

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 23RD SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE THIRD
SESSION (1983-1984) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD...

AT 14:00 hrs

ON WEDNESDAY, 1984-02-15

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (70)

Speaker (1)

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (57)

Prime Minister (1)

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

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Vice-President, Production (Absent - on leave)

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

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 (Absent)

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

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

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

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

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 (Absent)

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 - on leave)

*Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Health and
Public Welfare (Absent - on leave)

*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 (Absent - on leave)

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

* Non elected Member

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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
 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

Other Members (22)

- 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. Chowritmoctoo, 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 - on leave)
 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. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.
 Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.
 Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.

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

- Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. B. Latchminarayan, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (9)

- Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 Barima/Waini) (Absent)
 Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam) (Absent)
 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) (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. D. Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
 Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

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Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

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

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 (Absent)

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. (Absent)

Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

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

(i) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave been granted to -

(a) Cdes. Dr. Reid, Hoyte, Dr. Van West-Charles,
Corrica, P. Fredericks, Primo and Charles, and

(b) Cde. Dr. Jagan for a period of one week from
11th February.

(ii) Performance of Duties during absence of Minority Leader

The Speaker also announced that he had been informed by the Minority Leader that, during his absence, Cde. Ram Karran would be performing his Parliamentary duties, and that the Minority Leader had authorised Cde. Collymore to move the motion standing in his name on that day's Order Paper.

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PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.-

By the Vice-President, Party and State Matters, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning:

Corrections/Amendments to the 1984 Estimates
as presented to the National Assembly.

(ST: 1/2^{IV})(Circulated)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

No. 9 - Police Reports, etc.

Cde. Collymore asked the Minister of Home Affairs the following questions:

QUESTIONS: (i) Will the Minister supply the National Assembly as urgently as possible with statistics pertaining to crime reports in the years 1979, 1980, 1981, and 1982 and up to June 1983, as indicated below:

Murder
Manslaughter
Death by dangerous driving
Robbery under arms
Rape
Praedial larceny
Total amount of property stolen
Total amount of property recovered
by Police?

(ii) Will the Minister say how soon will the relevant Annual Reports by the Commissioner of Police for the years 1979, 1980, 1981, and 1982 be tabled in the National Assembly?

(iii) Will the Minister say how soon a plan to train an arm Community Police Groups will be put into effect, with priority given to high-crime areas?

(iv) Will the Minister say if he is satisfied with the poor state of police transportation facilities, risk incentives, and unsatisfactory salaries and allowances?

If not, can he say what is being done to improve the situation referred to?

The Minister of Home Affairs gave the following reply:

ANSWER:

(1) (See Appendices A and B to these Minutes).

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- (ii) The outstanding Annual Reports for the years 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983 will be laid in the National Assembly by 30th June, 1984.
- (iii) There is no immediate plan to train an arm Community Police Group. Interested persons who have formed groups are given various hints and advice by the Police in their districts. Individual members of many groups have applied for and have been granted licences to carry firearms.
- (iv) Despite the shortage of transportation facilities the Police have been doing their best to control the crime situation. It is hoped to have the fleet of vehicles and river craft upgraded this year.

Salaries and allowances were increased during 1983 and I am not aware of any dissatisfaction among members of the Force.

A Supplementary Question was asked by Cde. Ram Karran.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA

Cde. Collymore, on behalf of the Minority Leader, moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the leader of the African National Congress of South Africa, Nelson Mandela, has now been detained on the notorious Robben Island Prison for nearly 20 years;

AND WHEREAS millions of people of all ethnic origins, classes and creeds have called for, and signed Resolutions demanding his release;

AND WHEREAS the continued detention of this great fighter for the liberation of his people from the yoke of the white racist minority in South Africa is an affront to world opinion and should be ended now:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana calls upon the Pretoria Regime of South Africa to release Nelson Mandela and to remove the restrictions on his wife immediately.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs formally seconded the motion.

Mr. M.F. Singh and the Minister of Foreign Affairs spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried.

ITEM 2 - CORRECTIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE 1984 ESTIMATES

The Vice President, Party and State Matters, on behalf of the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly takes note and approves of the corrections and amendments to be made to the 1984 Estimates which were presented to the Assembly on 1984-01-30 and approved on 1984-02-08.

Cde. N. Persaud and Mr. M.F. Singh spoke to the motion.

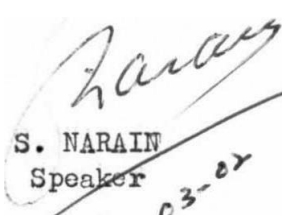
Thereafter, the Vice-President, Party and State Matters, replied.

The motion was amended and carried as follows:

RESOLVED, That this National Assembly takes note and approves of the corrections and amendments to be made to the 1984 Estimates which were presented to the Assembly on 1984-01-30 and approved on 1984-02-08, except those relating to Division 524 - Ministry of Education Social Development and Culture.

ADJOURNMENT

At 15:30 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

26-03-82

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
1984-03-02 *B*