

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY, 1ST JULY, 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 (Absent - on leave)

Other Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, 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

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 (Absent)

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 (Absent - on leave)

Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Medical Education, Environment and Food policy (Absent)

Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister of Information and the Public Service

\*Non-elected Member

- \*Cde. Dr. P.L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture
- \*Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Education
- \*Cde. J.R. Kranenburg, M.P., Minister of Communications and Works
- \*Cde. Dr. N.E. Blackman, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health

#### Ministers (5)

- Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of National Mobilisation (Absent)
- Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister in the Office of the President (Absent)
- Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister of Forestry
- \*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 (Absent - on leave)

#### 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 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.
- Cde. A.K. Habibulla, M.P.
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
- Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
- Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.
- Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
- Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
- Cde. Anna Ally, M.P.
- Cde. J.R. Arthur, M.P.
- 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 - on leave)
- Cde. Cyrylda A. DeJesus, M.P.
- Cde. Edith Deygoo, M.P.
- Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
- Cde. C.L. Geddes, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
- Cde. B. Persaud, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. E.W. Trotman, M.P.
- Cde. K. Sankar, M.S., M.P.

\*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 - on leave)  
Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/  
Mahaica)  
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)  
(One Vacancy) (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

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.  
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P., Minority Chief Whip (Absent)  
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.  
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 SPEAKER(i) Resignation of Cde. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan

The Speaker announced that he had received from Cde. Bhagmatee Latchminarayan, a letter dated 24th June, 1987, tendering her resignation as a Member of the National Assembly with effect from 30th June, 1987.

Following the General and Regional Elections on 9th December, 1985, Cde. Latchminarayan was, on 24th December, 1985, declared by the Elections Commission to be an elected Member of the Regional Democratic Council for Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice.

On 7th January, 1986, Cde. Latchminarayan was elected by that Regional Democratic Council and was declared to be an elected Member of the National Assembly.

With her resignation, a seat in the National Assembly had become vacant.

The vacancy in the National Assembly had been reported with a view of having it filled.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Cdes. Shahabudeen, Chandisingh, Thomas, Kisson, Harding, Munroe, Nellie Charles and Janet Jagan for that sitting, and to Cde. Parris up to 5th July, Cde. Jackson up to 7th July, and Cdes. Geddes and Cde. Deen up to 15th July.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.-(1) By the Minister of Labour:

Minimum Wages (Watchmen) (Amendment)  
Order 1987 (No. 32), made under section  
9A of the Labour Act, Chapter 98:01,  
on 23rd June, 1987, and published in  
the Gazette on 27th June, 1987.

(L:16/91) (Circulated)

(2) By the Senior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture:

Annual Report of the Ministry of  
Agriculture for the year 1986.

(A:17/6) (Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Communications and Works:

Annual Report of the Ministry of  
Works for the year 1986.

(GN:31/4) (Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONS

Items 1, 2 and 3 were deferred.

ITEM 4 - UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

Cde. Belgrave moved and spoke to the following motion:

## BE IT RESOLVED:

That in view of the high unemployment in Guyana, this National Assembly recommends that the Government introduce a system of unemployment relief.

(Notice Paper No. 122 published 1987-03-04)

Cde. Basir seconded and spoke to the motion.

Mr. Kwayana, the Minority Leader and the Minister of Labour spoke to the motion.

Cde. Belgrave replied.

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

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Mr. Kwayana	Cde. Domingo
Mr. Abraham	Cde. I. Ally
Cde. Belgrave	Cde. Abrahams
Cde. Basir	Cde. Khan
Cde. Nokta	Cde. Bishop
Cde. Collymore	Cde. Semple
Cde. R.D. Persaud	Cde. Sankar
Cde. C. Jagan	Cde. Trotman
	Cde. B. Persaud
	Cde. Marshall
	Cde. Edwards
	Cde. Deygo
	Cde. DeJesus
	Cde. Calistro
	Cde. Bovell-Drakes
	Cde. Arthur
	Cde. A. Ally
	Cde. Melville
	Cde. Doobay
	Cde. Davidson
	Cde. M. Ally
	Cde. Gill-Mingo
	Cde. Fowler
	Cde. Ferreira
	Cde. Odie-Ali
	Cde. Sawh
	Cde. Harewood-Benn
	Cde. Prashad
	Cde. Corbin

ITEM 5 - ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL INSURANCE SCHEME

Cde. Belgrave moved and spoke to the following motion:

WHEREAS the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) was established in 1969, that is to say, 17 years ago;

AND WHEREAS the benefits its members now receive are not commensurate with their contributions to the Scheme:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to set up a broad-based Committee including the TUC to investigate the administration of the N.I.S.

(Notice Paper No. 125 published 1987-03-04)

Cde. Basir seconded and spoke to the motion.

Mr. Abraham and Mr. Kwayana spoke to the motion.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.23 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Public Utilities and the Minority Leader spoke to the motion.

Cde. Belgrave replied.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Public Utilities, concluded the debate.

Thereafter, the motion was put and negatived.

ITEM 6 - WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS OF WORKERS

Cde. Belgrave moved and spoke to the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls upon the Government to consult with the TUC before introducing legislation on matters relating to working and living conditions of workers.

(Notice Paper No. 126 published 1987-03-04)

Mr. Kwayana seconded and spoke to the motion.

Mr. M.F. Singh, the Minority Leader and the Minister of Labour spoke to the motion.

Cde. Belgrave replied.

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

FOR

Mr. Kwayana  
Mr. Abraham  
Mr. Singh  
Cde. Belgrave  
Cde. Nokta  
Cde. R.D. Persaud  
Cde. C. Jagam

AGAINST

Cde. Domingo  
Cde. I. Ally  
Cde. Abrahams  
Cde. Khan  
Cde. Semple  
Cde. Trotman  
Cde. B. Persaud  
Cde. Marshall  
Cde. Edwards  
Cde. Deygo  
Cde. DeJesus  
Cde. Calistro  
Cde. Bovell-Drakes  
Cde. Arthur  
Cde. A. Ally  
Cde. Melville  
Cde. Doobay  
Cde. Davidson  
Cde. M. Ally  
Cde. Gill-Mingo  
Cde. Fowler  
Cde. Habibulla  
Cde. Ferreira  
Cde. Odie-Ali  
Cde. Sawh  
Cde. Harewood-Benn  
Cde. Prashad  
Cde. Corbin

Total        **7**

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ITEM 7 - HOLIDAYS WITH PAY.

Cde. Belgrave moved and spoke to the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly recommends that legislation on holidays with pay which will cover all categories of workers be brought before the Assembly.

(Notice Paper No. 127 published 1987-03-04)

Cde. Nokta seconded the motion.

The Minister of Labour spoke to the motion.

Cde. Belgrave replied.

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

FOR

Mr. Kwayana  
Mr. Abraham  
Mr. Singh  
Cde. Belgrave  
Cde. Nokta  
Cde. R.D. Persaud  
Cde. C. Jagan

AGAINST

Cde. Domingo  
Cde. I. Ally  
Cde. Abrahams  
Cde. Khan  
Cde. Semple  
Cde. Trotman  
Cde. B. Persaud  
Cde. Marshall  
Cde. Edwards  
Cde. Deygo  
Cde. DeJesus  
Cde. Calisto  
Cde. Bovell-Drakes  
Cde. Arthur  
Cde. A. Ally  
Cde. Melville  
Cde. Doobay  
Cde. Davidson  
Cde. Gill-Mingo  
Cde. Feller  
Cde. Halibulla  
Cde. Ferreira  
Cde. Odie-Ali  
Cde. Harewood-Benn  
Cde. Prashad

Total     7

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ADJOURNMENT

At 6.28 p.m. on a motion by the Minister of Information and the Public Service, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

*S. Narain*  
S. NARAIN  
Speaker 87-07-14

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

14th July, 1987