

SECOND PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FOURTH SESSION

1972 - 1973

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 23rd Sitting of the National Assembly under the Constitution of Guyana, held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON

MONDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 1973

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (37)

Elected Ministers (12)

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, S.C., Prime Minister
Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development and Agriculture
The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State for Agriculture
The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Works and Communications
The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour and Social Security
The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of Information, Culture and Youth
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister without Portfolio and Leader of the House
The Honourable D.A. Singh, Minister of Health (Absent)
The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of Home Affairs
The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of State for the Public Service
The Honourable W. Haynes, Minister of Co-operatives and Community Development (Absent)
The Honourable A. Salim, Minister of Local Government

Appointed Ministers (7)

The Honourable S.S. Ramphal, S.C., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General
The Honourable H. Green, Minister of Public Affairs (Absent)
The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of Mines and Forests
The Honourable Miss C.L. Baird, Minister of Education
The Honourable F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance and Trade
Dr. the Honourable K.F.S. King, Minister of Economic Development
The Honourable S.S. Naraine, A.A., Minister of Housing and Reconstruction

Parliamentary Secretaries (4)

- Mr. J.G. Joaquin, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Trade
 Mr. P. Duncan, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Development and Agriculture
 Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth
 Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Communications

Other Members (14)

- Mr. J.N. Aaron
 Miss M.M. Ackman, Government Whip
 Mr. K. Bancroft
 Mr. N.J. Bissember
 Mr. J. Budhoo, J.P.
 Mr. L.I. Chan-A-Sue
 Mr. M. Corrica
 Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
 Mr. R.J. Jordan
 Mr. S.M. Saffee
 Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman
 Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mrs. L.E. Willems
 Mr. J.G. Ramson

Members of the Opposition (23)People's Progressive Party (15)

- Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition
 Mr. Ram Karran
 Mr. R. Chandisingh
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C.
 Mr. D.C. Jagan, J.P., Deputy Speaker
 Mr. E.M.G. Wilson
 Mr. A.M. Hamid, J.P., Opposition Whip
 Mr. G.H. Lall, J.P.
 Mr. M.Y. Ally
 Mr. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Mr. R. Ally
 Mr. Balchand Persaud
 Mr. Bholu Persaud ✓
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P. (Absent)
 Mr. V. Teekah ✓

United Force (3)

- Mr. M.F. Singh
 Mrs. E. DaSilva
 Mr. J.A. Sutton

Independents (5)

- Mr. R.E. Cheeks
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose
 Mrs. L.M. Branco
 Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
 Mr. L.A. Durant

OFFICERS

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

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER

The oath of office was made and subscribed by Mr. Joseph Ganga Ramson, who was declared to be elected a Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy created by the death on the 23rd of January, 1973, of Mr. E.F. Correia.

On behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, His Honour the Speaker welcomed Mr. Ramson to the Assembly and extended best wishes to him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Leave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Mr. Zaheeruddeen for that day's sitting.

(ii) Resignations from the People's Progressive Party

His Honour informed the Assembly that he had been advised by Mr. Stoby and Mr. Durant that they were no longer Members of the People's Progressive Party and that on that occasion they would be sitting as Independent Members in the National Assembly.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONSPrivate Bills

The Clerk read Petitions presented by Miss Ackman on behalf of -

- (i) The Demerara Mutual Life Assurance Society, Ltd., of Robb Street and Avenue of the Republic, Georgetown, seeking the leave of the Assembly to proceed with a Private Bill to amend the Demerara Mutual Life Assurance Society Ordinance, Chapter 211, to provide for an increase in the powers of the Society.
- (ii) The Missionary Board of the Church of God of Anderson, Indiana, U.S.A., seeking the leave of the Assembly to proceed with a Private Bill to incorporate the Church of God in Guyana.
- (iii) The Methodist Missionary Trust Association in England, seeking the leave of the Assembly to proceed with a Private Bill to incorporate the Guyana Methodist Trust.

- (iv) The Hand-in-Hand Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Limited, of 1, 2 & 3 Avenue of the Republic, Georgetown, seeking the leave of the Assembly to proceed with a Private Bill to amend the Hand-in-Hand Fire Insurance Company Ordinance, Chapter 208, in respect of the provisions relating to the capital of the Company, the publication of the list of Directors and the By-Laws, and other related and incidental matters.

The questions that the Promoters be allowed to proceed were put and carried.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS

(1) By the Prime Minister:

- (a) Report of the Guyana Rice Marketing Board for the period 1st October, 1970 to 30th September, 1971.

(Circulated)

- (b) Public Corporations Order 1973, made under section 2C(4) of the Public Corporations Ordinance 1962 (No. 23), on the 30th of January, 1973.

(GSC:21/1/1)

(2) By the Minister of Home Affairs:

- Annual Report of the Guyana Fire and Ambulance Services for the year 1971.

(HA: 1/1/12 V) (Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Finance and Trade:

- (a) Financial Paper No. 1/1973 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision - Uncovered Advances from the Contingencies Fund in 1972, totalling \$1,818,958.

(2/5 VII) (Circulated)

- (b) Financial Paper No. 2/1973 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates for the period ending 31st January, 1973, totalling \$1,280,276.

(2/5 VII) (Circulated)

In accordance with Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister named Thursday, the 15th of February, 1973, as the day for the consideration of the Financial Papers in Committee of Supply.

- (c) Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 1973 (No. 3), made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 18th of January, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 20th of January, 1973.

(G. 551⁽⁴⁶⁾)

- (d) Customs Duties (Amendment)(No. 2) Order 1973 (No. 9), made under section 8 of the Customs Ordinance, Chapter 309, on the 26th of January, 1973, and published in the Gazette on the 27th of January, 1973. (G. 551⁽⁴⁶⁾)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation of First Reading

- (1) MOTOR VEHICLES (PURCHASE TAX) BILL 1973 - Bill No. 2/1973 published 8.2.73

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPOSING A PURCHASE TAX ON MOTOR VEHICLES.

- (2) ASSEMBLIES OF GOD (INCORPORATION)(AMENDMENT) BILL 1973 - Bill No. 1/1973 published in the Gazette and in the Daily Chronicle newspaper of 20.1.73, 27.1.73 and 3.2.73

Mr. Bissember presented the following Private Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD (INCORPORATION) ORDINANCE, 1958.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 23(3)

On a motion by the Prime Minister, Standing Order No. 23(3) was suspended to enable him to move a motion of condolence on the death of Mr. Eugene Francis Correia.

ITEM 1 - MOTION OF CONDOLENCE ON THE DEATH OF MR. EUGENE FRANCIS CORREIA

The Prime Minister moved and Mr. Ram Karran seconded the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Mr. Eugene Francis Correia, Member of Parliament, and pays tribute to the long and devoted service which he rendered to this country and to its Parliament, and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children, and other relatives.

Mr. Cheeks and Mrs. DaSilva spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried with Members standing.

ITEM 2 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 46

On a motion by the Minister of Finance and Trade, the following motion was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That paragraphs (2) and (3) of Standing Order No. 46 be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Motor Vehicles (Purchase Tax Bill 1973 (Bill No. 2/1973).

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 3 MOTOR VEHICLES (PURCHASE TAX) BILL 1973 - Bill No. 2/1973 published 8.2.73

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPOSING A PURCHASE TAX ON MOTOR VEHICLES.

Mr. Ram Karran, the Deputy Speaker, and Mr. Sutton spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance and Trade 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

Clauses 1 to 3 were passed as printed.

Clause 4 - The following amendment by the Minister of Finance and Trade was put and carried:

Substitution of the words "the effect of the order shall, subject to the provisions of any other law, be subject to the terms of the resolution;" for the words "the resolution shall have effect and the order shall then expire;" in the proposed new section 5A(5).

Clause 4 was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed.

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

ITEM 4 COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION BILL 1 2 - B'11 No 13/1972
published 8.12.72

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Attorney-General moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL ~~intituled~~ intituled AN ACT TO ENABLE THE IMPLEMENTATION BY GUYANA OF THE AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.30 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Dr. Ramsahoye spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

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

MOTION

ITEM 5 MOTION ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE REPORT ON PUBLIC
ACCOUNTS FOR 1962-1965

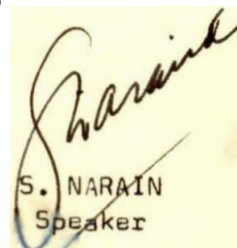
The following motion moved by Mr. Ram Karran, Chairman, Public Accounts Committee, and seconded by Mr. Sutton was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly on the Accounts of the Country for the years 1962 to 1965 and the Reports of the Director of Audit thereon, be referred to the Government for its consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.07 p.m., on a motion by the Minister ~~without~~ without Portfolio and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 15th of February, 1973.



S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
15th February, 1973.