

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
FIRST SESSION 1 OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUY HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 2ND APRIL, 1981

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (82)

Speaker (1)

- * Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly
Members of the Government - People's National Congress (69)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Dr. P.A. Reid, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

- Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Vice-President, Works and Transport (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Public Welfare (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations (Absent)

Senior Ministers (10)

- Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Minister of Higher Education
- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister of Regional Development
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of National Development (Absent)
- * Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection (Absent)
- * Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines (Absent)
- * Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Justice (Absent - on leave)
- * Cde. R. J. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent - on leave)
- * Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A., M.P., Minister of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)
- * Cde. S.A. Moore, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs (Absent)
- * Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Education (Absent - on leave)

Ministers (13)

- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister, Environment and Water Supply, in the Ministry of Public Welfare
- Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P., Minister of Co-operatives (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. J.N. Maitland-Singh, M.P., Minister, Consumer Protection, in the Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister, Crops and Livestock, in the Ministry of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance
- Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P., Minister, Fisheries, in the Ministry of Agriculture
- * Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister, Mechanical Equipment, in the Ministry of Works and Transport (Absent - on leave)
- * Cde. F.U.A. Campbell, M.P., Minister of Information (Absent)
- * Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister, Forestry, in the Ministry of Agriculture (Absent)
- * Cde. Y.V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister of Public Service
- * Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister, Office of the President (Absent)

* Non elected Member

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- * Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P., Minister, Drainage and Irrigation, in the Ministry of Agriculture
- * Cde. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister, Health, in the Ministry of Public Welfare (Absent)

Ministers of State (3)

- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State for Culture, in the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of State for Youth and Sport, in the Ministry of National Development
- * Cde. C.E. Wrights, M.P., Minister of State for Construction, in the Ministry of Works and Transport (Absent)

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

- Cde. A.W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Women's Affairs and Housing (Absent)
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister
- * Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Other Members (23)

- Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P.
- Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
- Cde. M. Armogan, M.P.
- Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P.
- Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P.
- Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.
- Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
- Cde. E.B. Davidson, M.P.
- Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
- Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P.
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. P. Fredericks, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. J. Gill-Mingo, M.P.
- Cde. A. McRae, M.P.
- Cde. J.M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P.
- Cde. C.G. Sharma, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. H.L.B. Singh, M.P.
- Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., M.P.
- Cde. B. Tiwari, M.P.
- Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.
- Cde. H.B. Walcott, J.P., M.P., Government Chief Whip

Members from the National Congress of Local Democratic Organs (2)

- Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P.
- Cde. B. Latchminarayan, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

- Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini) (Absent)
- Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
- Cde. C.A. Singh, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
- Cde. W. Bipat, M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
- Cde. H.I. London, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
- Cde. I. Chowritmootoo, M.P. (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
- Cde. N.R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni (Absent - on leave))
- Cde. D. Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
- Cde. A. Dorrick, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)
- Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

* Non elected Member

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Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader (Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

Other Members (8)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Minority Chief Whip

Cde. N. Persaud, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P.

OFFICERS

Clerk of the National Assembly, Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A.

Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, Cde. M.B. Henry

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Performance of Functions of President by the Prime Minister

The Speaker informed the Assembly that he had been advised that the Prime Minister had been authorised to perform the functions of the President during the President's absence from Guyana. The Speaker, on behalf of Members and his own, extended congratulations to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister thanked the Speaker.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

(a) Cdes. Naraine, Green, Cde. Dr. Shahabuddeen, Cdes. Jackson, Tyndall, Thomas, Johnson, Prashad, Nascimento, Corrica, Gilbert, Charles and Mr. M.F. Singh for that day's sitting,

(b) Cde. J. Jagan for five weeks from 31st March, 1981.

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PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

By the Minister, Finance, on behalf of the Vice-President,
Economic Planning and Finance:

- (a) Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1981 (No. 18), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, on 9th March, 1981, and published in the Gazette on 21st March, 1981.

(ST: 34/2/1/10)(Circulated)

- (b) Customs Duties Order 1981 (No. 19), made under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, on 9th March, 1981, and published in the Gazette on 21st March, 1981.

(ST: 34/2/1/10)(Circulated)

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER

Suspension of Standing Order No. 23

With the leave of the Speaker, and on a motion by the Minister of Regional Development, Standing Order No. 23 was suspended to enable the Prime Minister to move a motion of sympathy on the death of the late Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. E.E. Williams.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 1 - MOTION OF SYMPATHY RE DEATH OF PRIME MINISTER OF TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO

The Prime Minister moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Dr. the Hon. Eric Eustace Williams, T.C., Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and directs that an expression of its condolences be conveyed to his sorrowing relatives and to the Government and People of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

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

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried with Members standing.

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BILLS Second and Third ReadingsITEM 2 - TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 - Bill No. 4/1981 published 21.3.81

The Minister, Finance, on behalf of the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Tax Act.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, Minority Chief Whip, spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister, Finance, replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

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

ITEM 3 - DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 - Bill No. 3/1981 published 21.3.81

The Minister, Drainage and Irrigation, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Drainage and Irrigation Act.

Cde. Ram Karran, Deputy Speaker, and Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, Minority Chief Whip, spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister, Drainage and Irrigation, replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

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

MOTIONITEM 4 - CONFIRMATION OF CUSTOMS (EXEMPTION FROM DUTIES) ORDER 1981 (No. 17)

The Minister, Finance, on behalf of the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the following motion which was put and carried:

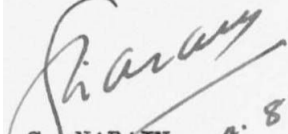
BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in accordance with section 9 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirm the Customs Exemption from Duties) Order 1981 (No. 17), which was made on 11th February, 1981, and published in the Gazette on 14th March, 1981.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 3.25 p.m., on a motion by Cde. O.E. Clarke, Minister of Regional Development, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Friday, 3rd April, 1981.



S. NARAIN 3.4.81.
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
3rd April, 1981