

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 40TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1986-1987) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY, 17TH JUNE, 1987

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (62)

Ministers in the Cabinet (10)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Prime Minister (Absent)

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

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

Other Vice-Presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Vice-President, National Mobilisation,
and Deputy Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)
Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., M.P., Vice-President, Education and
Social Development, and Deputy Prime Minister

Other Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

Cde. W.A.L.H. Farris, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister,
Planning and Development (Absent - on leave)
Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Public
Utilities (Absent - on leave)

Senior Ministers (4)

Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs
(Absent - on leave)
*Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance
Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Labour
Cde. W.S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Trade and
Tourism (Absent - on leave)

Other Ministers (14)

Senior Ministers (7)

Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Regional Development
Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Medical
Education, Environment and Food Policy (Absent - on leave)
Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister of Information
and the Public Service (Absent - on leave)
*Cde. Dr. P.L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Senior Minister in the
Ministry of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)
*Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of
Education (Absent - on leave)
*Cde. J.R. Kranenburg, M.P., Minister of Communications and Works
*Cde. Dr. N.E. Blackman, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health
*Non-elected Member :

Ministers (5)

- Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of National Mobilisation (Absent - on leave)
Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister in the Office of the President (Absent - on leave)
Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister of Forestry (Absent)
*Cde. V.V. Parvatan, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture
Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Medical Education, Environment and Food Policy

Ministers of State (2)

- Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning and Development (Absent - on leave)
Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P., Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs

Parliamentary Secretaries (2)

- *Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Education
*Cde. L.E. Scotland, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Government Chief Whip (1)

- Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P., Government Chief Whip

Other Members (23)

- Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. A.K. Habibulla, M.P.
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.
Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. Anna Ally, M.P.
Cde. L.R. Arthur, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. J.R.L. Bovell-Drakes, M.P.
Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
Cde. Edith Deygo, M.P.
Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
Cde. C.L. Geddes, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
Cde. B. Fersaud, J.P., M.P.
Cde. E.W. Trotman, M.P.
Cde. K. Sankar, M.S., M.P. (Absent)

*Non-elected Member

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

Cde. Rose I. Semple, M.P.
(One vacancy)

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/
Mazaruni) (Absent)
Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/
Mahaica)
Cde. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan, M.P. (Region No. 5 -
Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent)
Cde. Y. Khan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
Cde. Enid E. Abrahams, M.S., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 3 -
Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
Cde. I. Ally, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/
Corentyne)
Cde. B.L. Domingo, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
Cde. S.I. McGarrell, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/
Siparuni) (Absent)
Cde. M. Stephens, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/
Upper Essequibo) (Absent)
Cde. Joycelyn Thom-Lindie, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper
Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)

Members of the Minority (11)

(i) People's Progressive Party (8)

Minority Leader (1)

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

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Deputy Speaker
of the National Assembly

Other Members (6)

Cde. Janet Jagan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P., Minority Chief Whip
Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.
Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Absent)
Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

(iii) Working People's Alliance (1)

Mr. E. Kwayana, M.P.

OFFICERS

Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly
Cde. I. Hartman, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Cdes. Shahabuddeen, Parris, Corbin, Jackson, Murray, Harewood-Benn, Bernard, Johnson, Harding, and Joyce Gill-Mingo for that sitting, and Cde. Van West-Charles up to 28th June, Cde. McKenzie up to 20th June, and Cde. Arthur up to 29th June.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister of Regional Development, on behalf of the Minister Finance:

- (i) Financial Paper No. 1/1987 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$28,177,656, for the period ended 31st December, 1986 (Advances made from the Contingencies Fund in 1986)

(Circulated)

- (ii) Financial Paper No. 2/1987 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current Estimates totalling \$90,000,000, for the period ended 31st May, 1987.

(Circulated)

The Minister named Friday, 19th June, 1987, as the day for the consideration of the Financial Papers.

(2) By the Minister of Regional Development, on behalf of the Minister of Information and the Public Service:

- (i) Annual Report of the Public Service Ministry for the year 1986.

(PS:14/1/24) (Circulated)

- (ii) Annual Report of the Ministry of Information for the year 1986.

(PS:18/4^{III}) (Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERSNo. 70 - Harmful Effects of Cigarette Smoking

Mr. Kwavana asked the Minister of Medical Education, Environment and Food Policy the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Minister undertake to launch a continuous programme of public education using all media on the harmful effects of cigarette smoking?

(Notice Paper No. 145 published 1987-03-04)

The Minister in the Ministry of Health on behalf of the Minister of Medical Education, Environment and Food Policy gave the following reply:

ANSWER: The programme of Public Education using the media as it relates to the harmful effects of cigarette smoking has already started. It is part of the programme on Drug Abuse Education which was started since March 1985. This programme is on-going.

A supplementary question was asked by Mr. Kwayana.

No. 71 - Cancer of the Breast

Mr. Kwayana asked

(a) the Minister in the Ministry of Health the following question:

QUESTION: (i) Is the Minister aware of a growing incidence of cancer of the breast in Guyana?

(ii) Will the Minister give the assurance that public facilities free of charge will be available to assist interested persons?

and

(b) the Minister of Medical Education, Environment and Food Policy the following question:

QUESTION: (iii) Will the Minister launch a programme of public education, using all means, including brochures, advising women how to detect such a development at an early stage?

(Notice Paper No. 146 published 1987-03-04)

The Minister of Health gave the following reply:

ANSWER: (a) (i) The Minister is unaware of any reliable statistical data indicating an increased incidence of cancer of the breast in Guyana.

(ii) Public facilities free of charge are available to assist interested persons.

(b) (iii) All physicians and nurses while working in institutions or in the community have been oriented to effect educational programmes of our women and men relating to a wide range of areas of which early detection of changes in breast tissue is one. As resources become available brochures will be printed for distribution.

A supplementary question was asked by Mr. Kwayana.

No. 72 - Economic Activities at Hope Estate.

Mr. Kwayana asked the Senior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture the following question:

QUESTION: (i) What economic activity or activities are carried out at Hope Estate, East Coast Demerara, and adjoining lands controlled by the Management of Hope Estate?

(ii) What has been the financial out-turn of Hope Estate in each year since its acquisition by the Government?

(Notice Paper No. 147 published 1987-03-04)

The Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, on behalf of the Senior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, gave the following reply:

ANSWER: (i) THE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AT HOPE ESTATE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- (a) COCONUT PRODUCTION
- (b) COPRA PRODUCTION
- (c) MATTRESS PRODUCTION
- (d) RICE PRODUCTION
- (e) CHARCOAL PRODUCTION
- (f) CASAREEP PRODUCTION
- (g) VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

(ii) THE NET EARNINGS AS VERIFIED BY THE AUDITORS, THOMAS STOLL AND DIAS AND COMPANY, FOR 1985 AND 1986 WERE \$87,766 AND \$294,026, RESPECTIVELY.

AUDITORS ARE CURRENTLY EXAMINING ACCOUNTS FOR THE PREVIOUS YEARS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN FINALISED. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE PRESENTED LATER.

A supplementary question was asked by Mr. Kwayana.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 - Bill No. 5/1987
published 1987-06-13

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

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the
Insurance Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 2 - GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF TOWN AND VILLAGE MANAGEMENT,

Mr. Kwayana moved and spoke to the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Government's policy of town
and village management is ineffective, harmful
and ought to be corrected.

(Notice Paper No. 103 published 1986-07-30)

Cde. S.F. Mohamed seconded and spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Regional Development and Mr. Abraham spoke to the motion.

Mr. Kwayana replied.

Thereafter, the motion was put and negatived.

Items 3 and 4 were deferred.

ITEM 5 - COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE BUSINESS DEALINGS OF MR. ROBERT CHAPPELL

Mr. Kwayana moved and spoke to the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly appoint a
Special Select Committee under Standing
Order 71 for an investigation of the
business dealings of Mr. Robert Chappell,
representative of Nassau Life Insurance
Company, Ltd.

(Notice Paper No. 106 published 1986-07-31)

Cde. Nokta seconded and spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Finance spoke to the motion.

Mr. Kwayana replied.

Thereafter, the motion was put and negatived on the following Division:

FOR

Mr. Kwayana
Mr. Abraham
Cde. Belgrave
Cde. Basir
Cde. Nokta
Cde. S.F. Mohamed
Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud
Cde. C. Jagan

AGAINST

Cde. Domingo
Cde. I. Ally
Cde. Abrahams
Cde. Khan
Cde. Bishop
Cde. Semple
Cde. Trotman
Cde. B. Persaud
Cde. Marshall
Cde. Edwards
Cde. Deygo
Cde. DeJesus
Cde. Calistro
Cde. Bovell-Drakes
Cde. A. Ally
Cde. Munroe
Cde. Doobay
Cde. Davidson
Cde. M. Ally
Cde. Fowler
Cde. Habibulla
Cde. Ferreira
Cde. Odie-Ali
Cde. Kissoon
Cde. Thomas
Cde. Prashad
Cde. Burnham

Total 8

27

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.10 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.45 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Item 7 was deferred.

ITEM 8 - DUTY-FREE CONCESSIONS ON GASOLINE

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud moved and spoke to the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to re-introduce duty-free concessions on gasoline to farmers.

(Notice Paper No. 118 published 1987-03-04)

Mr. Kwayana seconded and spoke to the motion.

Cde. Basir and the Minister of Finance spoke to the motion.

The Minority Leader spoke to the motion and moved the following amendment:

Insertion of the words "and dieselene" after the word "gasolene" in the last line of the motion.

Cde. S.F. Mohamed seconded the amendment.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud replied.

The Minister of Finance concluded the debate.

Thereafter the amended motion was ~~put~~ and negatived.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.21 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Regional Development, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 19th June, 1987.

S. Narain
S. NARAIN
SPEAKER
87-06-19

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
GEORGETOWN.

18th June, 1987.