

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 44TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION 1986-1987 OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND JULY, 1987

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)

Ministers in the Cabinet (10)

Prime Minister (1)

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

Other Vice-president and First Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Dr. M. Shahabuddeen, O.R., S.C., M.P., Vice-president, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General

Other Vice-presidents and Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Vice-president, National Mobilisation, and Deputy Prime Minister

Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., M.P., Vice-president, Education and Social Development, and Deputy Prime Minister

Other Deputy Prime Ministers (2)

Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development (Absent-on-leave)

Cde. R.H.D. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, public Utilities (Absent)

Senior Ministers (4)

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., Minister of Labour

Cde. W.S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Trade and Tourism

Other Ministers (14)

Senior Ministers (7)

Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Regional Development

Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Medical Education, Environment and Flood Policy (Absent - on leave)

Cde. Yvonne V. Harewood-Benn, M.P., Minister of Information and the Public Service

*Cde. Dr. P.L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Senior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

*Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Education

*Cde. J.R. Kranenburg, M.P., Minister of Communication and Works

*Cde. Dr. N.E. Blackman, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health

*Non-elected Member

Ministers (5)

- Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of National Mobilisation
 Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister in the Office of the President (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister of Forestry
 *Cde. V.V. Parvatan, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Medical Education, Environment and Food Policy

Ministers of State (2)

- Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister of State in the Ministry of Planning and Development (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P., Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs

Parliamentary Secretaries (2)

- *Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Education
 *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 (23)

- Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton, 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.
 Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. Edwin Melville, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. Anna Ally, M.P.
 Cde. L.R. Arthur, M.P.
 Cde. J.R.L. Bovell-Drakes, M.P.
 Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
 Cde. F.M. Lumberbatch, M.P.
 Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P.
 Cde. Cyrilda A. Dejesus, M.P.
 Cde. Edith Deygoo, M.P.
 Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
 Cde. C.L. Geddes, M.P.
 Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
 Cde. B. Persaud, J.P., M.P., (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. E.W. Trotman, M.P.
 Cde. K. Sankar, M.S., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

*Non-elected Member

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

Cde. Rose I. Semple, M.P. (Absent)
(One vacancy)

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
Cde. R. Bishop, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 4 - Demerara/
Mahaica) (Absent - on leave)
Cde. Y. Khan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroy/Supenaam)
Cde. Enid E. Abrahams, M.S., J.P., M.P., (Region No. 3 -
Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)
Cde. I. Ally, M.P., (Region No. 6 - East Berbice/Corentyne)
Cde. B.L. Domingo, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini) (Absent)
Cde. S.I. McGarrell, M.P., (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni)
Cde. M. Stephens, M.P., (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)
Cde. Joycelyn Thom-Lindie, M.P., (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/
Berbice) (Absent)

(One Vacancy - Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)

Members of the Minority (11)

(i) people's Progressive Party (8)

Minority Leader (1)

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

Deputy Speaker (1)

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

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

(iii) Working People's Alliance (1)

Mr. E. Kwayana, M.P.

OFFICERS

Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly
Cde. I. Hartman, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERLeave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Cde. Parris up to 23rd July, Cde. Jackson up to 30th July, Cde. Van West-Charles up to 9th August, Cdes Stephens and Thom-Lindie from 1st June to 15th July, and Cdes. B. Persaud, Sankar and Bishop for that sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC. -

- (1) By the Minister of Regional Development on behalf of the Vice-President, Education and Social Development, and Deputy Prime Minister:

Annual Report of the Teaching Service Commission for the year 1986.

(TSC:13/2/2) (Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Regional Development, on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year 1986.

(FA:1/42/1) (Circulated)

- (3) By the Minister in the Ministry of Health:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Health for the year 1986.

(H-16/1/2) (Circulated)

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE -Inadequate water supply on the East Coast of Demerara

Mr. Kwayana sought leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss the water supply problem on the East Coast of Demerara.

The Speaker did not allow the claim since the matter did not qualify as one to be raised on a motion for the adjournment of the Assembly.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -MOTIONSITEM 1 - CONDITIONS AT GEORGETOWN HOSPITAL.

Cde. Janet Jagan moved and spoke to the following motion:

WHEREAS conditions in the Public Hospital, Georgetown, are deplorable with shortages of the most elementary requirements for carrying out medical care;

AND WHEREAS this has been substantiated by a public statement by doctors of the Hospital who have registered their dissatisfaction at the critical state of the institution which has for long been suffering from inadequate staff, supplies and equipment;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly recommends to the Government the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry into the Public Hospital, Georgetown, and that such a Commission be broad-based and representative of the Guyanese people.

(Notice Paper No. 92 published 1986-06-26)

Mr. Kwayana seconded the motion.

Mr. M.F. Singh, Mr. Kwayana, Cde. Basir, the Minister in the Ministry of Health and Cde. Belgrave spoke to the motion.

Cde. Janet Jagan replied.

The Minister in the Ministry of Health concluded the debate.

Thereafter, the motion was put and negatived.

ITEM 2 - DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS, SUPPLIES AND COMMODITIES.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud moved and spoke to the following motion:

WHEREAS consumers have been experiencing hardships in obtaining essential food items and other supplies, including building materials and cement;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls upon Government to establish a Permanent Committee with Representatives of all Political Parties represented in Parliament, to ensure the equitable distribution of all goods, supplies and commodities.

(Notice Paper No. 117 published 1987-03-04)

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud was speaking to the motion when the time for the suspension of the sitting was reached.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.00 p.m. the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 4.23 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud concluded his speech.

Mr. Kwayana, Cde. Nokta and the Minister of Trade and Tourism spoke to the motion.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud replied.

Thereafter, the motion was put and negatived.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.40 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Regional Development, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

S. NARAIN
SPEAKER

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
GEORGETOWN,

1987-07-24.