)

- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P.  
 Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.  
 Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Cde. Philomena A. Rayman, M.P.  
 Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.  
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.  
 Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.  
 Cde. M. Ally, M.P.  
 Cde. M. Armogan, M.S., J.P., M.P.  
 Cde. Bissoondai Beniprashad, M.P.  
 Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P. (Absent - on leave)  
 Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.  
 Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.  
 Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P.  
 Cde. Patricia Fredericks, M.P.  
 Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P.  
 Cde. A. McRae, M.P.  
 Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.  
 Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.  
 Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.  
 Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.  
 Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.  
 Cde. Y. Khan, M.P.  
 (One seat vacant)

Members from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (2)

- Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P.  
 Cde. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan, M.P.

Members from the Regional Councils (10)

- Cde. Dianne Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)  
 Cde. W. Bipat, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)  
 Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)  
 Cde. I. Chowritmootoo, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)  
 Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)  
 Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)  
 Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)  
 Cde. H.I. London, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)  
 Cde. Cora Singh, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)  
 (Vacant) (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu Upper Essequibo)

Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

Other Members (8)

Cde. Janet Jagan, M.P.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Minority Chief Whip

Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.

Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Cde. M.B. Henry, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cdes. Chandisingh, Corrica and H.L.B. Singh for that day's sitting,
- (b) Cde. Harewood-Benn up to 1984-11-24,
- (c) Cde. Prashad up to 1984-11-28, and
- (d) Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo up to 1984-11-30.

(ii) Birthday Congratulations

The Speaker extended congratulations to Cde. Gill-Mingo who celebrated her birthday on that day.

(iii) Condolences

The Speaker on behalf of Members and himself extended condolences to Cde. Johnson on the death of her father.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Prime Minister:

Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana  
Sugar Corporation Limited for the year  
1983.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Vice-President, Social Infrastructure and  
First Deputy Prime Minister:

Coasting and Passenger Trade (Amendment)  
Regulations 1984 (No. 12) made under  
section 25 of the Shipping Casualties  
(Investigation and Prevention) Act,  
Chapter 49:07, on 30th June, 1984, and  
published in the Gazette on 28th July, 1984.

(MT: 16/2/3)(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Financial Paper No. 2/1984 - Schedule of  
Supplementary Provision on the Current and  
Capital Estimates totalling \$27,106,865  
for the period ended 13th November, 1984.

(Circulated)

(ii) Financial Paper No. 3/1984 - Schedule of  
Supplementary Provision on the Current  
and Capital Estimates totalling \$100,000,000  
for the period ended 13th November, 1984.

(Circulated)

In terms of Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister of Finance  
named Thursday 1984-11-22 as the day for consideration of the Financial  
Papers in Committee of Supply.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON  
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Seizure of Contraband and Uncustomed Goods

The Minority Leader withdrew his request seeking leave to move  
the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the seizure of contraband and  
uncustomed goods and submitted a Substantive motion in its stead after  
explaining that the Government had expressed its willingness to consider  
such a motion at the next sitting.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

MOTIONSITEM 1 - AFFIRMATION OF THE COASTING AND PASSENGER TRADE (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1984 (No. 12)

The Vice-President, Social Infrastructure and First Deputy Prime Minister moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in terms of section 25 of the Shipping Casualties (Investigation and Prevention) Act, Chapter 49:07, affirm the Coasting and Passenger Trade (Amendment) Regulations, 1984 (No. 12), which were made on 30th June, 1984, and published in the Gazette on 28th July, 1984.

ITEM 2 - INCREASES IN TONNAGE DUES, LIGHT DUES AND SHIPPING FEES

The Vice-President, Social Infrastructure and First Deputy Prime Minister moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 24 (2) of the Transport and Harbours Act, Cap 49:04, approves of the increases in tonnage dues, light dues and shipping fees as set out hereunder in substitution for the dues and fees in the Third Schedule to the Act -

		G\$	U.S.\$
1	TONNAGE DUES		
	All vessels	1.50	0.4 per ton
11	LIGHT DUES		
	All vessels	.50	0.14 per ton
	Vessels between 10 - 20 tons	10.00	2.7
111	SHIPPING FEES		
	(i) Upon the engagement of any seaman	7.50	2.00
	(ii) Upon the discharge of any seaman	7.50	2.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the dues and fees payable under the Third Schedule to the Act shall, in respect of vessels that are not registered in Guyana, be in United States of America dollars and in respect of other vessels in Guyana dollars.

Cde. Nokta spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

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ITEM 3 - BILL - Second and Third Readings

STATE LIABILITY AND PROCEEDINGS BILL 1984 - Bill No. 9/1984  
published 1984-06-23

Correction of Printing Errors

The Speaker drew Members' attention to printing errors in the above Bill and requested that the following corrections be made.

Clause 6 (Page 5)

Deletion of the comma after the word "State" in the seventh line of subsection (1).

Clause 7 (Page 6)

- (i) The words from "nor" to "satisfied." in subsection (3)(b) applying to both paragraphs (a) and (b) to be printed separately.
- (ii) The words from "may" to "certifies." in subsection (4)(b) applying to both paragraphs (a) and (b) to be printed separately.

Clause 9 (Page 7)

The words from "may" to "Act." in subsection (1)(b) applying to both paragraphs (a) and (b) to be printed separately.

Clause 10 (Page 8)

The words from "as" to "party." in subsection (1)(b) applying to both paragraphs (a) and (b) to be printed separately.

Clause 16 (Page 9)

Deletion of the comma after "subsection (2)" in the first line of subsection (4).

Clause 17 (Page 10)

Deletion of the comma after the word "applicable" in the first line.

Clause 18 (Page 10)

Substitution of the word "subscribed" for "~~suboribed~~" in the fourth line of subsection (1).

Clause 19 (Page 11)

In subsection (2):

- (i) Substitution of the word "proceedings" for "proceeding" in the fifth line.
- (ii) Substitution of the word "proceedings" for "proceedngs" in the sixth line.
- (iii) Deletion of the comma after the word "circumstances" in the twelfth line.

The Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Law relating to the civil liabilities and rights of the State and for matters connected therewith.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud and Mr. M.F. Singh spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Vice-President, Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General 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 corrected.

MOTION

ITEM 4 - ADOPTION AND RATIFICATION OF I.L.O. CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives 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 proposals setting out the Government's views 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 Guyana Government always as an aim of policy, makes proposals at the time of submission on the applicability of the Conventions and Recommendations adopted from time to time at sessions of the International Labour Conference;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana always takes steps to ratify those Conventions which are in keeping with the social philosophy of the Guyanese society:

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BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopt the following Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the 67th and 68th Sessions of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva in June, 1981 and June 1982, respectively, and laid in the National Assembly on 2nd November, 1984:-

A. 67th Session, June 1981

- (i) Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981 (No. 154);
- (ii) Collective Bargaining Recommendation, 1981 (No. 163);
- (iii) Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155);
- (iv) Occupational Safety and Health Recommendation, 1981 (No. 164);
- (v) Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981 (No. 156)
- (vi) Workers with Family Responsibilities Recommendation, 1981 (No. 165)

B. 68th Session, June 1981

- (i) Termination of Employment Convention, 1982 (No. 158);
- (ii) Maintenance of Social Security Rights Convention, 1982 (No. 157);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly note the Protocol adopted by the 1982 International Labour Conference amending the Plantations Convention, 1958 (No. 110);

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly ratify the following Convention:

- (i) Collective Bargaining Convention 1981 (No. 154);

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 interested groups in Guyana.

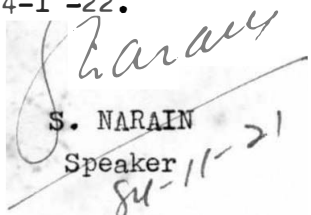
The Deputy Speaker and Cde. Belgrave spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 16:08 hrs, on a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 14:00 hrs on Thursday 1984-11-22.

  
S. NARAIN  
Speaker  
84-11-21

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.  
1984-11-21.