

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 51ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (1990-1991) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 15TH JULY, 1991

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (72)

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

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (60)

Prime Minister

Cde. H. Green, M.P., 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

Other Deputy Prime Minister (2)

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Public Works,
Communications and Regional Development

Cde. W.S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Trade,
Tourism and Industry

Senior Ministers (6)

* Cde. C.B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Finance

Cde. Dr. P.L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Minister of Agriculture

Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister of Education and Cultural Development

Cde. J.R. Kranenburg, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Public Works,
Communications and Regional Development

Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Senior Minister in the
Office of the President

Cde. Rabbian Ali-Khan, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security

* Non-elected Member

Ministers (6)

- Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry
 Cde. V.V. Parvatan, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture
 Cde. J.T. Kisscon, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health
 Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President
 Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
 Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Labour,
 Human Services and Social Security

Government Chief Whip (1)

- Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira

Other Members (32)

- Cde. V.V. Burnham, O.R., M.P., (Absent-on-leave)
 Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. R.E. Jackson, O.R., M.P.
 Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P.
 Cde. S. Prashad, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. Yvonne H. Harewood-Benn, M.P.
 Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P.
 Cde. K.W.E. Denny, M.P.
 Cde. K.B. Bancroft, M.P.
 Cde. M. Corrice, M.P.
 Cde. Philomena A. Royman, M.P.
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
 Cde. H. Doobay, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
 Cde. Anna Ally, M.P.
 Cde. N. Galistro, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. Cyrilda A. DeJesus, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 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. K. Sankar, A.A., M.P. (Absent-on leave)
 Cde. E.L. Fraser, M.P.
 Cde. Mignon D. Griffith, M.P.
 Cde. P.E. Rockliffe, M.P.

(There are two vacancies)

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 Councils (10)

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

Members of the Minority (11)(i) People's Progressive Party (8)

(Vacant)

(ii) United Force (2)

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

(There is one vacancy)

(iii) Working People's Alliance (1)

(Vacant)

OFFICERS

Cde. M.B. Henry Acting Clerk of the National Assembly

Cde. E.W. Kendall, Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Acting Clerk read Prayers.

OATHS

The Speaker informed Members that Cde. Rabbian Ali-Khan who had been appointed a Minister was not an elected Member of the Assembly, but in accordance with article 105 of the Constitution she became a Member of the Assembly by virtue of her holding the office of Minister.

Cde. Ali-Khan who was present made and subscribed the Oath of Office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Retirement of Vice-President, Culture and Social Development and Deputy Prime Minister

The Speaker announced that Cde. Viola Burnham an elected member of the National Assembly, who was Vice-President, Ministry of Culture and Social Development, had retired with effect from 8th July, 1991.

(ii) Ministerial Changes

The Speaker informed Members that he had been advised that as a consequence of the restructuring of the Public Service the following ministerial changes had been made -

- (a) ✓ Cde. Robert Corbin, Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Public Utilities had been redesignated Deputy Prime Minister, Public Works, Communications and Regional Development with effect from 8th July, 1991;
- (b) Cde. Winston Murray, who was Minister of Trade and Tourism and a Senior Minister, had been appointed Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry with effect from 8th July, 1991;
- (c) Cde. Seeram Prashad, an elected member of the National Assembly, who was Senior Minister in the Ministry of Planning and Development, had ceased to be a Minister with effect from 8th July, 1991;
- (d) Cde. Jeffrey Thomas, an elected member of the National Assembly, who was Minister of Regional Development and a Senior Minister, had ceased to be a Minister with effect from 8th July, 1991;
- (e) Cde. Yvonne Harewood-Benn an elected member of the National Assembly, who was Senior Minister in the Office of the President had ceased to be a Minister with effect from 8th July, 1991;
- (f) Cde. Deryck Bernard, who was Minister of Education and a Senior Minister had been redesignated Senior Minister of Education and Cultural Development with effect from 8th July, 1991;
- (g) ✓ Cde. Jules Kranenburg, who was Minister of Communications and Works and a Senior Minister had been redesignated Senior Minister in the Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development with effect from 8th July, 1991;
- (h) Cde. Urmia Johnson, an elected Member of the National Assembly who was Minister in the Ministry of Regional Development had ceased to be a Minister with effect from 8th July, 1991;
- (i) Cde. Gowkaran Sharma, who was Minister of Labour and Cooperatives had been appointed a Senior Minister in the Office of the President with effect from 8th July, 1991;
- (j) Cde. Dharamdeo Sawh, who was Minister in the Ministry of Public Utilities had been redesignated Minister in the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry with effect from 8th July, 1991;
- (k) Cde. J.T. Kissoon, who was Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister had been re-designated Minister in the Ministry of Health with effect from 8th July, 1991;
- (l) Cde. Dr. Faith Harding, who was Minister of the Public Services, had been redesignated Minister in the Office of the President with effect from 8th July, 1991;

- (m) Cde. Rabbian Ali-Khan had been appointed a Senior Minister and designated Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security with effect from 8th July, 1991 and became a Member of the National Assembly by Virtue of her becoming a Minister; and
- (n) Cde. Jean Persico who was Minister in the Ministry of Culture and Social Development had been re-designated Minister in the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security with effect from 8th July, 1991.

(iii) Congratulations

The Speaker on behalf of Members of the Assembly and his own congratulated Cde. Murray on his appointment as a Deputy Prime Minister and Cde. Sharma as a Senior Minister and extended best wishes to those Ministers in their new assignments of responsibilities.

He also congratulated Cde. Ali-Khan on her appointment as a Minister and on behalf of Members welcomed her to the Assembly and extended best wishes to her.

(iv) New List of Members and New Seating Plan

The Speaker informed members that as a result of the Ministerial changes there had been adjustments in the seating arrangements and that a new list of members and a new seating plan had been prepared and copies had been circulated.

(v) Appointment of Edgar Kendall, Acting Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

The Speaker announced that Cde. Edgar Kendall who had been a Principal Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Culture and Social Development had been appointed to act as Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly with effect from 1st June, 1991 vice Cde. George Moses who had proceeded on Vacation Leave from 9th December, 1990. Cde. Kendall who had assumed duties at the Parliament was present at the Table for the first time. On behalf of Members of the Assembly the Speaker congratulated him, welcomed him to the Service of Parliament and extended best wishes to him.

(vi) Death of Former Legislator - Cde. Claude Vibert Mingo

The Speaker informed Members that Cde. Claude Vibert Mingo, a former Member of the National Assembly from 1st January, 1970 to 31st December, 1980, and who had held offices in the Government as a Parliamentary Secretary, Minister of State, Minister and Senior Minister, died on 4th July, 1991 and at the appropriate time a motion to record the Assembly's sympathy would be moved.

(vii) Letter from the Speaker of Bermuda on Tribute to the Hon. Sir Edward Richards, CBE.

The Speaker read a letter dated 22nd May, 1991, from the Hon. D.E. Wilkson, M.P., Speaker of the House of Assembly of Bermuda, relating the tribute paid by Members of the House to the Hon. Sir Edward Richards, CBE, who passed away on 12th May, 1991.

(viii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cde. Cyrilda DeJesus from 11th July to 15th July, 1991, and
 (b) Cdes. Burnham, Sharma, Prashad, Sankar and Fernandes for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

1. By the Deputy Prime Minister, Public Works, Communications and Regional Development:

- (i) Annual Report of the Ministry of Regional Development for the year 1990.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Regulations 1991 (No. 6), made under section 103 of the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02.

(Circulated)

2. By the Deputy Prime Minister, Trade, Tourism and Industry:

Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Post Office Corporation for the years 1982 to 1987.

(Circulated)

3. By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Bank for Trade and Industry Limited for the year 1989.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) (No. 2) Order 1991, (No. 26).

(Circulated)

- (iii) External Loans Order 1991 (No. 31), made under section 3(7) of the External Loans Act, Chapter 74:08.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Financial Paper No. 1/1991 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$69,405,533 for period ended 1990-12-31.

(Circulated)

- (v) Financial Paper No. 2/1991 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$14,889,659 for period ended 1991-06-11.

(Circulated)

- (vi) Financial Paper No. 3/1991 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$1,907,953,000 for 1991.

(Circulated)

The Minister of Finance indicated that he would seek the leave of the Speaker at the appropriate time to move the suspension of Standing Order No. 68(1) to enable the Committee of Supply to proceed with the consideration of Financial Papers Nos. 1/1991, 2/1991 and 3/1991 at that sitting.

- (vii) Consumption Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1991 (No. 30), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02 on 21st June, 1991 and published in the Gazette (Extraordinary) on 22nd June, 1991.

(Circulated)

- (viii) International Financial Organisations (International Monetary Fund) (Amendment of Articles of Agreement) Order 1991 (No. 32), and published in the Gazette (Extraordinary) on 6th July, 1991.

(Circulated)

4. By the Minister of Labour, Human Services and Social Security:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Labour
for the year 1990.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

1. MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS BILL 1991 - Bill No. 13/1991

The Prime Minister informed the Assembly that he would not proceed to present the following Bill at that sitting -

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make new provision for the registration of medical practitioners and for matters connected therewith.

2. NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 - Bill No. 14/1991

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act 1988.

3. MINIMUM HOLDINGS OF LIQUID ASSETS BY BANKS (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS) (REPEAL) BILL 1991 - Bill No. 15/1991

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to repeal the Minimum Holdings of Liquia Assets by Banks (Temporary Provisions) (Repeal) Act 1991.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILLS - Second Reading

The Second reading of the following Bills were deferred:

ITEM 1. PUBLIC UTILITY UNDERTAKINGS AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES ARBITRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1991 - Bill No. 12/1991 published 1991-05-17

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Public Utility Undertakings and Public Health Services Arbitration Act.

(Read a first time on 1991-05-20)

ITEM 2. ELECTRIC LIGHTING (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 - Bill No. 31/1990 published 1990-10-27

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Electric Lighting Act.

(Read a first time on 1990-10-29)

ITEM 3. LOCAL DEMOCRATIC ORGANS (FUNCTIONS AND FINANCES) BILL 1990 - Bill No. 27/1990 published 1990-10-05

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the functions and finances of local democratic organs and for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 1990-10-15)

ITEM 4. FRIENDLY SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1990 - Bill No. 26/1990 published 1990-07-28

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Friendly Societies Act.

(Read a first time on 1990-07-26)

MOTIONS

ITEM 5. SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF CDE. CLAUDE VIBERT MINGO

The Prime Minister moved the following motion which was put and carried with Members Standing in silence for one minute:-

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. Claude Vibert Mingo 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 family and relatives.

ITEM 6. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 68(1)

With the leave of the Speaker the Minister of Finance moved the suspension of Standing Order No. 68(1) to enable the Committee of Supply to proceed with the consideration of Financial Papers Nos. 1/1991, 2/1991 and 3/1991.

The motion was put and carried.

ITEM 7. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL PAPERS NOS. 1/1991, 2/1991 and 3/1991

Assembly resolved itself into Committee of Supply to consider Financial Papers Nos. 1/1991, 2/1991 and 3/1991.

In Committee of Supply

In accordance with article 17(2) of the Constitution, the Minister of Finance signified Cabinet's recommendation and moved the following motions-

(i) Financial Paper No. 1/1991

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/1991 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period ended 1990-12-31, totalling \$69,405,533.

The following correction was made to the Schedule -

SECTION B - Capital Estimates

After the first "Div. No. 2" renumber Div. No. 2, Div. No. 3, and Div. No. 4 as "Div. No. 3, Div. No. 4 and Div. No. 5" respectively.

After consideration of and correction to the Schedule, the motion was put and carried.

(ii) Financial Paper No. 2/1991

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1991 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period ended 1991-06-31, totalling \$14,889,659.

After consideration of the Schedule the motion was put and carried.

(iii) Financial Paper No. 3/1991

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/1991 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$1,907,953,800. for 1991.

SECTION A - Current Estimates

The following corrections were made to the Schedule -

Substitute "Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development" for "Ministry of Physical Works, Communications and Regional Development" from Items 81 to Items 101 inclusive.

SECTION B - Capital Estimates

(i) Renumber "Div. No. 5" as "Div. No. 2" and Substitute "0504 504 - Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security" for "0522 522 - Ministry of Education".

(ii) Renumber "Div. No. 2, Div. No. 3, and Div. No. 4" as Div. No. 3, Div. No. 4 and Div. No. 5" respectively and Substitute "0520 520 - Ministry of Public Works, Communications and Regional Development" for 0518 518 - Ministry of Public Works, Communications, and Regional Development" at the renumbered Div. Nos. 3, 4 and 5.

After consideration of and corrections to the Schedule the motion was put and carried.

Assembly resumed.

In Assembly

On a motion by the Minister of Finance the Assembly adopted the following Resolutions:

(i) **RESOLVED**, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED, That this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/1991 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period ended 1990-12-31, totalling \$69,405,533.

(ii) **RESOLVED**, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED, That this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 2/1991 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund for the period ended 1991-06-11, totalling \$14,889,659.

(iii) **RESOLVED**, That this National Assembly agree with the Committee of Supply in the following Resolution:

"RESOLVED, That this National Assembly approves of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/1991 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$1,907,953,800. for 1991.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.55 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

L. Narain
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LASE NARAIN
Speaker *91-07-26*

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
Guyana.**

1991-07-22