

THIRD SESSION

1956

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

FRIDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER, 1956.

PRESENT:

The Deputy Speaker, Mr. W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E. - In the
Chair.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Chief Secretary, Mr. F.D. Jakeway, C.M.G., O.B.E.
The Honourable the Attorney General, Mr. G.M. Farnum (Ag.)
The Honourable the Financial Secretary, Mr. F.W. Essex.

Nominated Members of Executive Council

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).

Nominated Officials

Mr. J.I. Ramphal

Nominated Unofficials

Mr. T. Lee
Mr. W.A. Phang
Mr. C.A. Carter
Mr. E.F. Correia
Rev. D.C.J. Bobb
Miss Gertie H. Collins
Mrs. Esther E. Dey
Dr. H.A. Fraser
Mr. R.B. Jailal
Mr. W.T. Lord, I.S.O.

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

Assistant Clerk of the Legislature - Mr. B.M. Viapree (Ag.)

Absent

His Honour the Speaker, Sir Eustace Gordon Woolford, O.B.E.
Q.C. - on leave.
The Honourable Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E.
(Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines) - on leave.
The Honourable R.B. Gajraj on leave.
The Honourable R.C. Tello on leave.
The Honourable L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C. on leave.
Mr. H. Rahaman.
Mr. Sugrim Singh - on leave.

The Deputy Speaker read prayers.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, the 8th of November, 1956, as printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Deputy Speaker announced that leave of absence from that day's meeting had been granted to -

- (i) The Honourable Sir Frank McDavid, C.M.G., C.B.E.
- (ii) The Honourable L.A. Luckhoo, Q.C., and
- (iii) Mr. Sugrim Singh,

PAPERS LAID(a) By the Financial Secretary:

- (i) Statement of Supplementary Expenditure which has been incurred during 1955 and which has not been included in any previous schedule. (F.S.G. 4/55).
- (ii) Schedules of Supplementary Estimates for the months of July, August and September, 1956. (F.S.G. 4/56).
- (iii) Schedules of Supplementary Estimates (Development) for the months of July, August and September, 1956. (F.S.G. 4/56).
- (iv) Statement showing Supplementary Expenditure to be admitted as a charge to the Development Fund in the account of the year 1955 and the allocation thereof. (F.S.G.7^B/55).

(b) By the Chief Secretary on behalf of the Member for Communications and Works:

- (i) Order in Council No. 74 of 1956 made under sections 16(2) and 17 of the Post and Telegraph Ordinance (Cap. 132) and published as Notice No. 1,951 in the Gazette of 3rd November, 1956. (PT.94/143).
- (ii) The Private Letter Boxes (Amendment No. 2) Regulations, 1956 (No. 22 of 1956) published as Notice No. 1,953 in the Gazette of 3rd November, 1956. (PT. 94/143).

GOVERNMENT NOTICESMotions

The Financial Secretary gave notice of the following motions:

(i) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Statement of Supplementary Expenditure totalling \$869,475.57 which has been incurred during the year 1955 and has not been included in any previous schedule and is to be admitted as a charge to Public Funds under Colonial Regulation 223(2)(c) and which has been laid on the table.

(ii) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates for the months of July, August and September, 1956, totalling \$1,069,339.02, which have been laid on the table.

(iii) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Supplementary Estimates (Development) for the months of July, August and September, 1956, totalling \$3,200,532.56, which have been laid on the table.

(iv) BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council approves of the Statement of Supplementary Expenditure totalling \$1,858,146.00 which has been incurred during the year 1955 and has not been included in any previous schedule and is to be admitted as a charge to the Development Fund, and which has been laid on the table.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

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

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1955)
BILL, 1956.

(Bill No. 51/1956 published 3.11.56).

PUBLIC BUSINESSORDER OF THE DAYBILL - First Reading

Item 1 - SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION (1955) BILL 1956 -
Bill No. 51/1956.

THE BILL intituled AN ORDINANCE TO ALLOW AND CONFIRM CERTAIN ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN THE YEAR ENDED THE THIRTY-FIRST DAY OF DECEMBER, 1955, was read a first time.

BILL - Second Reading.

Item 2 - HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER BILL, 1956 - Bill No. 47/1956.

At the request of the Attorney General on behalf of the Member for Agriculture, Forests, Lands and Mines, consideration of this Bill was deferred to the next meeting.

MOTION

Item 3 - MR. LEE'S MOTION RE POLICY OF FILLING VACANCIES IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

Mr. Lee moved and Mr. Correia seconded the following motion:

WHEREAS Government has declared that recruitment to the Public Service of British Guiana rests upon the general principle that first consideration will be given to candidates of local origin who possess the requisite qualifications and experience;

AND WHEREAS it appears necessary for this principle to be laid down as a firm policy to be accepted and followed by the local Government and the Secretary of State for the Colonies:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Council recommends to Government that steps be taken to adopt the policy that British Guianese should be given first preference on all occasions in the filling of vacancies in the Public Service of British Guiana provided that candidates for vacant posts possess the requisite qualifications and experience;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for his notification and approval.

Mr. Jailal, Mr. Phang and Miss Collins spoke to the motion.

Mr. Ramphal moved the following amendment which was seconded by Mr. Lord -

the addition of the following to the first resolve clause -

" and that in pursuance of this policy this Government accelerates the implementation of its training programme by providing additional scholarships."

The Chief Secretary then spoke to the motion as amended and thereafter Mr. Lee replied.

The Deputy Speaker put the motion as under which was carried unanimously:

"RESOLVED, That this Council recommends to the Government -

- (a) that steps be taken to adopt the policy that British Guianese should be given first preference on all occasions in the filling of vacancies in the Public Service of British Guiana provided that candidates for vacant posts possess the requisite qualifications and experience; and
- (b) that in pursuance of this policy this Government accelerates the implementation of its training programme by providing additional scholarships:

AND FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, for his notification and approval."

TRIBUTES TO THE DEPUTY SPEAKER - Mr. W.A. Macnie, C.M.G., O.B.E.

As this was the last meeting of the Council at which Mr. Macnie would be present, Members took the opportunity to express their appreciation of the outstanding service rendered by him and of the efficient and dignified manner in which he had conducted the business of the Council during the absence from the Colony of the Speaker.

Mr. Macnie thanked the Members for their tributes.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.40 p.m. the Deputy Speaker adjourned Council to a day to be fixed by the Speaker.


Confirmed,

Speaker.

Public Buildings,
British Guiana.
22nd November, 1956.