

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 12TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND

SESSION (1990) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY, 25TH APRIL, 1990

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

Speaker (1)

- * Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (62)

Prime Minister (1)

- + Cde. H. Green, M.P., Prime Minister

Other Vice-President and Deputy Prime Minister (1)

- + Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., M.P., Vice-President, Culture and Social Development and Deputy Prime Minister

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

- +* Cde. K.S. Massiah, O.R., S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Absent)

Other Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

- + Cde. W.A.L.H. Parrie, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development (Absent - on leave)
- + Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Public Utilities (Absent - on leave)

Senior Ministers (10)

- + Cde. R.E. Jackson, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent - on leave)
- +* Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance
- + Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry of Planning & Development (Absent)
- + Cde. W.S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Trade and Tourism (Absent)
- + Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Regional Development (Absent - on leave)
- + Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Senior Minister in the Office of the President
- * Cde. Dr. P.L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Minister of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)
- * Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister of Education (Absent)
- * Cde. J.R. Kranenburg, M.P., Minister of Communications and Works
- * Cde. Dr. N.E. Blackman, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health (Absent)

Ministers (8)

Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Regional Development

Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister of Labour and Co-operatives

Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Utilities (Absent - on leave)

Cde. V.V. Parvatas, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P., Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister (Absent)

Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister of the Public Service

Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

Cde. Dean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Culture & Social Development

† Cabinet Member

* Non-elected Member

Parliamentary Secretary (1)

* Cde. L.E. Scotland, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Government Chief Whip (1)

Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P., Government Chief Whip

Other Members (25)

Cde. K.B. Bancroft, M.P.
Cde. Philomena A. Rayman, M.P.
Cde. A.K. Habibulla, M.P.
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
Cde. Amna Ally, M.P.
Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P.
Cde. Edith Deygoo, M.P.
Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
Cde. C.L. Geddes, M.P. (Absent)
Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
Cde. B. Persaud, J.P., M.P.
Cde. K. Sankar, M.S., M.P. (Absent)
Cde. E.L. Fraser, M.P.
Cde. Mignon D. Griffith, M.P.
Cde. P.E. Rockliffe, M.P.

(There is one Vacancy)

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

Cde. Rose I. Semple, M.P.
Cde. P. Singh, J.P., M.P.

Members from the Regional Democratic Organs (2)

Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P., (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni) (Absent - on leave)
Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P., (Region No. 4 - Demerara/Mahaica)
Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P., (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice) (Absent)
Cde. Y. Khan, M.P., (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
Cde. Enid E. Abrahams, M.S., J.P., M.P., (Region No. 3 - Essequibo Islands/
West Dem.)
Cde. I. Ally, M.P., (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
Cde. S.I. McGarrell, M.P., (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
Cde. M. Stephens, M.P., (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)
Cde. M. Ajoohia, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
Cde. D. Fernandes, M.P., (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini)

Members of the Minority (11)

(i) People's Progressive Party (8)

Minority Leader (1)

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

* Non-elected Member

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly
(Absent)

Other Members (6)

Cde. Janet Jagan, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Collymore, M.P.
Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P., Minority Chief Whip
Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.
Cde. I. Basir, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Absent)
Mr. M.A. Abraham, A.A., M.P.

(iii) Working People's Alliance (1)

Mr. E. Kwayana, M.P.

OFFICERS

Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly
Cde. G.E.F. Moses, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cdes. Robin, Jackson, Prashad, Thomas, McKenzie, Sawh and Cumberbatch for that day's sitting.
- (b) Cde. Charles up to 29th May and
- (c) Cde. Rockeliffe up to 15th May.

(ii) Official Reporters

The Speaker informed Members that with the completion of a High Speed Writers Course sponsored by the Public Service Ministry, Parliament had been provided with three persons. He had been advised that they were not yet qualified to perform the duties of Parliamentary Official Reporter and that they would have to undergo on - the - job training for sometime to gain experience in order to qualify. He welcomed the three persons, Cdes. Hardai Sookram, G. Persaud and D. Inniss who were present at the Reporters' table for the first time and extended best wishes to them.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

PENSIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 - Bill No. 13/1990

The Minister of the Public Service, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Pensions Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1--AWARDS FOR ACCIDENT-FREE DRIVERS

Mr. E. Kwayana moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Ministry of Home Affairs organise annual awards to licensed drivers of all vehicles who complete any period of twelve months driving without being involved in an accident;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That in addition to the award the successful driver should enjoy a rebate of the fee paid for the driver's licence.

(Notice Paper No. 6 (M6 Opp 1) published 1990-03-16)

Cde. Janet Jagan seconded the motion and spoke to it.

The Minister of Home Affairs spoke to the motion.

Thereafter Mr. Kwayana replied.

The motion was put and negatived.

ITEM 2--PENSION FOR UNEMPLOYED SPOUSES OF REGISTERED MALE WORKERS

Mr. Kwayana moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly recommends that on behalf of a registered male worker whose spouse is engaged in domestic work in the home and is not gainfully employed, a contribution should be made from his earnings during the working life of the said registered worker with a view to entitling her to a special registration and to qualification for a separate pension at the pensionable age.

(Notice Paper No. 7 (M7 Opp 2) published 1990-03-17)

He moved the following amendment to his motion:

Substitution of a semi-colon for the fullstop after a word "age" and addition of the following words:

"and that this recommendation be referred for actuarial study and advice".

Cde. Belgrave seconded the motion:

The Minister of Finance spoke and moved the following amendment:

Insertion of the following words immediately after the word "age". "and that this Assembly conforms with the decision for actual study and advice".

Thereafter Mr. Kwayana replied.

The amendment by the Minister of Finance was put and carried.

The amendment by Mr. Kwayana was put and negatived.

The motion ~~as~~ amended was put and carried.

ITEM 3-SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF CDE. BASDEO BHAGGAN

The Minister in the Ministry of Regional Development moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. Basdeo Bhaggan and pays tribute to the distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament and directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow and children.

(Notice Paper No. 38 (M21 Govt 9) published 1990-04-19)

Cde. Mohamed, Mr. Abraham and Mr. Kwayana spoke to the motion.

The motion was put and carried with all Members standing.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.25 p.m., on a motion by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.