

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 18TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD
SESSION (1983) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 hrs

ON MONDAY 1983-12-12

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (58)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Dr. P.A. Reid, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Vice-President, Production

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Social Infrastructure

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Vice-President, Party and State Matters

*Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Vice-President and
Attorney General

Senior Ministers (6)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Minister of Education, Social Development
and Culture

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of National Mobilisation

*Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent on leave)

*Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

*Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines

*Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance and Economic Planning

Ministers (7)

Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister

Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture

Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of Youth and Sport within
the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Transport within the Vice-Presidency
of Social Infrastructure

*Cde. Y.V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister of Information and Public
Service (Absent)

*Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Health and Public
Welfare

*Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P., Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives

Ministers of State (2)

Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of
Internal Trade and Consumer Protection

Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.S., M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry
of Regional Development

*Non elected Member

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

- Cde. A.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, within the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, in the Office of the Prime Minister
 Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, within the Ministry of Agriculture (Absent)

Other Members (23)

- Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
 Cde. M. Armogan, M.S., J.P., M.P.
 Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P.
 Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
 Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P.
 Cde. E.B. Davidson, M.P.
 Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
 Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P.
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
 Cde. P. Fredericks, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P.
 Cde. J. Gill-Mingo, M.P.
 Cde. A. McRae, M.P.
 Cde. E. Melville, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. J.M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.
 Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
 Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
 Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.
 Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.
 Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P. (Absent)

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

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

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (9)

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

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. J. Jagan, M.P. (Absent)

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. (Absent - on leave)

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

OFFICERS

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

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

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

(a) Cde. Melville for six weeks from 1983-12-09, and

(b) Mr. M.F. Singh up to 1984-01-08.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning:

- (a) State Pension (LILIAN CHANDISINGH) Order 1983 (No. 49) made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04 on the 18th November, 1983 and published in the Gazette on 1983-11-26.

(ST:4/24^{TJ})(Circulated)

(b) State Pension (ELSIE MCALMONT) Order 1983 (No. 43) made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04 on the 14th September, 1983, and published in the Gazette on 1983-09-24.

(ST:4/24^{TJ})(Circulated)

(c) State Pension (STEVE O'DONOHUE) Order 1983 (No. 42) made under section 4 of the State Pension Act, Chapter 27:04 on the 14th September, 1983, and published in the Gazette on 1983-09-24.

(ST:4/24^{TJ})(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

No. 6 - Communication with Aircraft

Cde. Ram Karran asked the Vice-President, Social Infrastructure, the following question:

QUESTION: Is the Vice-President aware that for a very long time air traffic control has not been communicating on high frequency radio with aircraft operating in the Interior which is a legal requirement?

If, so, what steps are being taken to rectify this serious breach of safety regulations?

The Vice-President, Social Infrastructure, gave the following reply:

ANSWER: "Yes. It is a requirement that aircraft operating in the Georgetown Flight Information Region (FIR) establish and maintain (2) two-way communication with an Air Traffic Services Unit within this region. This contact is maintained and has always been maintained.

No. 7 - Fowl Pens Built in the Mahaica-Hospital Compound

Cde. Ram Karran asked the Minister of Health and Public Welfare the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister say how many fowl-pens have been built in the Mahaica Hospital Compound during the period 1981-1982 showing cost of labour and materials separately?

The Minister of Health and Public Welfare gave the following reply:

ANSWER: During the period 1981 - 1982 eight (8) Poultry pens 100' x 30' were built. Labour cost was \$33,750.00. Materials cost was \$59,097.00. It must be noted that if only new materials were used in the construction, cost for the pens would have exceeded \$200,000.00.

No. 8 - Trips by the Land Rover at the Mahaica Hospital

Cde. Ram Karran asked the Minister of Health and Public Welfare the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister say whether the Land Rover stationed at the Mahaica Hospital is authorised to be in Georgetown three times a week, and what are the reasons for the nocturnal trips?

The Minister of Health and Public Welfare gave the following reply:

ANSWER: The Land Rover stationed at Mahaica is authorised to be in Georgetown any day or night whenever the need arises, since it is the only vehicle stationed at Mahaica Hospital and is used for the purpose of conducting most of the Hospitals business.

A Supplementary question was asked by Cde. Ram Karran.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

Statement by the Vice-President, Production, on the Mirror's publication on the postponement of the consideration of the Acquisition of Lands (Not Beneficially Occupied) Bill 1983 - Bill No. 20/1983.

The Vice-President, Production, made a Statement concerning his discussions with the Minority Leader on the Acquisition of Lands (Not Beneficially Occupied) Bill 1983 and the invidious position in which he was placed by the publication in the Mirror Newspaper of Sunday 1983-12-11 of an article on the matter.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

The Mirror's Publication on the postponement of the consideration of the Acquisition of Lands (Not Beneficially Occupied) Bill 1983 - Bill No. 20/1983.

The Deputy Speaker expressed his regret on the publication of the article in the Mirror, referred to by the Vice-President, Production, in his Statement, and explained that to his knowledge no one who had been involved in the discussions had expressed any views, and that the article was written before the discussions had taken place.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bills which were read the first time:-

- (1) INTOXICATING LIQUOR LICENSING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill No. 26/1983 published 1983-12-12

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Intoxicating Liquor Licensing Act.

- (2) CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill No. 27/1983 - published 1983-12-12

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Customs Act.

- (3) SPIRITS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983 - Bill No. 28/1983 - published 1983-12-12

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Spirits Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION:

ITEM 1 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PAPER No. 2/1983

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply

In Committee of Supply.

In accordance with article 17(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1983 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$55,962,956, for the period ended 1983-10-31.

After consideration of the Schedule the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, the Assembly adopted the following Resolution:

RESOLVED, That ~~this~~ National Assembly, agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED, That this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1983 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$55,962,956, for the period ended 1983-10-31."

BILL - Deferred

ITEM 2 ACQUISITION OF LANDS (NOT BENEFICIALLY OCCUPIED) BILL 1983 - BILL No. 20/1983 published 1983-10-01

The second reading of the following Bill was further deferred:-

A Bill intituled An Act to ~~make~~ provision for the acquisition of land which is not beneficially occupied other than State Lands or Government Lands, so as to ensure rational use of such land and for matters connected therewith.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 3 - DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION BOARD (TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS) Bill 1983
Bill No. 24/1983 published 1983-12-03

The Vice-President, Production, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to ~~provide~~ for the dissolution of the Drainage and Irrigation Board, the transfer of its functions to certain Regional Democratic Councils and for related matters.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Vice-President, Production, 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 - MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1983
Bill No. 25/1983 published 1983-12-03

The Minister of National Mobilisation moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Municipal and District Councils Act.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud and the Minority Leader spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of National Mobilisation replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 The following amendments by the Minister of National Mobilisation were put and carried:

- (i) Insertion of the words "and Commencement" after the word "title" in the marginal note.
- (ii) Insertion of the words "and shall be deemed to have come into operation on 1st December, 1983" after "1983".

Clause 1 was then passed as amended.

Clause 2 was passed as printed.

Insertion of Clause 3

The following amendment by the Minister of National Mobilisation was put and carried.

Insertion of the following after clause 2:

"Amendment of section
12 of the Principal
Act.

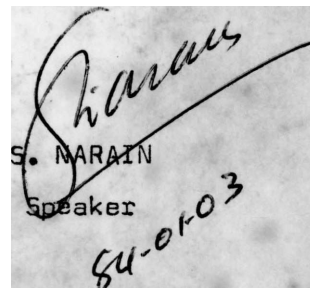
3. Section 12(1) of the
Principal Act is hereby
amended by the substitution
for the words "16th day" of
the words "23rd day"."

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of National Mobilisation, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

At 16:50 hrs on a motion by the Vice-President, Party and State Matters, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



S. NARAIN
Speaker
54-0103

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
1984-01-03