

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 25TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
FIRST SESSION (1981) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 1981

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (77)

Speaker (1)

- * Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly
Members of the Government - People's National Congress (64)

Prime Minister (1)

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

Other Vice-President (4)

- Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Vice-President, Works and Transport (Absent)
- Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance (Absent)
- Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Public Welfare (Absent)
- Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations

Senior Ministers (10)

- Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Minister of Higher Education (Absent)
- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister of Regional Development
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of National Development (Absent)
- * Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection (Absent)
- * Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines (Absent)
- * Cde. Dr. M. Shahabudden, O.R., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Justice
- * Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs
- * Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A., M.P., Minister of Agriculture
- * Cde. S.A. Moore, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
- * Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Education (Absent)

Ministers (8)

- Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P., Minister of Co-operatives (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. J.N. Maitland-Singh, M.P., Minister, Consumer Protection, in the Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister, in the Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance
- Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P., Minister, Fisheries, in the Ministry of Agriculture
- * Cde. Y.V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister

* Non Elected Member

/...

- * Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister, Office of the President (Absent - on leave)
- * Cde. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister, Health, in the Ministry of Public Welfare

Ministers of State (3)

- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State for Culture, in the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture
- Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of State for Youth and Sport, in the Ministry of National Development
- * Cde. C.E. Wright, M.P., Minister of State for Construction, in the Ministry of Works and Transport (Absent)

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

- Cde. A.W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Women's Affairs and Housing
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister
- Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Education, Social Development and Culture
- Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Foreign Affairs

Other Members (22)

- Cde. M. Ally, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. M. Armogan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P.
- Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., 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.
- Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P.
- Cde. J. Gill-Mingo, M.P.
- Cde. A. Mc Rae, M.P.
- Cde. J.M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.
- Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.P.
- Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
- Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.
- Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. H.B. Walcott-Nacimiento, J.P., M.P., Government Chief Whip (Absent - on leave)

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 (10)

- Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
- Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. C.A. Singh, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
- Cde. W. Bipat, 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) (Absent)
- Cde. D. Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
- Cde. A. Dorrick, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)
- Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

* Non elected Member

/...

Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader (Absent)

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. (Absent)

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

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

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

Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, 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

(1) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

(a) Cdes. Armogan, Caldeira, Walcott-Nascimento, Jairam and Mr. M.F. Singh for that day's sitting, and

(b) Cde. Johnson to the end of the month.

(2) Changes in Membership

The Speaker informed Members that he had been advised of the following changes:

(a) Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, who had been Minister, Environment and Water Supply, in the Ministry of Public Welfare, had ceased to be a Minister, with effect from 1st December, 1981.

As Cde. Chowritmootoo was an elected Member of the National Assembly, he continued to be a Member of the Assembly.

/...

- (b) Cde. S. Prashad, who had been Minister, Crops and Livestock, in the Ministry of Agriculture, had been designated "Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture", with effect from 1st December, 1981.
- (c) Cde. F.U.A. Campbell, who had been Minister of Information, had ceased to be a Minister, with effect from 1st December, 1981.

As Cde. Campbell had not been an elected Member of the National Assembly, he had ceased to be a Member of the Assembly.

- (d) Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, who had been Minister, Forestry, in the Ministry of Agriculture, had ceased to be a Minister, with effect from 1st December, 1981.

As Cde. Carmichael had not been an elected Member of the National Assembly, he had ceased to be a Member of the Assembly.

- (e) Cde. Y.V. Harewood-Benn, who had been Minister of Public Service, had been designated "Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister", with effect from 1st December, 1981.
- (f) Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, who had been Minister, Drainage and Irrigation, in the Ministry of Agriculture, had ceased to be a Minister, with effect from 1st December, 1981.

As Cde. Van Sluytman had not been an elected Member of the National Assembly, he had ceased to be a Member of the Assembly.

- (g) Cde. E.M. Bynoe, who had been Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, had ceased to be a Parliamentary Secretary, with effect from 1st December, 1981.

As Cde. Bynoe had not been an elected Member of the National Assembly, she had ceased to be a Member of the Assembly.

- (h) Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, an elected Member of the National Assembly, had been appointed a Parliamentary Secretary, and had been designated "Parliamentary Secretary, Education, Social Development and Culture" with effect from 1st December, 1981.
- (i) Cde. B. Bhaggan, an elected Member of the National Assembly, had been appointed a Parliamentary Secretary, and had been designated "Parliamentary Secretary, Foreign Affairs", with effect from 1st December, 1981.

On behalf of Members of the **Assembly** and himself, the Speaker extended best wishes to those Members in their new assignments. He explained that as a result of those changes in membership, consequential and other changes had also been made in the seating arrangements, and that with the new arrangements, the two Members from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs and the ten Members from the Regional Democratic Councils were all sitting together in one row.

/...

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, on behalf of the Prime Minister:

Pensions (Designated Service) Order 1981 (No. 82), made under section 23(2) of the Pensions Act, Chapter 27:02, on 30th November, 1981, and published in the Gazette on 5th December, 1981.

(PS: 24/0/11)(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, on behalf of the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance:

- (a) Annual Reports (9) of the Comptroller of Customs and Excise for the years 1971 to 1979.

(ST: 31/1/1/7)(Circulated)

- (b) Consumption Tax (Amendment)(No. 3) Order 1981 (No. 76), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, on 16th October, 1981, and published in the Gazette on 21st October, 1981.

(ST: 34/2/1/9)(Circulated)

- (c) Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts for the years 1972, 1973 and 1974.

(ST: 25/2/3^{TJ})(Circulated)

- (d) Financial Paper No. 5/1981 - Supplementary Estimates totalling \$80,121,990 for the period ended 12th December, 1981.

(ST: 10/4^{II})(Circulated)

In terms of Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister named Wednesday, 23rd December, 1981, as the day for the consideration of the Financial Paper in Committee of Supply.

- (3) By the Minister of Home Affairs:

Annual Report of the Guyana Fire Service for the year 1976.

(HA: 1/1/2/1^{III})(Circulated)

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTERMotion to Suspend Standing Order No. 23(3)

On a motion by the Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, and with the leave of the Speaker, Standing Order No. 23(3) was suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at that sitting on the motion of Sympathy on the death of Cde. Esther Elizabeth Dey, M.B.E.

/...

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

- (1) NATIONAL CANE FARMING COMMITTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 - Bill No. 11/1981 published 5.12.81

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

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the National Cane Farming Committæ Act.

- (2) GUYANA GOLD BOARD BILL 1981 - Bill No. 12/1981 published 12.12.81

The Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, on behalf of the Minister of Energy and Mines, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A Bill intituled An Act to provide for the establishment, constitution, and functions of the Guyana Gold Board and for matters connected therewith.

- (3) MINING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 - Bill No. 13/1981 published 12.12.81

The Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, on behalf of the Minister of Energy and Mines, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Mining Act.

- (4) GUYANA TIMBER EXPORT BOARD (TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS) BILL 1981 - Bill No. 14/1981 published 12.12.81

The Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, on behalf of the Minister of National Development, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A Bill intituled An Act to provide for the dissolution of the Guyana Timber Export Board, the transfer of its functions to the Guyana Forestry Commission and for related matters.

- (5) WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL 1981 - Bill No. 15/1981 published 12.12.81

The Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, on behalf of the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A Bill intituled An Act to provide for the implementation of the International System of Units (SI); and for purposes connected therewith.

/...

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF SIR DONALD EDWARD JACKSON, C.C.H.

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Sir Donald Edward Jackson, C.C.H., and pays tribute to the distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing daughter and relatives.

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

The Speaker also spoke in support of the motion.

The motion was thereafter put and carried with Members standing.

ITEM 2 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF CDE. ESTHER ELIZABETH DEY, M.B.E.

The Parliamentary Secretary, Women's Affairs and Housing, moved the following motion which was seconded by Cde. H.L.B. Singh:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. Esther Elizabeth Dey, M.B.E., and pays tribute to the distinguished service which she rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to her sorrowing relatives.

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried with Members standing.

ITEM 3 - CONFIRMATION OF CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) ORDER 1981 (No. 76)

The Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, on behalf of the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the following motion which was put and carried:

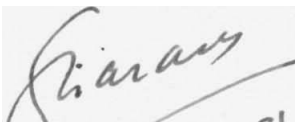
BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 5 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 1981 (No. 76), which was made on 16th October, 1981, and published in the Gazette on 21st October, 1981.

/...

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.03 p.m., on a motion by the Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 23rd December, 1981.



S. NARAIN
Speaker 21.12.81

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
21st December, 1981