

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 - 1978

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 165th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

THURSDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 1978

With the Deputy Speaker in the Chair

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (64)

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly
(Absent - on leave)

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (47)

Prime Minister (1)

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

Deputy Prime Minister (1)

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

Senior Ministers (7)

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
(Absent - on leave)

- * Cde. H. Green, M.P., Minister of Health, Housing and Labour
- * Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
- * Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Finance
- * Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Agriculture (Absent)
- * Cde. M. Shahabuddeen, C.C.H., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Justice

Ministers (6)

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
- * Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs
- * Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A., M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection (Absent)

* Non elected Minister

Ministers of State (11)

- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/ Corentyne) (Absent)
- 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 - on leave)
- Cde. K.B. Bancroft, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro) (Absent)
- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara) (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Health, Housing and Labour (Absent)
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of National Development
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/ West Coast Berbice)
- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P., Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture
- Cde. L.A. Durant, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (North West)
- * Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi)

Parliamentary Secretaries (5)

- 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. M. Corrica, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture
- Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection
- Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Co-operatives

Other Members (16)

- Cde. W.G. Carrington, 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.
- Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., M.P.
- Cde. M. Nissar, M.P.
- Cde. J.G. Ramson, M.P.
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P.
- Cde. A. Salim, M.P.
- Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P., M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
- Cde. C. Sukul, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. H.A. Taylor, M.P.
- Cde. L.E. Willems, 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 - on leave)

* Non elected Minister

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

Other Members (12)

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

(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.

- (i) Resignation of Cde. Lyttleton E. Ramsahoye
- (ii) Election of Cde. Abdul Salim
- (iii) Oath by Cde. Abdul Salim

The Deputy Speaker informed the Assembly that a letter had been received from Cde. Lyttleton E. Ramsahoye tendering his resignation as a Member of the National Assembly with effect from 1st September, 1978, to enable him to take up an appointment as Director of Research at the Caribbean Meteorological Institute in Barbados. Following Cde. Ramsahoye's resignation, a seat had become vacant in the Assembly. The representative of the list from which Cde. Ramsahoye's name had been extracted had been called upon to further extract from the list the name of a person to fill the vacancy. The name of Cde. Abdul Salim had been extracted from the list and Cde. Salim had been declared to be elected a member of the National Assembly.

Cde. Salim, who was present, made and subscribed as a Member of the National Assembly, the Oath of Office as required by article 76 of the Constitution.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

- (i) Resignation of Cde. Ramsahoye

The Deputy Speaker announced that, in his letter of resignation, Cde. Ramsahoye had requested that his thanks be conveyed to his colleagues in the Assembly and to the staff for the assistance given

him while he was in the Assembly. He had also requested that his good wishes for success be extended to Parliament in its deliberations.

(ii) Congratulations to Cde. Salim

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, the Deputy Speaker congratulated Cde. Salim on his election and welcomed him back to the Assembly.

(iii) Leave

The Deputy Speaker informed the Assembly that the Speaker was still indisposed and was therefore again unable to be present.

The Deputy Speaker stated that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cde. Reid for three weeks from 1st September, 1978,
- (b) Cde. Naraine, Nascimento and Chowritmootoo for that sitting,
- (c) Cde. C. Jagan until 22nd September, 1978, and
- (d) Cde. Basir for one month from 1st September, 1978.

(iv) Acting Leader of the Opposition

The Deputy Speaker stated that the Leader of the Opposition had advised that Cde. Ram Karran would be acting as Leader of the Opposition during his absence.

(v) Meeting of Guyana Branch of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Deputy Speaker reminded Members that a meeting of the Guyana Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association would be held immediately after the sitting.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS -

Presentation and First Reading

(1) GUYANA GOLD BOARD BILL 1978 - Bill No. 18/1978 published 2.9.78

The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, on behalf of the Government, 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.

(2) LABOUR CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF CERTAIN WORKERS) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 19 1978 published 2.9.78

The Minister of Health, Housing and Labour, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO REPEAL AND, WITH CERTAIN AMENDMENTS, RE-ENACT THE LABOUR (CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF CERTAIN WORKERS) ACT, CHAPTER 99:03, REGULATING THE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT OF CERTAIN WORKERS.

(3) ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BILL 1978 - Bill No. 20/1978

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 ALTER CHAPTER VII OF THE CONSTITUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 73 THEREOF AND TO MAKE PROVISION FOR MATTERS RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

(4) MEDEX BILL 1978 - Bill No. 21/1978

The Minister of Health, Housing and Labour, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF PERSONS AS MEDEX FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PRIMARY HEALTH CARE AS AUXILIARIES TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS EMPLOYED IN THE SERVICE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

(5) STAMP DUTIES MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT) BILL 1978 - Bill No. 22 1978

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE STAMP DUTIES (MANAGEMENT) ACT.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - DEATH OF PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF KENYA

The Prime Minister moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of President Jomo Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya, and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing relatives and to the Government and People of the Republic of Kenya.

Cde. J. Jagan and Mr. Abraham spoke to the motion.

The motion was then put and carried with Members standing.

ITEM 2 - APPROVAL OF GUARANTEE OF LOAN

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other financial institutions, organisations and agencies are lending agencies within the meaning of the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act, Chapter 77:03;

AND WHEREAS the Caribbean Development Bank is a regional institution within the meaning of the State Enterprises (Guarantee) Act, Chapter 77:03;

AND WHEREAS the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other lending agencies lend funds to the Caribbean Development Bank for on-lending to Guyana or to any state Enterprise, on a guarantee given by the Government of Guyana:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve of the giving of any guarantee by the Minister of Finance or such other person duly authorised by him, acting on behalf of the Government of Guyana, for the repayment to any such lending agency of funds lent to the Caribbean Development Bank by the lending agency for on-lending to Guyana or to any State Enterprise for development projects, within the limit permitted under section 3(1) of the External Loans Act, Chapter 74:08.

Cde. N. Persaud spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Finance was replying to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.


The Deputy Speaker informed the Assembly that it was agreed that the sitting would not be suspended until the debate on the motion was completed

The Minister of Finance concluded his reply.

The motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.13 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



RAM KARRAN
Deputy Speaker

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