

BRITISH GUIANA

FIRST LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

FIRST SESSION

1954

MINUTES of the Proceedings of a meeting of the Legislative Council of the Colony of British Guiana under the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1953, held in the Chamber of the Legislature at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

on

THURSDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 1954.

PRESENT:

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E.,

Ex Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. T.C. Jerrom (Ag.)
The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. F.W. Holder, Q.C.
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. W.O. Fraser, O.B.E.

Nominated Members of Executive Council

The Honourable Sir Frank McDavi, C.M.G., C.B.E.
(Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines).
The Honourable P.A. Cummings
(Member for Labour, Health and Housing).
The Honourable W.O.R. Kendall
(Member for Communications and Works).
The Honourable G.A.C. Farnum, O.B.E.
(Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development).

The Honourable R.B. Gajraj
The Honourable R.C. Tello

Deputy Speaker

Mr. W.J. Raatgever, C.B.E.

Nominated Officials

Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O.

Nominated Unofficials

Mr. T. Lee
Mr. W.A. Phang
Mr. L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C.
Mr. C.A. Carter
Mr. E.F. Correia
Rev. D.C.J. Bobb
Mr. H. Rahaman
Miss Gertie H. Collins
Dr. H.A. Fraser
Lt. Col. E.J. Haywood, M.B.E., T.D.
Mr. Sugrim Singh

Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. I. Crum Ewing.

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. E.V. Viapree (Ag.)

Absent

The Honourable G.H. Smellie - on leave
Mr. J.I. Ramphal
Mr. W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E. - on leave
Mrs. Esther E. Dey - on leave
Mr. R.B. Jailal

The Speaker read prayers.

OATH

The Speaker administered the Oath of Allegiance to Mr. T.C. Jerrom, acting Chief Secretary, and thereafter welcomed him as a Member of the Council.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, the 26th of November, 1954, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leave of Absence

The Speaker announced that Mr. Macnie and Mrs. Dey had asked to be excused from attending the meeting of Council that day and that Mr. Co reia had been granted 2½ months leave with effect from the 18th of December.

Congratulations to the Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Churchill, K.G., Prime Minister.

The Speaker informed Members that he had despatched a cable on behalf of the Council to Sir Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, congratulating him on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.

GOVERNMENT NOTICES

BILLS

The Chief Secretary gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE FURTHER TO AMEND THE POUNDS ORDINANCE, WITH RESPECT TO THE PUBLICATION OF LISTS OF IMPOUNDED STRAYS.

(Bill No. 54/1954 published 27.11.54).

The Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines gave notice of the introduction and first reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CERTAIN DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION AREA, THE VALIDATION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN WORKS AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH.

(Bill No. 53/1954 published 27.11.54).

UNOFFICIAL NOTICES

Mr. Lee gave notice of the following motion and of his intention with the Governor's permission in terms of Section 48(2) of the British Guiana (Constitution) (Temporary Provisions) Order in Council, 1953, to move that the relevant Standing Orders be suspended to enable him to proceed with

the motion that day:

WHEREAS on account of the abnormal and heavy rainfall there are large quantities of wet padi in the islands of Wakenaam and Leguan;

AND WHEREAS there are no facilities available to the growers for drying such padi;

AND WHEREAS rice millers are offering for such padi prices far below the minimum fixed price:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government that urgent consideration be given to the purchase of such padi by Government at an economic price to the growers.

ORDER OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS

NEW AMSTERDAM TOWN COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1954 -
Bill No. 50/1954.

Council resolved itself into a Committee to consider the following Bill clause by clause:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE NEW AMSTERDAM TOWN COUNCIL ORDINANCE, 1949.

In Committee the Bill was passed with the following amendments:

Clause 2(c): Correction in the spelling of the words "addition thereto".

Clause 3(b): Substitution - The words 'words "suffered by the Mayor"' were substituted for the words 'word "Mayor"'.

Thereafter Council resumed and on a motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development seconded by the Member for Communications and Works the Bill was read a third time and passed as amended in Committee.

MUNICIPAL COUNCILS POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS BILL, 1954 -
Bill No. 52/1954.

On a motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development seconded by the Member

for Communications and Works the BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS TO THE TOWN COUNCILS OF GEORGETOWN AND NEW AMSTERDAM AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH was read a second time.

Council then resolved itself into a Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clause 1 - On a motion by the Attorney General Clause 1 was amended to read as under and passed:

"Short title and commencement. 1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Municipal Councils (Postponement of Elections) Ordinance, 1954, and shall be deemed to have come into operation on the first day of October, nineteen hundred and fifty-four."

Clauses 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 were passed as printed.

Clause 7 - Mr. Raatgeve moved the following amendment:

Addition of the following words at the end of the proviso to the Clause:

" Provided however in the event of such failure to elect being due to a tie such nomination shall be limited to the Councillors who tied."

After discussion the Chairman put the amendment and the Committee divided and voted thereon as follows:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Mr. Correia	Mr. Singh
Mr. Lee	Lt. Col. Haywood
Mr. Raatgever	Dr. Fraser
	Miss Collins
	Mr. Rahaman
	Rev. Bobb
	Mr. Carter
	Mr. Luckhoo
	Mr. Phang
	Mr. Lord
	Mr. Tello
	Mr. Gajraj
	Mr. Farnum
	Mr. Kendall
	Mr. Cummings
	Sir Frank McDavid
	The Financial Secretary
	The Attorney General
	The Chief Secretary

Amendment negatived.

Thereafter the Clause as printed was put and carried.

Clauses 8, 9, 10 and 11 and the Title and Enacting Clause were passed as printed.

Council resumed.

On a motion by the Member for Local Government, Social Welfare and Co-operative Development seconded by the Member for Communications and Works the Bill was read a third time and passed as amended in Committee.

PRIVATE BILL

BRITISH GUIANA SANATAN DHARMA MAHA SABHA INCORPORATION
TRUSTEES BILL 1 - Bill No. _____.

At the request of the Mover consideration of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO INCORPORATE CERTAIN PERSONS AS TRUSTEES OF THE BODY KNOWN AS THE BRITISH GUIANA SANATAN DHARMA MAHA SABHA; TO VEST IN SUCH PERSONS CERTAIN PROPERTY; AND FOR PURPOSES CONNECTED WITH THE MATTERS AFORESAID.

MOTION BY MR. LEE

At this stage and with Council's consent Mr. Lee moved the following motion notice of which had been given that day:

WHEREAS on account of the abnormal and heavy rainfall there are large quantities of wet padi in the islands of Wakenaam and Leguan;

AND WHEREAS there are no facilities available to the growers for drying such padi;

AND WHEREAS rice millers are offering for such padi prices far below the minimum fixed price:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government that urgent consideration be given to the purchase of such padi by Government at an economic price to the growers.

Mr. Sugrim Singh seconded the motion.

In the course of the debate the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines intimated that consideration would be given to the question as to what relief, if any, could be granted rice growers affected by the recent abnormal and heavy rainfall.

In the circumstances, Mr. Lee asked leave to withdraw

/ his..

his motion.

Leave was granted and the motion was withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.15 p.m. the Speaker adjourned Council sine die.

Confirmed,

Eric J. Speake
—Speaker.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
British Guiana.

16th December, 1954.