

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 52ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION (1990-1991) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY, 26TH JULY, 1991

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73).

Speaker

- * 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

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 (Absent)
- * 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 (Absent - on leave)
- * 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 Axi-Khan, M.P., Minister of Labour, Human Services and
Social Security

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 (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health
- Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister in the Office of the President
- Cde. Stelia Udie-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

* Non-elected Member

Other Members (32)

Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., M.P.
 Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.H., M.P.
 Cde. R.E. Jackson, U.R., M.P. (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P.
 Cde. S. Prashad, M.P.
 Cde. Yvonne V. 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. Corrica, M.P.
 Cde. Philomena A. Rayman, M.P.
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
 Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
 Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
 Cde. Anna Ally, M.P.
 Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
 Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P. (Absent)
 Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P.
 Cde. Cyrilida A. DeJesus, M.P.
 Cde. Edith Deygoo, M.P.
 Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
 Cde. C.L. Geddes, M.P. (Absent-on leave)
 Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
 Cde. B. Persaud, J.P., M.P.
 Cde. K. Sankar, A.A., M.P.
 Cde. E.L. Fraser, M.P.
 Cde. MIGNON V. Griffith, M.P.
 Cde. P.E. Rockcliffe, M.P.

(There are two vacancies)

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

Cde. Rose I. Sempke, M.P.
 Cde. P. Singh, J.P., M.P. (Absent - on leave)

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)
 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 Island/West Demerara)
 Cde. I. Akly, 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. Ajooshia, 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)

(Vacant)

(ii) United Force (2)

Cde. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Death of Former Legislators - Cdes. Ivan Ronald Remington and Victor Downer

The Speaker informed Members of the death of Cde. Ivan Remington and Cde. Victor Downer who were former members of the Assembly and said that at the appropriate time motions to record the Assembly's sympathy would be moved.

(ii) Expression of Sympathy to Cde. Pretam Singh and Cde. L. Fraser

The Speaker informed Members that the wife of Cde. Pretam Singh had passed away and a sister of Cde. L. Fraser had also passed away. On their behalf and his own, he extended sympathy to Cde. Singh and his sorrowing family and to Cde. Fraser and relatives.

(iii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to - Cde. K. Sankar from 11th August to 11th September, 1991 and Cdes. Bernard, Parvatan, Jackson, and Geddes from that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.1. By the Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry on behalf of the Minister of Finance:

Annual Performance Report of the Office
of the Auditor General for the year
ended 31st December, 1990.

(Circulated)

2. By the Prime Minister:(i) Annual Report of the Office of the Prime Minister for the year 1990.

(Circulated)

(ii) Annual Report of the Teaching Service Commission for the year 1990.

(Circulated)

3. By the Minister in the Ministry of Health on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister, Public Works, Communications and Regional Development:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Communications
and Works for the year 1990.

(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First ReadingMEDICAL PRACTITIONERS BILL 1991 - Bill No. 13/1991

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

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

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTIONSITEM 1 SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF CDE. IVAN RONALD REMINGTON

The Minister of Agriculture 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. Ivan Ronald Remington 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 2 SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF CDE. VICTOR DOWNER

The Minister in the Ministry of Health 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. Victor Downer 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 3 EXTENSION OF THE LIFE OF PARLIAMENT

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the life of the Parliament which first met on 3rd February, 1936, consequent on the election of members thereof in the election held on 9th December, 1985, was by the alteration of article 70 of the Constitution by the Constitution (Amendment) Act 1991 extended by two months to 2nd April, 1991;

AND WHEREAS the life of the said Parliament was, in accordance with the Constitution (Amendment) Act 1991, by RESOLUTION No. 36 passed by the National Assembly on 25th March, 1991 and assented to by the President on 27th March, 1991, extended for two months to 2nd June, 1991; and by RESOLUTION No. 41 passed by the National Assembly on 29th May, 1991, and assented to by the President on the said extended for a further period of two months to 2nd August, 1991;

AND WHEREAS Parliament shall on 3rd August, 1991, stand dissolved unless there is in accordance with the Constitution (Amendment) Act 1991, a further extension of the life of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS under article 61 of the Constitution an election of members of the National Assembly has to be held within three months of the dissolution of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS the preparation of the official list of electors by house to house enumeration for all the polling divisions and the non-resident electors' roll cannot be completed by 2nd August, 1991, and further time is needed therefor;

AND WHEREAS by the Constitution (Amendment) Act 1991, the life of Parliament may further be extended for two months or less at a time by resolution supported by two-thirds of the elected members of the National Assembly and assented to by the President, so however that the life of Parliament shall not be extended beyond 30th September, 1991:

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that this National Assembly in accordance with the Constitution (Amendment) Act 1991, approves of the extension of the life of Parliament for a further period, from 3rd August to 30th September, 1991.

The motion was put and carried on the following division -

FUR

AGAINST

Cde. Fernandes
 Cde. Ajoodhia
 Cde. McGarrell
 Cde. I. Ally
 Cde. Abrahams
 Cde. Khan
 Cde. Bishop
 Cde. Charles
 Cde. Semple
 Cde. Rockcliffe
 Cde. Griffith
 Cde. Fraser
 Cde. Sankar
 Cde. B. Persaud
 Cde. Marshall
 Cde. Edwards
 Cde. DeJesus

FORAGAINST

Cde. Deen
 Cde. Calistro
 Cde. A. Ally
 Cde. Melville
 Cde. Munroe
 Cde. Doobay
 Cde. Gill-Mingo
 Cde. Fowler
 Cde. P. Rayman
 Cde. Corrica
 Cde. Bancroft
 Cde. Denny
 Cde. Johnson
 Cde. Harewood-Benn
 Cde. Prashad
 Cde. Thomas
 Cde. Parris
 Cde. Burnham
 Cde. Ferreira
 Cde. Persico
 Cde. Udie-Ali
 Dr. Harding
 Cde. Kissoon
 Cde. Sawh
 Cde. Sharma
 Cde. Murray
 Cde. Corbin
 Cde. Green

TOTAL45NILITEM 4 AFFIRMATION OF EXTERNAL LOANS ORDER NO. 31 OF 1991

The Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved the following motion which was put and carried -

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in accordance with section 3(7) of the External Loans Act (Chapter 74:08) affirm the External Loans Order No. 31 of 1991 which was made on 28th June, 1991 under section 3(1) of the External Loans Act (Chapter 74:08) and published in an Extraordinary issue of the Gazette dated 28th June, 1991.

ITEM 5 CONFIRMATION OF CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) ORDER NO. 30 OF 1991

The Deputy Prime Minister, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry on behalf of the Minister of Finance moved the following motion which was put and carried -

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in accordance with section 5(1) of the Consumption Tax Act (Chapter 80:02) confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) Order No. 30 of 1991 which was made on 21st June, 1991 under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act (Chapter 80:02) and published in an Extraordinary issue of the Gazette dated 22nd June, 1991.

BILLS - Second and Third ReadingsITEM 6 NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (CONTROL) (AMENDMENT)
BILL 1991 - Bill No. 14/1991 published 1991-06-28

The Minister of Home Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

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

The motion was put and carried.

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

ITEM 7 MINIMUM HOLDINGS OF LIQUID ASSETS BY BANKS (TEMPORARY PROVISIONS)
(REPEAL) BILL 1991 - Bill No. 15/1991 published 1991-07-13

The Deputy Prime Minister, on behalf of the Minister of Finance, moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intitled AN ACT to repeal the Minimum Holdings of Liquid Assets by Banks (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989.

The motion was put and carried.

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

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.12 p.m., on a motion by the Minister in the Ministry of Health, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
Guyana.

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SASE NARAIN
Speaker

91-08-07