

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 18TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
FIRST SESSION (1981) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.30 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 22ND 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 (Absent)

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

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 (Absent)

*Cde. H.C. 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

*Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent - on leave)

*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 (Absent)

*Cde. F.U.A. Campbell, M.P., Minister of Information (Absent - on leave)

* Non elected Member

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- *Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister, Forestry, in the Ministry of Agriculture
- *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 Slytman, 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
- 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 (Absent)

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. Dynoe, 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. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- 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. N. Tiwari, M.P.
- Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.
- Cde. H.D. Walcott-Nascimento, J.P., M.P., Government Chief Whip

Members from 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) (Absent)
- Cde. C.A. Singh, M.P. (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

* Non elected Member

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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)
Cde. D. Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)(Absent)
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 (Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

Other Members (8)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Minority Chief Whip (Absent - on
leave)

Cde. N. Persaud, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.

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

Cde. I. Basir, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. C.C. Dalgrave, M.P.

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

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P.

Mr. M.A. Abraham, M.P. (Absent)

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

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

(a) Cde. Jackson for that day's sitting, and

(b) Cde. Chin for one month from 13th June, 1981.

Death of Cde. Rupert Tello, Former Parliamentarian

The Speaker informed the Assembly of the death of a former
Parliamentarian, Cde. Rupert Tello, who had also served as Deputy
Speaker.

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He stated that at a subsequent sitting a motion of condolence would be moved.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Vice-President, Works and Transport:

(a) Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment of Fees) Regulations 1981 (No. 4), made under section 98 of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02, on 4th June, 1981, and published in the Gazette on 8th June, 1981.

(ST: 34/2/13)(Circulated)

(b) Roads (Amendment) Regulations 1981 (No. 5), made under section 25 of the Roads Act, Chapter 51:01, on 4th June, 1981, and published in the Gazette on 8th June, 1981.

(ST: 34/2/13)(Circulated)

(c) Demerara Harbour Bridge (Amendment) Regulations 1981 (No. 6), made under section 25 of the Roads Act, Chapter 51:01, on 4th June, 1981, and published in the Gazette on 8th June, 1981.

(ST: 34/2/13)(Circulated)

(d) Roads (Corentyne)(Amendment) Regulations 1981 (No. 7), made under section 25 of the Roads Act, Chapter 51:01, on 4th June, 1981, and published in the Gazette on 8th June, 1981.

(ST: 34/2/13)(Circulated)

(2) By the Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, on behalf of the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance:

Amendment Number One to Loan Agreement dated June 16, 1977, between the Government of Guyana and the Government of Canada for Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

(ST: 3/2/3/8)(Circulated)

(3) By the Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, on behalf of the Minister of Energy and Mines:

Reports (2) of the Hydropower Division of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources for the years 1977 & 1978, and 1979.

(EM: 4/49)(Circulated)

(4) By the Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture:

Report and Accounts of the Guyana Sugar Corporation Ltd., for 1980.

(A: 5/11¹¹)(Circulated)

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PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 REVISION OF THE STANDING ORDERS

The Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, moved the following motion which was put and carried:

WHEREAS the Standing Orders used by the National Assembly were made several years ago;

AND WHEREAS constitutional and other changes have from time to time taken place since these Standing Orders were made;

AND WHEREAS a new Constitution providing for the restructuring of the society and the economy of Guyana on socialist principles was prepared by the People of Guyana and was adopted in 1980 for the Co-operative Republic of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Standing Orders of the National Assembly be modified and revised to bring them into conformity with the new Constitution and with other changes and requirements:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly refer the Standing Orders to the Standing Orders Committee for review and revision and for report thereafter to the Assembly.

ITEM 2 - CREATION OF GUYANA NATIONAL GROUP OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly of the Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana approves of the creation in Guyana of a National Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly of the Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana constitutes itself with all the Members of the National Assembly as the Guyana National Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Cde. J. Jagan spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

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ITEM 3 - MEETING OF GUYANA NATIONAL GROUP OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

The Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and Party/State Relations, moved the following motion which was put and carried.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana empowers the Guyana National Group of the ~~Inter-~~Parliamentary Union created and constituted by the National Assembly to hold its first Meeting at such time and place as the Speaker of the National Assembly shall determine;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, pending the coming into operation of such Rules as the Guyana National Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union may make for the effective participation of the Group in the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the functions of President of the Group be performed by the Speaker of the National Assembly, and the functions of Secretary of the Group be performed by the Clerk of the National Assembly.

BILLS - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 4 - MISCELLANEOUS ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 -
Bill No. 6/1981 published 6.6.81

The Prime Minister moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An act to amend certain enactments.

Cde. J. Jagan, Cde. Ram Karran, Deputy Speaker, and the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, spoke to the motion.

Therefater, the motion was put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 2 were passed as printed.

Schedule: On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, on behalf of the Prime Minister, the following amendment was put and carried:

For "fifty years, at his option exercisable in accordance with section 12, substitution of "forty years, at his option exercisable in accordance with section 12 at any time after he attains that age" in the new sub-section (8) of section 9 of the Pensions (President, Parliamentary and Special Offices) Act, Chapter 27:03.

The Schedule was then passed as amended.

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Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

ITEM 5 - MISCELLANEOUS ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) Bill 1981 -
Bill No. 7/1981 published 8.6.81

The Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and 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 certain enactments.

Cde. J. Jagan spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and 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.

MOTION

ITEM 6 - AFFIRMATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT
OF FEES) REGULATIONS 1981 (NO. 4)

The Vice-President, Works and Transport, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in terms of section 98(3) of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02, affirm the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment of Fees) Regulations 1981 (No. 4), which were made on 4th June, 1981, and published in the Gazette on 8th June, 1981.

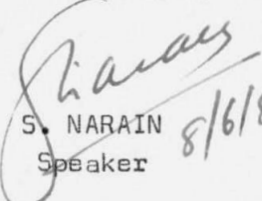
Cde. Collymore and Cde. Ram Karran, Deputy Speaker, spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Vice-President, Works and Transport, replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.07 p.m., on a motion by the Vice-President, Works and Transport, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


S. NARAIN
Speaker 8/6/81

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
8th June, 1981