

THIRD SESSION

1971

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 13th 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

TUESDAY, 29TH JUNE, 1971

PRESENT:

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

(a) Members of the Government

(i) Ministers

Dr. the Honourable P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Agriculture
The Honourable M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of Communications
The Honourable H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Finance
The Honourable Miss S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of
Education
The Honourable B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Trade (Leader
of the House)
The Honourable D.A. Singh, Minister of Housing and
Reconstruction
The Honourable O.E. Clarke, Minister of Home Affairs
The Honourable C.V. Mingo, Minister of Local Government

(ii) Parliamentary Secretaries

Mr. J.G. Joaquin, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Finance
Mr. P. Duncan, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture
Mr. W. Haynes, Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister
Mr. A. Salim, Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture
Mr. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary,
Office of the Prime Minister
Mr. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Works, Hydraulics and Supply

(iii) Other Members

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. E.F. Correia
Mr. M. Corrica
Mr. R.J. Jordan
Mr. S.M. Saffee
Mr. R.C. Van Sluytman
Mr. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P.
Mrs. E.E. Willems

(b) Members of the Opposition

Mr. Ram Narran
 Mr. R. Chandisingh
 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. R.D. Persaud, J.P.
 Mr. R. Ally
 Mr. E.L. Ambrose
 Mrs. L.M. Branco
 Mr. Balchand Persaud
 Mr. Bholu Persaud
 Mr. I.R. Remington, J.P.
 Mr. M.F. Singh
 Mr. J.A. Sutton

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

Absent:

The Honourable L.F.S. Burnham, S.C.,
 Prime Minister
 The Honourable W.G. Carrington, Minister
 of Labour and Social Security
 The Honourable S.S. Remphal, S.C.,
 Attorney-General and Minister of State
 The Honourable H. Green, Minister of
 Works, Hydraulics and Supply
 The Honourable H.O. Jack, Minister of
 Mines and Forests
 Dr. the Honourable Sylvia Talbot,
 Minister of Health
 Mr. E.H.A. Fowler
 Dr. C.B. Jagan, Leader of the Opposition
 Dr. F.H.W. Ramsahoye, S.C.
 Mr. E.M. Stoby, J.P. - on leave
 Mrs. R.P. Sahoye - on leave
 Mr. V. Teekah - on leave
 Mrs. E. Da Silva
 Mr. R.E. Cheeks

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

His Honour the Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (i) Mr. Stoby for two weeks from that day's sitting;
- (ii) Mr. Teekah for three weeks from that day's sitting;
and
- (iii) Mrs. Sahoye for three months from 1st July, 1971.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERSQUESTION NO. 1

Mr. Ram Karren asked the Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply the following question:

Question: Will the Minister say whether tenders for the construction of the Parika Police Station were called for; and if not, why not?

Will the Minister also say what is the estimated cost of construction of the Station?

The Minister of Trade (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply, gave the following reply:

Answer: Tenders were not invited for the construction of the Parika Police Station. The plumbing, sanitary and electrical works were, however, given out on contract. Details are as follows:-

In 1967, a sum of \$60,000 was provided in the Estimates for the construction of a Rural type Police Station at Parika. Drawings, Bills of Quantities and Specifications were ready for this building and in April, 1967, the Secretary, Central Tender Board, was requested to advertise for tenders. However, before this could be accomplished the Commissioner of Police requested certain alterations to the proposed building and this was followed by a series of other modifications which necessitated changes to the drawings. In September, 1969, it was decided that the use of direct labour under the supervision of the District Engineer was the best means of achieving an early start on the new station and work commenced on 10th September, 1969, by direct labour.

The cost of the construction of the Parika Police Station, is \$64,020.

Mr. Ram Karren asked a supplementary question.

QUESTION NO. 2

Mr. Ram Karren, on behalf of Dr. Jagan, asked the Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply the following question:

Question: Will the Minister say whether the Government, during the period 1963-1968, undertook to pay an amount, said to be \$5,000, to the Bartica Village Council for supplying electricity to the Government Compound at Bartica?

Will the Minister say whether the Bartica Village Council was in fact paid such sum, or any sum of money, by the Government for such service?

The Minister of Trade (Leader of the House), on behalf of the Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply, gave the following reply:

Answer: The Bartica Village Council was never responsible for the supply of the electricity to Government.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Public Accounts Committee

The Minister of Trade (Leader of the House), made a Statement concerning the right of the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee to summon meetings of that Committee.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Flooding of areas on the East Coast, East Bank and West Bank, Demerara

Mr. R.D. Persaud sought leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the flooding in the Mahaica and Mahaicony Rivers, Cane Grove, East Coast, Demerara, Nos. 1 and 2 Canals Polder, West Bank, Demerara, and Garden of Eden, East Bank, Demerara.

The Speaker allowed the claim but the leave of the Assembly was not given.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

MOTION TO APPROVE OF GOVERNMENT GUARANTEEING LETTER OF CREDIT

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS it has been decided that the Guyana Development Corporation, a Public Corporation established under the Guyana Industrial Development Corporation Order, 1963, would implement plans for the establishment of a company to catch, process and market marine food products;

AND WHEREAS in pursuance of such a policy the Guyana Development Corporation has negotiated with the shipyard of Ingenieria Y Maquinaria Especializada SA (called Imesa) of Mexico and with the shipyard of Astilleros Magdalena Limited (called Astimag) of Columbia to construct and deliver ten trawlers - each shipyard to supply five trawlers to the Guyana Development Corporation;

AND WHEREAS the total cost of the trawlers is US \$1,114,515 i.e. US \$558,425 for the Mexican trawlers and \$556,090 for the Columbian;

AND WHEREAS in the financial arrangements in respect of the payment for these trawlers to each shipyard Bankers Trust Company of New York, United States of America, has agreed, on the guarantee of Government, to effectuate a

letter of credit to be opened by the Guyana National Co-operative Bank for the account of the Guyana Development Corporation;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with section 20(1) of the Public Corporations Ordinance, 1962 (No. 23), with the approval of the National Assembly, the Cabinet may guarantee in such a manner and on such conditions as they may think fit, the payment of the principal and of interest on any authorised borrowings of a Corporation;

AND WHEREAS the Guyana Development Corporation being a Public Corporation as aforesaid has requested the Government to guarantee the letter of credit to be opened by the Guyana National Co-operative Bank with Bankers Trust Company of the United States of America:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve of the Government of Guyana's guaranteeing the repayment of any sums advanced or paid by Bankers Trust Company or the Guyana National Co-operative Bank to the amount not exceeding US \$1,114,515 in respect of the letters of credit relating to the payment for ten trawlers to be supplied by Ingenieria Y Maquinaria Especializada SA (US \$558,425) and Astilleros Magdalena Limited (US \$556,090).


Mr. Sutton and Mr. Ram Karran spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.05 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Trade (Leader of the House), the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 1st of July, 1971.


S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

1st July, 1971.