

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 54TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (1990-1991) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 1991

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

Speaker

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (60)

Prime Minister

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Prime Minister

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

- * Cde. K.S. Massiah, O.R., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister
of Legal Affairs (Absent)

Deputy Prime Minister (2)

Cde. R.H.U. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Public works,
Communications and Regional Development (Absent)
Cde. W.S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry

Senior Ministers (6)

- * Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance (Absent - on leave)
- * Cde. Dr. P.L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Minister of Agriculture
- * Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister of Education and Cultural Development
- * Cde. J.R. Kranenburg, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Works,
Communications and Regional Development (Absent)
- Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Senior Minister in the
Office of the President (Absent)
- * Cde. Rabbian Ali-Khan, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security (Absent)

Ministers (6)

- Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry (Absent -
on leave)
- * Cde. V.V. Parvatan, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health
- Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President
- Cde. Stella Udic-Ali, M.P., M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
- Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour,
Human Services and Social Security

Government Chief Whip (1)

Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira

*Non-elected Member

Other Members (32)

Cde. Viola V. Burnham, U.R., M.P.
 Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. R.E. Jackson, U.R., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P.
 Cde. S. Prashad, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P.
 Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P.
 Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P.
 Cde. K.B. Bancroft, M.P.
 Cde. M. Corrica, M.P.
 Cde. Philomena A. Kayman, M.P.
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
 Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
 Cde. Anna Ally, M.P.
 Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
 Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. Cyrillda A. DeJesus, M.P.
 Cde. Edith Veygoo, M.P.
 Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
 Cde. C.L. Geades, M.P.
 Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
 Cde. B. Persaud, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. K. Sankar, A.A., M.P.
 Cde. E.L. Fraser, M.P.
 Cde. Mignon D. Griffith, M.P.
 Cde. P.E. Rockcliffe, M.P.

(There are two vacancies)

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

Cde. Rose I. Sempke, M.P.
 Cde. P. Singh, J.P., M.P.,

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
 Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
 Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)
 Cde. Y. Khan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supernaam)
 Cde. Enia E. Abrahams, M.S., J.P., M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Island/
 West Demerara)
 Cde. I. Ally, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
 Cde. S.I. McGarrett, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
 Cde. M. Stephens, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo) (Absent)
 Cde. Ajoodha, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
 Cde. D. Fernandes, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Members of the Minority (11)

(i) People's Progressive Party (8)

(Vacant)

(ii) United Force (2)

Cde. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Absent)

(There is one vacancy)

(iii) Working People's Alliance (1)

(Vacant)

OFFICERS

Cde. M.B. Henry Acting Clerk of the National Assembly
 Cde. E.W. Kendall Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Acting Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Death of Cde. Geddes' Wife

Cde. Speaker expressed sympathy on behalf of Members and himself to Cde. Geddes whose wife passed away recently.

(ii) Conservation of Parliamentary Records

The Speaker reminded that he had been exploring ways and means to have published the verbatim reports of the proceedings which had for various reasons, remained unpublished for a number of years and that there were some hope in having that done. Before the publication stage the materials had to be conserved and preserved in good order. These materials were very important part of history and had to be protected.

The British Executive Services Overseas (BESU) had placed at the disposal of Parliament Office Dr. Michael Pascoe, a Scientist, whose speciality was conservation management, training, planning, science and technology for libraries, archives, galleries, museums, and historic buildings. Dr. Pascoe's career also included Keeper of Conservation and Technical Services at the British Museum, Head of Conservation Science at Camberwell College of Arts, and a wide range of Consultancies. Dr Pascoe had arrived on 6th and would be spending three weeks.

On their behalf and his own he extended to Dr. Pascoe a warm welcome to Guyana.

(iii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cde. C.B. Greenidge from 9th August to 20th September, 1991
- (b) Cde. D. Sawh from 8th September to 15th September, 1991
- (c) Cde. R.E. Jackson from 9th September to 24th September, 1991
- (d) Cde. R. Bishop from 12th August to 18th September, 1991
and
- (e) Caes. Parvatan, Corbin, Prashad, Cumberbatch from that day's sitting.

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

- (i) Annual Report of the Ministry of Finance for the year 1990.
(Circulated)
- (ii) The Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) (No. 3) Order No. 45 of 1991.
(Circulated)

- (iii) The Pensions (President, Parliamentary and Special Offices) (Designation) (Amendment) Order 1991 (No. 41), made under section 2 of the Pensions (President, Parliamentary and Special Offices) Act, Chapter 27:03 and published in the Gazette on 3rd August, 1991.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Financial Paper No. 4/1991 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period ended 1991-09-04 for the amount of \$162,897,268.

(Circulated)

After presenting Financial Paper No. 4 of 1991, the Deputy Prime Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry stated that at a later stage and with the Speaker's permission a motion would be moved for the suspension of Standing Order No. 68(1) to enable the Assembly to proceed.

- (2) By the Minister of Agriculture:

Annual Reports 1990 - Ministry of Agriculture and "New" Guyana Marketing Corporation.

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER -**

Suspension of Standing Order No. 68(1)

With the leave of the Speaker, the Minister in the Ministry of Health moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 68(1) be suspended to enable Financial Paper No. 4 of 1991 to be considered at the sitting of the Assembly on Wednesday, 11th September, 1991.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS -

Presentation and First Reading

**1. CANE FARMERS SPECIAL FUNDS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 - Bill No. 16/1991
Published 1991-08-17**

The Minister of Agriculture, on behalf of the Government presented the following bill which was read the first time:-

A BILL intitled AN ACT to amend the Sugar Industry Special Funds Act, the National Cane Farming Committee Act and the Cane Farmers Rehabilitation Fund Act.

2. COMPANIES BILL 1991 - Bill No. 17/1991

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

A BILL intitled AN ACT to revise and amend the law relating to Companies and to provide for related and consequential matters.

3. PENSIONS (PRESIDENT, PARLIAMENTARY AND SPECIAL OFFICES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 - Bill No. 18/1991 published 1991-09-04

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

A BILL intitled AN ACT to amend the Pensions (President, Parliamentary and Special Offices) Act.

4. THE INTEGRITY COMMISSION BILL 1991 - Bill No. 19/1991 published 1991-09-04

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

A BILL intitled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of an Integrity Commission for the purpose of receiving complaints against persons to whom the Act applies, to investigate breaches of the Code of Conduct and to receive a sworn declaration of all assets from any person to whom the Code of Conduct applies; to provide for a Committee to which the receipt of all gifts shall be reported; and for matters connected therewith.

5. CRIMINAL LAW (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 - Bill No. 20/1991 published 1991-09-04

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

A BILL intitled AN ACT to amend the Criminal Law (Procedure) Act.

Presentation and First Reading

TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 - Bill No. 21/1991

The Deputy Prime Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A BILL intitled AN ACT to amend the Tax Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second Reading

ITEM 1. MEDICAL PRACTITIONER BILL 1991 - Bill No. 13/1991 published 1991-06-29

Consideration of the following Bill was deferred:-

A BILL intitled AN ACT to make new provision for the registration of medical practitioners and for matters connected therewith.

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PAPER NOS. 4/1991

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider Financial Paper No. 4/1991.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 17(2) of the Constitution the Deputy Prime Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry 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. 4/1991 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period ended 1991-09-04, totalling \$162,897,268.

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

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Deputy Prime Minister of Trade, Tourism and Industry the Assembly adopted the following Resolutions:-

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

"RESOLVED, That this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4/1991 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period ended 1991-09-04.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference New Delhi

Cde. Speaker informed the Members that in keeping with a decision of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Guyana Branch, he would be departing Guyana 15th September to attend the 37th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference, to be held in New Delhi, India from 22nd September to 2nd October. He stressed that there were a number of Bills yet to receive their second and third readings before the dissolution of Parliament and that there would be sittings of the National Assembly to complete outstanding business during his absence.

He said that, it appeared that was the last sitting of the National Assembly of that Parliament that he was attending and he wished to take that opportunity to thank Members for the co-operation they had given him for just over five and a half years which he considered difficult years for them both inside and outside of that Parliament. He wished also to express his personal thanks to the President and Prime Minister who had given him fullest support, help and assisted him in the carrying out of the arduous administrative and other duties as Speaker of the National Assembly. He expressed thanks to the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Staff of Parliament Office for their support, the Press and Radio for publishing accurately and most times inaccurately the work of the Assembly. He also wished all Members and their families good health and success in the future and particularly in the elections ahead.

He invited Members to join him at refreshments in the Committee Room after the adjournment.

Both the Prime Minister and Minister in the Ministry of Health thanked and congratulated the Speaker for preserving the discipline and dignity of the Assembly and for keeping out contempt from it. They expressed the wish that he would not decline to serve in a new Parliament.

7.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2.45 p.m. on a motion by the Minister in the Ministry of Health, the Assembly was adjourned to the 18th September, at 2.00 p.m.

SASE NAKAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

1991-09-17.