

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1978

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 162nd Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

FRIDAY, 4TH AUGUST, 1978

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (48)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., M.P., Prime Minister (Absent)

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. P.A. Reid, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development (Absent)

Senior Ministers (8)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives (Absent)

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Minister of Works and Transport

* Cde. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Health, Housing and Labour (Absent)

* Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Natural Resources

* Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Finance

* Cde. G.A. King, M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection

* Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)

* Cde. M. Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Justice

Ministers (5)

Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, M.P., Minister of Information

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House

* Cde. C.V. Mingo, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

* Cde. V.R. Teekah, M.P., Minister of Education, Social Development and Culture (Absent)

* Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent)

Ministers of State (9)

Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/ Corentyne (Absent - on leave)

* Non elected Minister

- Cde. P. Duncan, J.P., M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives
- Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister (Absent)
- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro)
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
- Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Health, Housing and Labour
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of National Development (Absent)
- * Cde. A. Salim, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice) (Absent)
- * Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (North West)

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

- Cde. M.M. Ackman, C.C.H., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. E.L. Ambrose, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives
- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture

Other Members (20)

- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P.
- Cde. W.G. Carrington, M.P.
- Cde. L.A. Durant, M.P.
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. J. Gill, M.P.
- Cde. W. Hussain, M.P.
- Cde. K.M.E. Jonas, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., M.P.
- Cde. M. Nissar, M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Ramsahoye, M.P.
- Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
- Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
- Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P.
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Willems, M.P.
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, M.P.

Members of the Opposition (16)

(i) People's Progressive Party (14)

Leader of the Opposition (1)

- Cde. C. Jagan, M.P., Leader of the Opposition (Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

- Cde. Ram Karran, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

* Non elected Minister

Other Members (12)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Opposition Chief Whip (Absent)
 Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.
 Cde. C. Collymore, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
 Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.
 Cde. R. Ally, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P., (Absent)
 Cde. Dindayal, M.P.
 Cde. H. Nokta, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. P. Sukhai, M.P.

(ii) Liberator Party (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly (F.A. Narain, A.A.)
 Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (A. Knight)

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Deaths

- (a) Premier of St. Kitts
- (b) Speaker of St. Kitts
- (c) Wife of Speaker of Trinidad and Tobago

The Speaker informed the Assembly of the deaths of the Premier of St. Kitts, the Speaker of St. Kitts, and the wife of the Speaker of Trinidad and Tobago. On behalf of Members, he recorded the Assembly's deep regret, and stated that appropriate expressions of sympathy had already been sent from Guyana.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cdes. Kennard and Clarke and Mr. Singh for that sitting,
- (b) Cde. Ramson for the period 1st to 31st August, 1978, and
- (c) Cde. Mohamed for the period 4th to 12th August, 1978.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(1) By the Minister of Works and Transport:

Demerara Harbour Bridge Regulations 1978
 (No. 11), made under section 25 of the
 Roads Act, Chapter 51:01, on the 29th of
 July, 1978, and published in the Gazette
 on the 31st of July, 1978.

(CC-25/1/1/2)(Circulated)

(2) By ~~the~~ Minister of Finance:

(a) Loan Agreement ~~dated~~ 28th July, 1978, between Guyana and the ~~Contributing~~ Parties to the OPEC Special Fund (Balance of Payments Support). (Loan No. 85).

(ST: 3/2/2/3/1)(Circulated)

(b) Loan Agreement dated 28th July, 1978, between Guyana and the Contributing Parties to the OPEC Special Fund - Tapakuma Irrigation Project. (Loan No. 86p).

(ST: 3/2/2/3/1)(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

HIGH COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 16/1978
published 28.7.78

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
HIGH COURT ACT.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 23

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, Standing Order No. 23 was suspended to enable the Minister ~~to move a motion~~ of sympathy on the death of Cde. Hamid Rahaman.

ITEM 1. DEATH OF CDE. HAMID RAHAMAN

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. Hamid Rahaman 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 widow and children.

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried with Members standing.

/...

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

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That paragraphs (2) and (3) of Standing Order No. 46 be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its Sitting on Friday, 4th August, 1978, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the HIGH COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 (Bill No. 16/1978 published 28th July, 1978).

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 3 - HIGH COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 16/1978
published 28.7.78

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE HIGH COURT ACT.

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

The Attorney General and Minister of Justice replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

The Bill was read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2 - The Attorney General and Minister of Justice moved the following amendment which was put and carried:

Deletion of paragraph (a) and substitution of the following therefor:

- '(a) by the substitution for all the words appearing in subsection (1) after the words "his action" of the words "or, where the action is for a liquidated sum due and payable under a contract evidenced in writing, that the defendant does not or will not have assets in Guyana of sufficient value to satisfy any judgment for the sum claimed or that the absence of the

defendant will otherwise prejudice the recovery of the sum, the Court or judge may, in the manner prescribed by rules of court, order the defendant not to leave or attempt to leave Guyana pending the determination of the action unless and until he has sooner given security not exceeding the amount claimed in the action as prescribed by rules of court that he will not go out of Guyana without the leave of the Court."; and'

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 4 - AMERINDIAN (AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 14/1978
published 10.6.78

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Minister of Economic Development and Co-operatives, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
AMERINDIAN ACT.

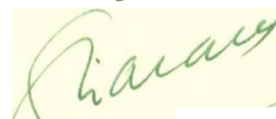
Mr. Abraham spoke to the motion.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.54 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 14th August, 1978.


S. NARAIN
Speaker 11.8.77

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
11th August, 1978.