

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 15TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
SECOND SESSION (1982) OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 hrs

ON WEDNESDAY 1982-11-17

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (75)

* Speaker (1)

Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

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

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, Transport and Housing

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

Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Agriculture

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Vice-President, Party and State Matters (Absent - on leave)

Senior Ministers (4)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Minister of Education

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of National and Regional Development

* Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Internal 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 (Absent)

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

* Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

Ministers (7)

Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P., Minister of Co-operatives (Absent)

Cde. J.N. Maitland-Singh, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance

* Cde. Y.V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)

* Cde. H. Rashid, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President

* Cde. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Health (Absent)

* Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P., Minister of Labour, Manufacturing and Industrial Development

Ministers of State (2)

Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State in the Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection

Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of State for Youth and Sports, in the Ministry of Education

* Non elected Member

/...

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

- Cde. A.W. Dend-Kirton-Holder, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works, Transport and Housing
 Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Other Members (26)

- Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
 Cde. M. Armogan, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P.
 Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.
 Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
 Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P.
 Cde. E.B. Davidson, M.P.
 Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
 Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P. (Absent)
 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. S. Prashad, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. R.N. Primo, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. P.A. Rayman, 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. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.
 Cde. H.B. Walcott-Nascimento, J.P., M.P., Government Chief Whip
 Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.

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)
 Cde. K.V. Jairam, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomerom/Supenaam) (Absent - on leave)
 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)
 Cde. D. Abraham, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
 Cde. A. Dorricks, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)
 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 - on leave)

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.

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

Cde. S.F. Mohamed, M.P.

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, C.C.H., 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

(a) Cde. Ramsaroop from 1982-11-13 to 1982-11-23

(b) Cde. Ainsworth from 1982-11-16 to 1982-11-24

(c) Cde. Tiwari up to 1982-11-23

(d) Cde. Dr. Jagan for two weeks from 1982-11-16, and

(e) Cdes. Harewood-Benn and Jairam for that day's sitting.

(ii) Deputy Speaker to act on behalf of the Minority Leader

The Speaker informed the Assembly that the Deputy Speaker had been authorised by the Minority Leader to move the motion and to ask the questions standing in the name of the Minority Leader on the Order Paper for that day's sitting.

/...

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

No. 1 - Re House of Israel

The Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Minority Leader, asked the Prime Minister the following question:

- QUESTION:
- (a) Is the Prime Minister aware that members or persons associated with the religious sect known as "The House of Israel" have received military training in Guyana?
 - (b) If the Prime Minister is aware of this fact, does he regard the sect as a Para-military organisation to whose adherents weapons could be or were issued?

The Prime Minister gave the following reply:

ANSWER: The Guyana Defence Force, Guyana People's Militia and Guyana National Service have at no time been asked to provide, or have they provided, military training for any religious sects in this country. Such training has never been given either to individuals or groups outside of the Defence Force.

No. 2 - Re Advertisements in the New Nation

The Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Minority Leader, asked the Prime Minister the following question:

- QUESTION:
- (a) Will the Prime Minister say why it is considered necessary for Government Departments, State Corporations, Boards and Commissions, as well as the Guyana Defence Force and the Guyana National Service and other organisations to advertise in the People's National Congress periodical, the New Nation, in view of the availability of the State-owned Guyana Chronicle and Radio Stations?
 - (b) Having regard to the fact that among the Corporations, Departments and other entities associated with the State which advertised in the New Nation during the first 6 months of 1982 are the Guyana Electricity Corporation, the Guyana Airways Corporation, the Guyana Water Authority, the University of Guyana, the Guyana Defence Force, the Guyana National Service and the Transport and Harbours Department, will the Prime Minister say what was the cost of advertisement by each of these Corporations, etc., and the total cost of all other advertisements for the period January-June, 1982?

The Prime Minister gave the following reply:

- ANSWER: (a) The New Nation is a newspaper in which agencies, both private and public find it very attractive to place advertisements. The extent to which the New Nation is circulated is an important consideration. New Nation is sent to many areas, both local and overseas, not covered either by radio or the Guyana Chronicle, and this makes it ideal for agencies that advertise.
- (b) The total cost of advertisements placed in New Nation over the period 1st January to 30th June, 1982 by private agencies was \$10,560.00, while that for Corporations and other Governmental agencies was \$70,980.00.

A supplementary question was asked by the Deputy Speaker.

No. 3 - Re Ceilings established by International Monetary Fund

Cde. N. Persaud asked the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, the following question:

- QUESTION: (a) Will the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, say what were the financial ceilings established by the International Monetary Fund in the agreements entered into by Guyana with the Fund?
- (b) If these ceilings were not met, will the Vice-President say by how much did the economy fall short on each occasion?

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, gave the following reply:

- ANSWER: (1) Guyana entered into three Stand-by Arrangements with the IMF in the years 1978, 1979 and 1980. The details and other relevant particulars with respect to the quantitative performance criteria in respect of each of the arrangements are set out in the attachment (See Appendix I). The critical criteria related to net domestic assets and net banking system credit to the public sector.
- (2) (i) The 1978 Agreement was successful in that the performance criteria were all met at the relevant dates.
- (ii) The 1979 Agreement was aborted almost as soon as it was signed because of the disruption of the economy caused by strikes in the bauxite and sugar industries which destroyed the production assumptions upon which the Agreement was negotiated.

- (iii) In 1980, a new Extended Fund Facility (EFF) programme was concluded to cover the three-year period July 1980 to June 1983. It soon became clear that the worsening international economic situation, the continued decline in world commodity prices and the inability of our production (particularly bauxite) to recover fast enough from the damage done in 1979 had rendered the programme unrealistic. As a result, it fell into abeyance after the second drawing.
- (iv) In 1981, the Government entered into what was in essence an extension of the 1980 programme, under which 1981 was treated as the second year of the 1980 EFF. After the first drawing this programme also came to an end de facto although it was not formally terminated by the Government until 26th July, 1982.

No. 4 - Re Details of Expenditure of Ministry of National Development

Cde. N. Persaud asked the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, the following question:

QUESTION: Will the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, give details of the expenditure for the years 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1980 in respect of the block votes (Code Number 092,0898) of the Ministry of National Development?

The Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, **replied** as at Appendix II.

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 under Standing Order No. 83, the Vice-President, Agriculture, moved the suspension of Standing Order No. 23 to permit the two Motions of Sympathy on the Supplementary Order Paper to be taken at that day's sitting.

The motion was put and carried.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

ITEM 1 - INVESTIGATION INTO OPERATIONS OF CERTAIN STATUTORY BODIES

The Deputy Speaker, on behalf of the Minority Leader, moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly agree to the establishment of a Special Select Committee of the Assembly to carry out an investigation into

the operations of the Guyana Sugar Corporation, the Guyana Rice Board, the Guyana Mining Enterprise and Guyconstruct, for which statutory bodies increased equity contributions in the sum of \$225,000,000, \$45,000,000, \$180,000,000 and \$25,000,000, respectively, were provided by Supplementary Estimates (Capital) in Financial Paper No. 2/1982.

Cde. N. Persaud seconded the motion and spoke to it.

The Minister of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Deputy Speaker replied.

The motion was then put and negatived.

ITEM 2 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF CDE. JOHN GABRIEL JOAQUIN, C.C.H.

The Vice-President, Agriculture, moved the following motion.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. John Gabriel Joaquin, C.C.H., 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.

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

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

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 16:03 hrs the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 16:25 hrs the sitting was resumed.

ITEM 3 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF CDE. LEONID ILYICH BREZHNEV

The Prime Minister moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, Secretary General of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee and President of the Presidium of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Supreme Soviet, and directs that an expression of its condolences be conveyed to his sorrowing relatives and to the Government and people of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Cde. Mohamed spoke to the motion.

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

BILLS -- Second and Third Readings

ITEM 4 - GUYANA RICE BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 - Bill No. 11/1982 published 1982-09-11

The Vice-President, Agriculture, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Guyana Rice Board Act to empower the Guyana Rice Board to establish Regional Rice Boards and to assign them certain functions of the Board in order to decentralise its functions and to provide for matters connected therewith.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Vice-President, Agriculture, 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 5 - PUBLIC OFFICERS (TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS) BILL 1982 - Bill No. 12/1982 published 1982-09-11

The Vice-President, Works, Transport and Housing, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend certain enactments.

The Deputy Speaker spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

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

ITEM 6 - CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 - Bill No. 13/1982 published 1982-10-02

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 the Customs Act.

The motion was put and carried.

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

ITEM 7 - FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1982 - Bill No. 14/1982
published 1982-10-30

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 fiscal enactments.

Cde. N. Persaud 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.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 2 were passed as printed.

Schedule: The following amendments by the Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, on behalf of the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, were put and carried:

- (i) Substitution of the following for the words beginning from 'Registrar' to the end of the new Section 16A proposed to be inserted in the Deeds Registry Act, Chapter 5:01:

"Registrar -

- (a) a certificate of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue (hereinafter referred to as the Commissioner) stating that he has in accordance with section 60 of the Income Tax Act delivered to the Commissioner all his returns, including the return for the preceding year of income, and has paid all taxes due and payable to the Commissioner by him or has made arrangements to the satisfaction of the Commissioner for the payment of all such taxes that are due and payable; and
- Cap. 81:01
- (b) a certificate from such officer of the local democratic organ, within the boundaries of which such immovable property is situated, as may be authorised by that local democratic organ in that behalf stating that the donor, vendor, lessor, transferor or assignor, as

the case may be has paid or made arrangements to the satisfaction of that officer for the payment of all rates and other sums due and payable by him in respect of such immovable property."

- (ii) Substitution of the following for the words beginning from 'presents to the Registrar' to the end of the new proviso proposed to be inserted in section 76(2) of the Land Registry Act, Chapter 5:02:

"presents to the Registrar

- Cap 81:01
- (a) a certificate of the Commissioner of Inland Revenue (hereinafter referred to as the Commissioner) stating that he has in accordance with section 60 of the Income Tax Act delivered to the Commissioner all his returns, including the return for the preceding year of income, and has paid all taxes due and payable to the Commissioner by him or has made arrangements to the satisfaction of the Commissioner for the payment of all such taxes that are due and payable; and
- (b) a certificate from such officer of the local democratic organ, within the boundaries of which such immovable property is situated, as may be authorised by that local democratic organ in that behalf stating that the donor, vendor, lessor, transferor or assignor, as the case may be has paid or made arrangements to the satisfaction of that officer for the payment of all rates and other sums due and payable by him in respect of such immovable property."

- (iii) Substitution of the words 'the certificates' for the words 'a certificate from the Commissioner of Inland Revenue' in the new proviso proposed to be inserted in section 89(2) of the Land Registry Act, Chapter 5:02.

The Schedule was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Finance, the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

At 18:05 hrs, on a motion by the Vice-President, Agriculture, the Assembly was adjourned to 14:00 hrs on Thursday, 1982-11-18.

B. Narain
B. NARAIN
Speaker 11-18
82

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
1982-11-18