

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 15TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
FIRST SESSION (1981) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 1ST JUNE, 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

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Public Welfare

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations

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

*Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection

*Cde. H.O. Jack, M.P., Minister of Energy and Mines

*Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Justice

*Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

*Cde. J.A. Tyndall, A.A., M.P., Minister of Agriculture

*Cde. S.A. Moore, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

*Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Education

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

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

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

*Cde. F.U.A. Campbell, M.P., Minister of Information

*Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister, Forestry, in the Ministry of Agriculture

* Non elected Member

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- *Cde. Y.V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister of Public Service
- *Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister, Office of the President
- *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

Ministers of State (3)

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

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

- Cde. A.W. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Women's Affairs and Housing
- 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. (Absent)
- 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.
- Cde. E.F. Gilbert, M.P.
- 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-Nascimento, J.P., M.P., Government Chief Whip

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

- Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. B. Latchminarayan, M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

- Cde. K.N. Jones, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)
- 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)

* Non elected Member

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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)
Cde. D. Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
Cde. A. Dorrick, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper
Essequibo (Absent))
Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

Other Members (8)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Minority Chief Whip
Cde. N. Persaud, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.
Cde. I. Basir, M.P. (Absent)
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)
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) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted
to -

(i) Cde. Bishop for eight weeks from 25th May, 1981, and

(ii) Cde. N. Persaud for one month from 27th May, 1981.

(ii) Marriage of Government Chief Whip

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, extended good wishes to Cde. Walcott, Government Chief Whip, who was recently married, and informed the Assembly that she would be addressed as Cde. Walcott-Nascimento.

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(iii) Death of Lt. Col. E.J. Haywood

The Speaker referred to the announcement in the Sunday Chronicle of 31st May, 1981, of the death in the United Kingdom of Lt. Col. Ernest James Haywood, and made reference to his service in Guyana and as a Member of the Legislative Council from 5th January, 1954 to 28th August, 1955.

The Speaker placed on record the sorrow of Members and himself at the death of Lt. Col. Ernest James Haywood, and requested the Clerk to send a letter of sympathy to his widow.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.(1) By the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance:

- (a) Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Government of Guyana for the financial year ended 31st December, 1971.

(ST: 25/2/3)(Circulated)

- (b) Contract made on 18th September, 1980, between Short Brothers Limited and the Government of Guyana, for the purchase of one Skywan Aircraft and spares.

(ST: 3/2/1/14)(Circulated)

- (c) Agreement made on 14th November, 1980, between the Government of Guyana and Lloyds Bank International (Bahamas) Limited, for Loan for purchase of one Skyvan Aircraft and spares.

(ST: 3/2/1/14)(Circulated)

- (d) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Co-operative Insurance Service for the year ended 31st December, 1979.

(ST: 49/46/1)(Circulated)

- (e) Travel Voucher Tax (Amendment) Order 1981 (No. 26), made under section 3 of the Travel Voucher Tax Act, Chapter 80:09, and published in the Gazette on 26th May, 1981.

(Circulated)

- (f) Travel Tax (Amendment) Regulations 1981 (No. 2), made under section 57(13) of the Tax Act, Chapter 80:01, and published in the Gazette on 26th May, 1981.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Home Affairs:

Report of the Chief Election Officer on the National Elections, 1973.

(HAC: 1/1/15)(Circulated)

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STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (1) By the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, on a Review of the 1981 Budget

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, made a Statement on the Review of the 1981 Budget for the purpose of re-ordering the nation's priorities and re-allocating its resources in the light of the threat to its economic independence and territorial integrity.

- (2) By the Minister of Foreign Affairs, re Notice of Motion on Guyana/Venezuela Territorial Dispute

The Minister of Foreign Affairs intimated to the Assembly that following discussions which were taking place, he would submit to the Assembly a motion concerning the Guyana/Venezuela territorial dispute.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1981 - Bill No. 5/1981
published 26.5.81

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Tax Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONS

ITEM 1 - CONFIRMATION OF TRAVEL VOUCHER TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1981
(No. 26)

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 4 of the Travel Voucher Tax Act, Chapter 80:09, confirm the Travel Voucher Tax (Amendment) Order 1981 (No. 26), which was made and published in the Gazette on 26th May, 1981.

The Minority Leader spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, replied.

The motion was then put and carried on the following division:

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FOR

Cde. Hinds
Cde. D. Abraham
 Cde. Charles
 Cde. I. Chowritmootoo
 Cde. London
 Cde. Bipat
 Cde. C.A. Singh
 Cde. Jairam
 Cde. Jones
 Cde. Latchminarayan
 Cde. Walcott-Nacimento
 Cde. Vandenburg
 Cde. Tiwari
 Cde. Sukhu
 Cde. H.L.B. Singh
 Cde. Sharma
 Cde. Primo
 Cde. Munroe
 Cde. McRae
 Cde. Gill-Mingo
Cde. Gilbert
 Cde. P. Fredericks
 Cde. Fowler
 Cde. Felix
 Cde. Doobay
 Cde. Davidson
 Cde. Chin
 Cde. Caldeira
 Cde. Beniprashad
 Cde. Armogan
 Cde. Ally
 Cde. Ainsworth
 Cde. Rayman
 Cde. Bend-Kirton-Holder
 Cde. R. Fredericks
 Cde. Corrica
 Cde. Williams
 Cde. Sallahuddin
 Cde. Prashad
 Cde. Maitland-Singh
 Cde. Johnson
 Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo
Cde. Corbin
 Cde. Chandisingh
 Cde. Ramsaroop
 Cde. Green
 Cde. Hoyte
 Cde. Naraine

AGAINST

Mr. M.A. Abraham
 Cde. Dalchand
 Cde. Collymore
 Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud
 Cde. C. Jagan

ITEM 2 - AFFIRMATION OF TRAVEL TAX (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 1981
(No. 2)

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in terms of section 57(13) of the Tax Act, Chapter 80:01, affirm the Travel Tax (Amendment) Regulations 1981 (No. 2), which were made and published in the Gazette on 26th May, 1981.

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 3 - ADOPTION OF I.L.O. CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Vice-President, Public Welfare, moved the following motion:

WHEREAS as a member State of the International Labour Organisation Guyana is obligated to examine Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference in accordance with Article 19 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation;

AND WHEREAS Article 19 states that all Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the International Labour Conference must be submitted to the Competent Authority of member States whether ratification of such Conventions is contemplated or not;

AND WHEREAS the submission of Conventions and Recommendations adopted at sessions of that Conference should always be accompanied or followed by a statement or proposals setting out the Government's views as to the action to be taken on the instruments;

AND WHEREAS Guyana adheres to the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation of which it is a member since 1966;

AND WHEREAS the Guyana Government always as an aim of policy, makes proposals at the time of submission on the applicability of the Conventions and Recommendations adopted from time to time at sessions of the International Labour Conference;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana always takes steps to ratify those Conventions which are in keeping with the social philosophy of the Guyanese society:

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BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopt the following Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the 63rd and 64th Sessions of the International Labour Conference held in Geneva on June 1977, and June, 1978 respectively:

- (i) Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Convention, 1977, No. 148,
- (ii) Working Environment (Air Pollution, Noise and Vibration) Recommendation, 1977, No. 150,
- (iii) Nursing Personnel Convention, 1977, No. 149, and
- (iv) Nursing Personnel Recommendation, 1977, No. 157,

of the 63rd Session International Labour Conference June, 1977, and

- (i) Labour Administration Convention, 1978 No. 150,
- (ii) Labour Administration Recommendation, 1978, No. 158,
- (iii) Labour Relations (Public Service) Convention 1978, No. 151, and
- (iv) Labour Relations (Public Service) Recommendations, 1978, No. 159,

of the 64th Session International Labour Conference June, 1978:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopt the Conventions contained in the State Papers Nos. 1 and 2 of 1980 on the International Labour Convention No. 149 on Nursing Personnel and Nursing Personnel Recommendation No. 157 adopted on June 1977 at the 63rd Session of the International Labour Conference and Conventions Nos. 150 on Labour Administration and 151 on Labour Relations (Public Service) and Recommendations No. 158 on Labour Administration and No. 159 on Labour Relations (Public Service) adopted on June, 1978 at the 64th Session of the International Labour Conference.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the decisions of this National Assembly be conveyed to the Director-General of the International Labour Organisation and to the Workers' and Employers' Organisations and other interest groups in Guyana.


The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 3.42 p.m., on a motion by the Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 4th June, 1981.


S. NARAIN
Speaker 4/6/81

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
4th June, 1981