

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 16TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1986) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 HRS

ON WEDNESDAY 1986-06-25

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (73)

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 (61)

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

Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., Deputy Prime Minister, Agriculture (Absent - on leave)

Senior Minister (4)

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

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

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Transport

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

Other Ministers (11)

Senior Ministers (3)

Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Manpower, Housing and Environment

Cde. Dr. R.A. Van West-Charles, M.P., Minister of Health (Absent)

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

*Non-elected Member

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Ministers (4)

- Cde. Urmia E.H. Johnson, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of National Mobilisation
*Cde. R.C. Fredericks, A.A., M.P., Minister of Youth and Sport within the Ministry of Education
Cde. C.G. Sharma, A.A., J.P., M.P., Minister within the Office of the President
*Cde. D.M.A. Bernard, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Education (Absent)

Ministers of State (4)

- *Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Manpower, Housing and Environment
Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Agriculture
Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Forestry
*Cde. Dr. Faith A. Harding, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Planning and Development

Parliamentary Secretaries (3)

- Cde. A.K. Habibulla, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the President
Cde. Stella Odie-Ali, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Home Affairs
*Cde. Jean M.G. Persico, A.A., Parliamentary Secretary, Education

Government Chief Whip (1)

- Cde. Jennifer A. Ferreira, M.P., Government Chief Whip

Other Members (24)

- Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P.
Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton, M.P.
Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingo, M.P.
Cde. M. Ally, M.P.
Cde. Bissoondai Beniprashad-Rayman, M.P.
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. Anna Ally, M.P.
Cde. L.R. Arthur, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
Cde. J.R.L. Bovell-Drakes, M.P.
Cde. N. Calistro, M.P.
Cde. G.W. Chin, J.P., M.P.
Cde. F.M. Cumberbatch, M.P.
Cde. M.I. Deen, M.P.
Cde. Cyralda A. DeJesus, M.P.
Cde. Edith Deygno, M.P.
Cde. Clarice A. Edwards, M.P.
Cde. C.L. Goddes, M.P.
Cde. G. Marshall, M.P.
Cde. B. Persaud, M.P.
Cde. E.W. Trotman, M.P.

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

- Cde. E. Mohamed, M.P.
Cde. Rose I. Sample, M.P.

*Non-elected Member

Members from the Regional Democratic Councils (10)

Cde. Nellie R. Charles, M.P. (Region No. 7 - Cuyuni/Mazaruni)
(Absent - on leave)
Cde. R. Dishop, M.S., M.P. (Region No. 4 Demerara/Mahaica)
Cde. Dhagmatee Latchminarayan, M.P. (Region No. 5 - Mahaica/Berbice)
Cde. Y. Khan, M.P. (Region No. 2 - Pomeroon/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. Patricia A. Daniel, M.P. (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/Derbice)
Cde. D.L. Domingo, M.P. (Region No. 1 - Barima/Waini) (Absent - on leave)
Cde. S.I. McGarrell, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent - on leave)
Cde. M. Stephens, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)
(Absent - on leave)

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 (Absent - on leave)
Cde. H. Nokta, M.P.
Cde. I. Dasir, M.P.
Cde. C.C. Delgrave, 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. (Absent - on leave)

OFFICERS

Cde. F.A. Narain, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly
Cde. M.D. Henry, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cdes. Charles, Domingo, McGarrell and Stephens for that day's sitting, and
- (b) Cde. S.F. Mohamed up to 1986-07-11.

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PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Prime Minister:

- (i) Annual Report and Accounts of the Guyana Sugar Corporation Limited for the year 1985.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Annual Report of the Public Service Commission for the year 1st July, 1984 to 30th June, 1985.

(C-222/21/1^{TJ II}) (Circulated)

(2) By the Vice-President, National Mobilisation, and Deputy Prime Minister:

Annual Report of the Ministry of National Development for the year 1985.

(Circulated)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

The Speaker informed Members that by agreement the Assembly would consider first the motions at items 7 and 8 on the Order Paper.

ITEM I - AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS - RECESS FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
Notice Paper No. 82 published 1986-06-11

The Prime Minister moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the President in his address at the ceremonial opening of the first session of the Fifth Parliament of Guyana on the fourth day of February, 1986 referred to the advantages to the members if the National Assembly were to go into recess for a specified period;

AND WHEREAS this National Assembly having considered the above suggestion of the President is of the opinion that the National Assembly should go into recess for a specified period to enable the members thereof to attend to public matters, other than the work of this National Assembly, and their private matters;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Standing Orders of the National Assembly be amended as proposed in the Annexure hereto to provide for a period of recess for the National Assembly between 10th August and 10th October in any year:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That request be made to the President that he shall have regard to the wish of the National Assembly in this respect while exercising the powers conferred on him by article 69(1) of the Constitution.

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ANNEXURE

Draft of proposed amendment

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly are hereby amended by the insertion therein, after Standing Order No. 8, of the following Standing Order as Standing Order No. 8A -

"Recess for National Assembly. 8A. Notwithstanding anything contained in Standing Order No. 8, unless there are special reasons for so doing, no sitting of the National Assembly shall be held from 10th August, to 10th October in any year."

In accordance with Standing Order No. 82 (3), the motion was referred to the Standing Orders Committee.

ITEM 2 - AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS - READING OF SPEECHES - Notice Paper No. 83 published 1986-06-11

At the request of the Minister of Information and the Public Service, the following motion was withdrawn:-

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 32 (6) of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly states, inter alia, that a member of the National Assembly shall not read his speech except with the leave of the Speaker;

AND WHEREAS it is considered desirable that members of the National Assembly should be free to read their speeches without the leave of the Speaker:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Standing Orders of the National Assembly be amended as proposed in the Annexure hereto.

ANNEXUREDraft of proposed amendment

The Standing Orders of the National Assembly are hereby amended by the substitution, for Standing Order No. 32(6), of the following -

"(6) A member may read his speech, or extracts from books or papers to support his argument, or may refresh his memory by reference to notes."

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ITEM 3 - PROVISION OF WATER - Notice Paper No. 14 published 1986-03-06

Cde Janet Jagan moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly urges the Government to solve the many pure water supply problems existing throughout the country and resolve to provide every community with a functioning potable water system.

Mr. M.F. Singh seconded and spoke to the motion.

Cdes. Nokta and Dasir spoke to the motion

The Minister within the Office of the President spoke to the motion and moved the following amendment:-

Substitution of the words "approves of the steps being taken by the Government to solve such pure water supply problems as exist in the country and" for the words "urges the Government to solve the many pure water supply problems existing throughout the country and resolve".

Thereafter Cde. Janet Jagan replied.

The Minister within the Office of the President concluded the debate.

The amendment was put and carried.

The motion as amended was, thereafter, put and carried.

ITEM 4 - IMPORTATION OF MILK - Notice Paper No. 15 published 1986-03-16

Cde. Janet Jagan moved the following motion:

WHEREAS there are insufficient supplies of milk, either locally produced or imported, to meet the needs of the child population, as well as the needs of adults;

AND WHEREAS milk cannot be eliminated from the diet of our children:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls on the Government to see that adequate supplies of milk are imported and equitably distributed in order to supplement the present inadequate supplies of locally-produced milk.

Cde. Dasir seconded and spoke to the motion.

Cde. Nokta and Mr. M.F. Singh spoke to the motion.

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SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 16:03 hrs, the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 16:25 hrs, the sitting was resumed.

The Minister of Trade and the Minority Leader spoke to the motion.

Thereafter Cde. Janet Jagan replied.

The Minister of Trade concluded the debate.

The motion was put and negatived.

ITEM 5 - CHARGES OF DISCRIMINATION IN THE ADMINISTRATION - Notice Paper No. 17
published 1986-03-06

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly agrees to the appointment of a Parliamentary Committee including representatives of the TUC to investigate all charges of discrimination in the administration and all its agencies and to submit reports to the Assembly.

Cde. Delgrave seconded the motion.

The Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General spoke to the motion.

The Minority Leader spoke to the motion and moved the following amendment:

Deletion of the words "including representatives of the TUC".

Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud seconded the amendment.

The Prime Minister spoke to the motion.

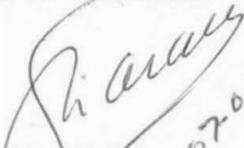
Thereafter Cde. Reepu Daman Persaud replied.

The amendment was put and negatived.

The motion was, thereafter, put and negatived.

ADJOURNMENT

At 19:15 hrs, on a motion by the Minister of Manpower, Housing and Environment, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.


S. NARAIN
Speaker 86-07-08

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

1986-07-08