

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 12TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
FIRST SESSION 1981 OF THE FOURTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA, HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1981

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (82)

Speaker (1)

- \* Cde. Sase Narain, O.R., J.P., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly  
Members of the Government - People's National Congress (69)

Prime Minister (1)

Cde. Dr. P.A. Reid, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister (Absent-on leave)

Other Vice-Presidents (4)

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., M.P., Vice-President, Works and Transport  
Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., M.P., Vice-President, Economic Planning and  
Finance (Absent - on leave)  
Cde. H. Green, M.P., Vice-President, Public Welfare  
Cde. B. Ramsaroop, M.P., Vice-President, Parliamentary Affairs and  
Party/State Relations

Senior Ministers (10)

- Cde. R. Chandisingh, M.P., Minister of Higher Education
- Cde. O.E. Clarke, M.P., Minister of Regional Development
- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Minister of National Development (Absent)
- \* Cde. F.E. Hope, M.P., Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection (Absent)
- \* 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.A. Tyndall, A.A., M.P., Minister of Agriculture
- \* Cde. S.A. Moore, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs
- \* Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Education (Absent - on leave)

Ministers (13)

- Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, J.P., M.P., Minister, Environment and  
Water Supply, in the Ministry of Public Welfare
- Cde. U.E. Johnson, M.P., Minister of Co-operatives
- Cde. J.N. Maitland-Singh, M.P., Minister, Consumer Protection, in  
the Ministry of Trade and Consumer Protection
- Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister, Crops and Livestock, in the  
Ministry of Agriculture (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. Sallahuddin, M.P., Minister, Finance, in the Ministry of  
Economic Planning and Finance
- Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P., Minister, Fisheries, in the Ministry of  
Agriculture
- \* Cde. C.A. Nascimento, M.P., Minister, Mechanical Equipment, in the  
Ministry of Works and Transport (Absent - on leave)
- \* Cde. F.U.A. Campbell, M.P., Minister of Information
- \* Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, M.P., Minister, Forestry, in the Ministry  
of Agriculture
- \* Cde. Y.V. Harewood-Benn, M.P. Minister of Public Service
- \* Cde. R. Rashid, M.P., Minister, Office of the President

\* Non Elected Member

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- \* Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, M.P., Minister, Drainage and Irrigation, in the Ministry of Agriculture
- \* Cde. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister, Health, in the Ministry of Public Welfare (Absent)

Ministers of State (3)

- Cde. M. Corrica, M.P., Minister of State for Culture, in the Ministry of Education, Social Development and Culture
- Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of State for Youth and Sport, in the Ministry of National Development
- \* Cde. C.E. Wright, M.P., Minister of State for Construction, in the Ministry of Works and Transport (Absent - on leave)

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

- Cde. A. Bend-Kirton-Holder, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Women's Affairs and Housing
- Cde. P.A. Rayman, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister
- \* Cde. E.M. Bynoe, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

Other Members (23)

- Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P.
- Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
- Cde. M. Armogan, M.P.
- Cde. B. Beniprashad, M.P.
- Cde. B. Bhaggan, M.P.
- Cde. J.B. Caldeira, M.P.
- Cde. A.A. Chin, M.P.
- Cde. E.B. Davidson, M.P.
- Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
- Cde. A.B. Felix, M.P.
- 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. R.N. Primo, 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.
- Cde. C. Vandenburg, M.P.
- Cde. H.B. Walcott, J.P., M.P., Government Chief Whip

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. Jairem, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/Supenaam)
- 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) (Absent)
- Cde. A. Dorrick, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)
- Cde. D. Hinds, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice)

\* Non Elected Member

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Members of the Minority (12)

(i) People's Progressive Party (10)

Minority Leader (1)

Cde. Dr. C. Jagan, M.P., Minority Leader (Absent)

Deputy Speaker (1)

Cde. Ram Karran, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Other Members (8)

Cde. J. Jagan, M.P.

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. (Absent)

Cde. I. Basir, M.P.

Cde. C.C. Belgrave, M.P. (Absent)

Cde. Dalchand, J.P., M.P.

(ii) United Force (2)

Mr. M.F. Singh, J.P., M.P.

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 Cdes. Dr. Reid, Hoyte, Thomas, Prashad, Nascimento and Wright for that day's sitting.

(ii) Congratulations to Members on Marriage

The Speaker on behalf of Members and himself extended congratulations to Cde. Agnes Bend-Kirton and to Cde. Joyce Gill who were recently married.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister, Finance, on behalf of the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance:

- (a) Loan Agreement between the Government of Guyana and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for Technical Assistance for the Power Development Project. (Loan Number 1906 GUA).

(ST: 3/2/2/18)(Circulated)

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(b) Annual Reports of the Inland Revenue Department for the years 1964-1966, 1967-1973, 1974, 1975, 1976-1978 and 1979.

(ST: 25/2/1/1)(Circulated)

(c) Customs (Exemption from Duties) Order 1981 (No. 17); made under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, on 11th February, 1981, and published in the Gazette on 14th March, 1981.

(ST: 2/4/49/1)(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Regional Development:

Local Democratic Organs (Emoluments of Office-holders) Order 1981 (No. 10), made under section 9 of the Local Democratic Organs Act 1980, on the 16th of February, 1981.

(LG: 24/1/1/II)(Circulated)

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### Presentation and First Reading

(1) TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981 - Bill No. 4/1981 published 21.3.81

The Minister, Finance, on behalf of the Vice-President, Economic Planning and Finance, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Tax Act.

(2) DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1981  
Bill No. 3/ 1981 published 21.3.81

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

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Drainage and Irrigation Act.

#### PUBLIC BUSINESS

##### BILL - Second and Third Readings

ITEM 1 - ENERGY BILL 1981 - Bill No. 1/1981 published 14.2.81

The Minister of Energy and Mines moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A Bill intituled An Act to make provision with respect to the nation's resources of and use of energy.

The Speaker drew Members' attention to the following corrections to the Bill -

Clause 6 - Deletion of the closing bracket in the last line.

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5.  
Clause 8(1)(b) - Substitution of "apportionment"  
for "a~~p~~ppointment".

Clause 26 - Substitution of "The funds and  
resources of the Authority shall"  
for "The Authority may keep and  
operate a bank account" in the  
first line.

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud, Minority Chief Whip and  
Mr. M.F. Singh spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Energy and Mines replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

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

#### MOTION

#### ITEM 2 - INCREASE IN OLD AGE PENSIONS

The Vice-President, Public Welfare, moved the following motion:

WHEREAS section 8(1) and (2) of the Old Age  
Pensions Act, Chapter 36:03, now provides as follows -

'8 (1) The amount of pension payable to any  
person under and in accordance with this Act  
shall be -

- (a) in the case of a person ordinarily  
resident in Georgetown, thirty dollars  
per month;
- (b) in the case of a person ordinarily  
resident elsewhere in Guyana than in  
Georgetown, thirty dollars per month.

(2) The National Assembly may, from time  
to time, by resolution (which shall be published  
in the Gazette), vary the amounts and any resi-  
dential qualification prescribed by subsection (1)  
with effect from the date of the resolution or  
such earlier or later date as is specified in that  
behalf in the resolution.";

AND WHEREAS it is proposed that Old Age Pensions  
payable under paragraphs (a) and (b) of section 8(1) of the  
Act be increased from thirty dollars per month to forty-five  
dollars per month with effect from 1st January, 1981:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in accordance  
with section 8(2) of the Act approve that the  
amounts prescribed under paragraphs (a) and (b)  
of section 8(1) of the Act be varied from thirty  
dollars per month to forty-five dollars per month,  
with effect from the 1st January, 1981

Cde. J. Jagan and Mr. Abraham spoke to the motion.

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6.

Thereafter, the Vice-President, Public Welfare, replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.54 p.m., on a motion by Cde. R. Van Sluytman, Minister, Drainage and Irrigation in the Ministry of Agriculture, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m. on Thursday, 2nd April, 1981.

  
S. NARDIN 1/4/81.  
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.  
1st April, 1981