

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1974

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 55th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

FRIDAY, 27TH DECEMBER, 1974

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

His Honour the Speaker, Mr. Sase Narain, J.P.

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (50)

Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister (2)

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., Prime Minister (Absent)
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development

Senior Ministers (8)

- The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Economic Development
The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice (Absent)
The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation
The Honourable H.D. Jack, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources (Absent)
The Honourable F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance
The Honourable S.S. Naraine, A.A. Minister of Works and Housing
The Honourable G.A. King, Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection
The Honourable G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., Minister of Agriculture

Ministers (5)

- The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour (Absent)
The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of Information and Culture
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House (Absent- on leave)
The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education and Social Development
Dr. the Honourable M.M.R. Harper, Minister of Health (Absent);

Ministers of State (10)

- The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A. Minister of State for Agriculture (Absent- on leave)
The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent)
The Honourable P. Duncan, J.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi) (Absent)
The Honourable C.A. Nascimento, Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister

Non elected Minister

- The Honourable M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P., Minister of State - Regional
(Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
The Honourable K.B. Bancroft, Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/
Potaro) (Absent)
The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of State for Home Affairs (Absent)
The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of State for Consumer Protection
(Absent)
The Honourable A. Salim, Minister of State - Regional (East
Demerara/West Coast Berbice) (Absent)
The Honourable F.U.A. Carmichael, Minister of State - Regional
(North West)

Parliamentary Secretaries (7)

- Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Housing
Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and
Housing
Miss M.M. Ackman, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister,
and Government Chief Whip
Mr. E.L. Ambrose, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
(Absent- on leave)
Mr. S. Prashad, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives
and National Mobilisation
Mr. J.P. Chowritmootoo, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education
and Social Development
Mr. R.H.O. Corbin, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Deputy Speaker (1)

- Mr. R.C. Van Duytman, Deputy Speaker

Other Members (17)

- Mr. J.N. Aaron
Mrs. L.M. Branco
Mr. M. Corrica
Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
Miss J. Gill
Mr. W. Hussain
Miss S. Jaiserrisingh
Mr. K.M.E. Jones
Mr. M. Nissar
Dr. L.E. Ramsahoye
Mr. J.G. Ramson
Mrs. P.A. Rayman
Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
Mr. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., J.P.
Mr. C. Sukul, J.P.
Mr. H.A. Taylor
Mrs. L.E. Willems

Members of the Opposition - Liberator Party (2)

- Mr. M.F. Singh, Leader of the Opposition
Mrs. E. Da Silva

OFFICERS

- Mr. F.A. Narain, Clerk of the National Assembly
Mr. M.B. Henry, AMBIM, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

Non elected Minister

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Ramsaroop, Mr. Kasim and Mr. Ambrose for that day's sitting.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

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

(i) PROPERTY TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 - Bill No. 44/1974

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
PROPERTY TAX ACT.

(ii) TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO.3) BILL 1974 - Bill No.45/1974

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
TAX ACT.

(iii) INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 - Bill No.46/1974

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
INCOME TAX ACT.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONSITEM 1 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1974 (NO. 142)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in terms of section 5 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1974 (No. 142), which was made on the 31st of October, 1974, and published in the Gazette on the 9th of November, 1974.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

ITEM 2 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) ORDER 1974 (NO. 151)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in terms of section 5 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) (No.2) Order 1974 (No. 151), which was made on the 10th of December, 1974, and published in the Gazette on the 12th of December, 1974.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

ITEM 2 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTOMS (EXEMPTION FROM DUTIES) (NO.2)
ORDER 1974 (NO. 152)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion which was put and carried

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in terms of section 9 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirm the Customs (Exemption from Duties) (No. 2) Order 1974 (No. 152), which was made on the 10th of December, 1974, and published in the Gazette on the 12th of December, 1974.

ITEM 3 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTOMS (EXEMPTION FROM DUTIES) (NO.3)
ORDER 1974 (NO. 155)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion which was put and carried

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in terms of section 9 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirm the Customs (Exemption from Duties) (No. 3) Order 1974 (No. 155), which was made on the 10th of December, 1974, and published in the Gazette of the 14th of December, 1974.

BILLS - Second and third Readings

ITEM 5 - POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK (DISSOLUTION) BILL 1974 -
Bill No. 38/1974 published 11.12.74

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

Mrs. Da Silva spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 6 - VALUATION FOR RATING PURPOSES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 -
BILL No. 39/1974 published 18.12.74

The Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE VALUATION FOR RATING PURPOSES ACT.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time, and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 7 - MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 -
Bill No. 40/1974 published 18.12.74

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE MOTOR
 VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ACT.

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 8 - RENT CONTROL (SPECIAL PROVISIONS)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 -
Bill No. 41/1974 published 18.12.74

The Minister of Works and Housing moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE RENT
 CONTROL (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ACT 1974.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Works and Housing replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 9 - GUYANA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH(INCORPORATION)BILL 1974 -
Bill No. 37/1974 published 23.11.74, 30.11.74 and 7.12.74

Mr. Aaron moved and Miss Gill seconded the second reading of the following Private Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO INCORPORATE
 THE GUYANA MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
 AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

The motion was put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

MOTION

ITEM 10 - SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 46 (2) and (3)

On a motion by the Minister of Economic Development, and with the leave of the Speaker, paragraphs (2) and (3) of Standing Order No.46 were suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed with the second and third readings of the following Bills:

(i) PROPERTY TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 - Bill
No. 44/1974 published 27.12.74

(ii) TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1974 - Bill
No. 45/1974 published 27.12.74

(iii) INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 - Bill No 46/1974
published 27.12.74.

BILLS - Second and third ReadingsITEM 11 - PROPERTY TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 - Bill No. 44/1974
published 27.12.74

In accordance with article 80 (2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the second reading of the following Bill.

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
PROPERTY TAX ACT.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 : The following amendment by the Minister of Finance was put and carried:

Substitution of the following for clause 1:

- "Short title and commencement. Cap. 81:21
1. (1) This Act, which amends the Property Tax Act, may be cited as the Property Tax (Amendment) Act 1974.
 - (2) Section 2 shall be deemed to have come into operation with respect to and from the year of assessment commencing on 1st January, 1970.
 - (3) Section 3 shall come into operation with respect to and from the year of assessment commencing on 1st January, 1975. "

Clause 1 was then passed as amended.

Clauses 2 and 3 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

ITEM 12 - TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 3) BILL 1974 - Bill No. 45/1974
published 27.12.74

In accordance with article 80 (2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the second reading of the following Bill.

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND
THE TAX ACT.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

ITEM 13 - INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1974 - Bill No. 46/1974
published 27.12.74

In accordance with article 80 (2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
 INCOME TAX ACT.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time and was, thereafter, taken through its remaining stages and passed as printed.

NEW YEAR WISHES

His Honour the Speaker extended New Year Wishes to the Members of the Assembly and their families, and to the Staff and the Press.

The Minister of Economic Development and the Leader of the Opposition thanked His Honour on behalf of the Members of the Assembly and reciprocated the wishes to him and family, and also extended good wishes to the Staff and the Press.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.10 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Economic Development, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 2nd January, 1975.



S. NARAIN
 Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
 Public Buildings,
 Georgetown,
 31st December, 1974.

