

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 45TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST  
SESSION (1986-1987) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY, 7TH AUGUST, 1987

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (74)

The Deputy Speaker, Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, J.P., M.P., - In the Chair

Speaker (1)

\*Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., S.C., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the  
National Assembly (Absent -- on leave)

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.O. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Public  
Utilities (Absent - on leave)

Senior Ministers (4)

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

\*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 Food 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 (Absent)

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

Ministers (5)

- Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of National Mobilisation (Absent)
- Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister in the Office of the President
- 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. (Absent)
- Cde. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.
- Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
- Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. Amna Ally, M.P. (Absent)
- Cde. L.R. Arthur, M.P.
- Cde. J.R.L. Bovell-Drakes, M.P.
- Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
- Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P.
- Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P.
- Cde. Cyrylda 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.
- Cde. E.W. Trotman, M.P.
- Cde. K. Sankar, M.S., M.P. (Absent)

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

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

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

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. Y. Khan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomereroon/Supenaam) (Absent -  
on leave)  
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. D.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) (Absent - on leave)  
Cde. Joycelyn Thom-Lindie, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper  
Demerara/Berbice) (Absent - on leave)  
(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. (Absent)  
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 - on leave)  
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 DEPUTY SPEAKERLeave

The Deputy Speaker announced that Cde. Sase Narain was unavailable to be present at that sitting.

He also announced that leave from that sitting had been granted to Cdes. Parris, Corbin, Van West-Charles, Parvatan, Faith Harding, Nellie Charles, Yusuf Khan, Stephens, Thom-Lindie and Mr. Feilden Singh.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.-(1) By the Prime Minister:

- (i) Constitution (Amendment) Order 1987 (No. 30), made under article 47(4) of the Constitution on 30th June, 1987 and published in the Gazette on 10th July, 1987.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Sugar Corporation Limited for the year 1986.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Regional Development, on behalf of the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Co-operative Insurance Service for the year 1985.

(ST:25/2/1/7<sup>II</sup>) (Circulated)

- (ii) State Pensions (Hubert Moshett) Order 1987 (No. 37), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on 8th July, 1987 and published in the Gazette on 10th July, 1987, together with Erratum.

(ST:4/24<sup>III</sup>) (Circulated)

- (iii) Annual Report of the Office of the Auditor General for the year 1986.

(878/AM 44) (Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Labour:

- (i) Minimum Wages (employees in Dry Goods Stores) (Amendment) Order 1987 (No. 40), made under section 9A of the Labour Act, Chapter 98:01, on 21st July, 1987 and published in the Gazette on 25th July, 1987.

(L:16/91) (Circulated)

- (ii) Minimum Wages (Employees in Drug Stores) (Amendment) Order 1987 (No. 41), made under section 9A of the Labour Act, Chapter 98:01, on 21st July, 1987 and published in the Gazette on 25th July, 1987.

(L:16/91) (Circulated)

- (iii) Minimum Wages (Employees in Hardware Stores) (Amendment) Order 1987 (No. 42), made under section 9A of the Labour Act, Chapter 98:01, on 21st July, 1987 and published in the Gazette on 25th July, 1987.

(L:16/91) (Circulated)

- (iv) Minimum Wages (Employees in Groceries) (Amendment) Order 1987 (No. 43), made under section 9A of the Labour Act, Chapter 98:01, on 21st July, 1987 and published in the Gazette on 25th July, 1987.

(L:16/91) (Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS -Presentation and First Reading

- (1) SEA DEFENCE LAWS (AMENDMENT AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS) BILL 1987 - Bill No. 6/1987 published 1987-08-06

The Minister of Regional Development, on behalf of the Senior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Sea Defences Act and the Sea Defence Act for certain purposes.

- (2) DOMICILE REFORM BILL 1987 - Bill No. 7/1987 published 1987-08-06

The Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to reform the law relating to domicile.

- (3) CRIMINAL LAW REFORM BILL 1987 - Bill No. 8/1987 published 1987-08-06

The Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to make provision for suspended sentences and for certain other matters relating to sentences.

- (4) REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS BILL 1987 - Bill No. 9/1987 published 1987-08-06

The Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to make provision for rehabilitation of offenders and for matters connected therewith.

- (5) FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE) BILL 1987 - Bill No. 10/1987 published 1987-08-06

The Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to give effect to article 153(6) of the Constitution and for matters connected therewith.

(6) LAW REFORM (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) BILL 1987 - Bill No. 11/1987  
published 1987-08-06

The Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the High Court Act, the Summary Jurisdiction (Magistrates) Act, the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, the Cattle Stealing Prevention Act, the Pounds Act and the Slaughter of Cattle (Control) Act.

(7) HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 - Bill No. 12/1987  
published 1987-08-06

The Minister of Regional Development on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Hydro-Electric Power Act.

(8) FUGITIVE OFFENDERS BILL 1987 - Bill No. 13/1987 published 1987-08-06

The Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:-

A Bill intituled An Act to make provision with respect to the extradition of fugitive offenders from and to Guyana and for matters connected therewith.

(9) NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (DISQUALIFICATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 -  
Bill No. 14/1987 published 1987-08-06

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

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the National Assembly (Disqualification) Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

BILLS - Second Reading

ITEM 1 - CARIDDEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE  
BILL 1987 - Bill No. 4/1987 published 1987-06-13

Consideration of this Bill was deferred.

ITEM 2 - INSURANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 1987 - Bill No. 5/1987 published  
1987-06-13

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:-

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Insurance Act.

Mr. Kwayana and the Minority Leader spoke to the motion.

The Minister of Finance replied.

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

MOTIONS

ITEM 3 - SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS OF NON-PENSIONABLE EMPLOYEES

The Minister of Information and the Public Service moved and spoke to the following motion:-

WHEREAS Legislative Council Resolution No. XXV of 1940 as amended from time to time provided that an employee holding a non-pensionable appointment should be granted superannuation benefits on certain terms and conditions;

AND WHEREAS under the aforesaid Resolution, as so amended the superannuation benefits provided for therein are available to a non-pensionable employee only in the case of his retirement on account of ill-health, incapacity, inefficiency or voluntary retirement on or after the age of fifty-five years, or on abolition of post;

AND WHEREAS Government is of the view that in a case where the service of a non-pensionable employee is terminated on account of unavailability of work, closure of project, redundancy or in the public interest (not being a case where his service is terminated on disciplinary grounds or on resignation) and who has more than one but less than seven continuous years of service, should be paid a gratuity calculated -

- (a) in the case of a non-pensionable employee holding an "approved" appointment at a rate of one-eighteenth of a month's pay for each month of service; and
- (b) in the case of a non-pensionable employee not holding an "approved" appointment at a rate of one-twenty-sixth of a year's pay for each year of service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve that the aforesaid Resolution be amended in the following respects -

- (a) by the renumbering of paragraph D as sub-paragraph (i) thereof and by the insertion, after sub-paragraph (i) as so renumbered, of the following sub-paragraph as sub-paragraph (ii) -



"(ii) A non-pensionable employee holding an approved appointment whose service is terminated on or after 1st April, 1982, on account of unavailability of work, closure of project, redundancy or in public interest (not being a case where his service is terminated on disciplinary grounds or on resignation) and who has more than one but less than seven continuous years of service be paid a gratuity calculated at the rate of one-eighteenth of a month's pay for each month of service.";

(b) in paragraph C, by the renumbering of sub-paragraph (ii) as sub-paragraph (iii) and by the insertion, after sub-paragraph (i), of the following sub-paragraph as sub-paragraph (ii) -

"(ii) A non-pensionable employee not holding an approved appointment whose service is terminated on or after 1st April, 1982, on account of unavailability of work, closure of project, redundancy or in public interest (not being a case where his service is terminated on disciplinary grounds or on resignation) and who has more than one but less than seven continuous years of service be paid a gratuity calculated at the rate of one-twenty-sixth of a year's pay for each year of service.";

(c) by the insertion, after paragraph I, of the following paragraph as paragraph J -

"J. For the purposes of this resolution -

(i) "pay", for calculating gratuity payable to an employee, shall be computed on the basis of the last salary or wages drawn by the employee;

(ii) "approved appointment" means any appointment approved in that behalf by the Minister."

(Notice Paper No. 212 published 1987-07-10)

Mr. Kwayana spoke to the motion and moved the following amendments to the Resolve Clause:

(i) In (a) (ii) after the word "holding" deletion of the words "an approved appointment" and insert the following words:

"an approved appointment or not holding an approved appointment"

(ii) Deletion of the provisions which follow at (b).

Cde. Delgrave seconded the amendment and spoke.

The Minister of Information and the Public Service replied.

The amendment was put and negatived.

Thereafter the original motion was put and carried.

THANKS BY DEPUTY SPEAKER

The Deputy Speaker thanked the Members of the Assembly for the support and co-operation which they gave him while he was in the Chair that day.

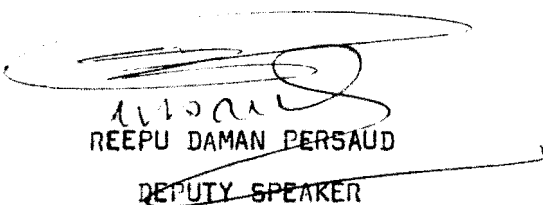
PARLIAMENTARY RECESS

As that was the last sitting before the Parliamentary Recess, the Deputy Speaker extended good wishes to the Members of the Assembly for a happy and fruitful holiday.

The Prime Minister thanked the Deputy Speaker and also extended good wishes to the Members of the Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.10 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Regional Development, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

  
REEPU DAMAN PERSAUD  
DEPUTY SPEAKER

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS,  
GEORGETOWN.

7th August, 1987.