

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 21ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1986) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 HRS

ON MONDAY 1986-11-03

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (76)

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 (64)

Ministers in the Cabinet (9)

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 (Absent - on leave)

Cde. Viola V. Burnham, O.R., M.P., Vice-President, Education and
Social Development, and Deputy Prime Minister

Other Deputy Prime Minister (1)

Cde. W.A.L.H. Parris, C.C.H., M.P., Deputy Prime Minister,
Planning and Development (Absent)

Senior Ministers (4)

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

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

Cde. S. Prashad, M.P., Minister of Manpower and Housing

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

Other Ministers (14)

Senior Ministers (4)

Cde. J.R. Thomas, M.P., Minister of Regional Development

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

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

*Cde. Dr. P.L. McKenzie, A.A., M.P., Minister in the Ministry
of Agriculture

*Non-elected Member

Ministers (7)

- 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
- Cde. D. Sawh, M.P., Minister of Forestry
- *Cde. J.R. Kranenburg, M.P., Minister of Transport
- *Cde. V.V. Parvatan, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture

Ministers of State (3)

- *Cde. D.A.N. Ainsworth, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Manpower and Housing (Absent)
- Cde. J.T. Kissoon, M.P., Minister of State within the Ministry of Health
- *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., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Education

Government Chief Whip (1)

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

Other Members (25)

- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P., (Absent)
- Cde. R.E. Williams, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- 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. Elaine B. Davidson, M.P.
- Cde. H. Doobay, M.P.
- Cde. Joyce M. Munroe, J.P., M.P.
- Cde. Edwina Melville, M.P.
- Cde. Amna Ally, M.P.
- Cde. L.R. Arthur, M.P. (Absent)
- 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. Cyrilda 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, M.P.
- Cde. E.W. Trotman, M.P.
- Cde. K. Sankar, M.S., M.P.

*Non-elected Member

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

Cde. E. Mohamed, M.P.
Cde. Rose I. Semple, M.P.

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. Bhagmatee 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. B.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)

(Vacant) (Region No. 10 - Upper Demerara/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.

(iii) Working People's Alliance (1)

Mr. E. Kwayana, M.P.

OFFICERS

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

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

OATHS OF NEW MEMBERS

The following persons made and subscribed the oath -

- (i) Cde. Dr. Patrick Laurence McKenzie, A.A., M.P.,
Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture
- (ii) Cde. Jules Richard Kranenburg, M.P.,
Minister of Transport
- (iii) Cde. Vibert Virnen Parvatan, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture
- (iv) Cde. Kayman Senkar, M.S., M.P.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER(i) Appointments of New Ministers

The Speaker announced that he had been informed that three persons, Cdes. Dr. Patrick Laurence McKenzie, Jules Richard Kranenburg, and Vibert Virnen Parvatan, who were not elected Members of the National Assembly, had been appointed Ministers with effect from 20th October, 1986.

Cde. McKenzie had been appointed a Senior Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture,

Cde. Kranenburg had been appointed Minister of Transport, and

Cde. Parvatan had been appointed Minister within the Ministry of Agriculture.

By virtue of their appointments as Ministers, those three persons had become Members of the National Assembly, and having made and subscribed the Oath as Members of the Assembly at that sitting, they could take part in the proceedings of the Assembly.

(ii) Ministerial Changes

The Speaker announced that he had been informed of the following Ministerial changes effective from 20th October, 1986:-

Cde. Seeram Prashad, who had been Minister of Transport, was Minister of Manpower and Housing,

Cde. Jeffrey Thomas, who had been Minister of Manpower, Housing and Environment, was Minister of Regional Development,

Cde. Dharamdeo Sawh, who had been Minister of State within the Ministry of Forestry was Minister of Forestry, and

Cde. Jailall Kisson, who had been Minister of State within the Ministry of Agriculture, was Minister of State within the Ministry of Health.

(iii) Resignation of Cde. Bissoondai Beniprashad-Rayman

The Speaker informed the Assembly that in a letter dated 26th July, 1986, and addressed to him, Cde. Bissoondai Beniprashad-Rayman resigned as a Member of the National Assembly, and as a consequence a seat in the Assembly had become vacant.

In accordance with section 99A of the Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03, he had called upon the Representative of the List of Candidates from which Cde. Beniprashad-Rayman's name had been extracted, to further extract from the said List, the name of a person to fill the vacancy.

(iv) Election of Cde. Kayman Sankar as a Member of the National Assembly

The Speaker announced that he had been informed that the name of Cde. Kayman Sankar had been extracted from the List and that Cde. Sankar had on 31st October, 1986, declared to be an elected Member of the National Assembly to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Cde. Beniprashad-Rayman.

Cde. Sankar had also made and subscribed the Oath as a Member of the National Assembly at that sitting and could take part in the proceedings of the Assembly.

(v) Resignation of Cde. Patricia Daniel

The Speaker announced that he had been informed that Cde. Patricia Daniel, who had been a Member of the Regional Democratic Council for Region 10 - Upper Demerara/Berbice, and who had been elected by that Council to be a Member of the National Assembly, resigned as a Member of the Regional Democratic Council with effect from 1st September, 1986.

The Speaker said that with Cde. Daniel's resignation from the Regional Democratic Council, she had ceased to be a Member of the National Assembly and that the necessary steps were being taken to fill the vacancy in the Assembly.

(vi) Congratulations to Members

On behalf of all Members of the Assembly and his own, the Speaker congratulated Cdes. McKenzie, Kranenburg, Parvatan and Sankar, on their becoming Members of the National Assembly. He welcomed them to the Assembly and extended best wishes to them in their respective assignments. He also extended best wishes to Cdes. Prashad, Thomas and Kissoon, in their new assignments.

(vii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

(a) Cdes. Chandisingh, Sawh, Williams, and Mr. H.F. Singh for that day's sitting, and

(b) Cde. Gill-Mingo until 31st December.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Prime Minister

(i) Annual Reports (4) of the Guyana Prison Service for the years 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985.

(HA:1/1/2^{TJ}) (Circulated)

(ii) Annual Report of the Guyana Police Force for the year 1985.

(HAP:21^{TJ}) (Circulated)

(2) By the Vice-President, First Deputy Prime Minister and Attorney General

Annual Report of the Ministry of Justice for the year 1985.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Regional Development, on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister, Planning and Development

Annual Report of the Ministry of Energy and Mines for the year 1984.

(Circulated)

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

(i) Annual Report of the Guyana Co-operative Insurance Service for the year 1984.

(ST:25/2/1/7) (Circulated)

(ii) Annual Audited Reports (2) of the National Insurance Scheme for the years 1983 and 1984.

(ST:25/2/1/6) (Circulated)

(iii) Annual Report on the Office of the Auditor General for the year 1985.

(346/AM:44) (Circulated)

(iv) Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 1986 (No.33), made under section 8, of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01 on 14th July, 1986, and published in the Gazette on 26th July, 1986

(Circulated)

(v) Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1986, (No. 34), made under section 4 of the Consumption tax Act, Chapter 80:02, on 5th August, 1986, and published in the Gazette on 9th August, 1986.

(ST:34/2/1/9^{IV}) (Circulated)

- (vi) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Order 1986, (No. 35), made under section 5 of the Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Act, Chapter 27:11, on 24th July, 1986, and published in the Gazette on 16th August, 1986.

(Circulated)

- (vii) State Pensions (George Carter) Order 1986 (No. 44), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on 25th August, 1986, and published in the Gazette on 27th September, 1986.

(Circulated)

- (viii) State Pensions (Henwood Adrian) Order 1986 (No. 48), made under section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Chapter 27:04, on 13th October, 1986, and published in the Gazette on 18th October, 1986.

(Circulated)

PRIVILEGE MOTIONS

At this stage, the Speaker informed the Assembly that he had received from Mr. Kwayana, two letters seeking leave to raise, as questions of privilege matters -

- (i) seeking the appointment of a Special Select Committee to investigate all the evidence in possession of the police and/or the Director of Public Prosecutions concerning the allegations against a former Deputy Prime Minister, and
- (ii) concerning the proceeding by the Executive with Municipal Elections under existing legislation as expressed in Chapter 28:03, contrary to the terms of a motion which was passed by the National Assembly without dissent on 30th July, 1986.

The Speaker stated he would consider the requests and would give decisions on the matters at the next sitting of the Assembly which would be held on Friday, 7th November, 1986.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Mr. Kwayana informed the Speaker that the written replies to his questions (Questions Nos. 7 and 8 on the Order Paper for the sitting on 1986-07-30) had not been circulated.

The Speaker undertook to investigate the matter.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE -

Acute Shortage of Rice Bags

At the request of the Minority Leader, permission was granted to him to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing the acute shortage of rice bags.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

The Minister of Regional Development, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bills which were read the first time:-

- (1) MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 -
Bill No. 12/1986 published 1986-10-29

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Municipal and District Councils Act.

- (2) LOCAL DEMOCRATIC ORGANS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 - Bill No. 13/1986
published 1986-10-29

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Local Democratic Organs Act.

- (3) LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 - Bill No. 14/1986
published 1986-10-29

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Local Government Act.

- (4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 - Bill No. 15/1986
published 1986-10-29

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Municipal and District Councils Act and the Local Authorities (Postponement of Elections) Act and to validate certain acts of councillors.

PUBLIC BUSINESSMOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT - DEFINITE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCEAcute Shortage of Rice Bags

The Minority Leader moved the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing the acute shortage of rice bags.

Cde. Basir seconded the motion and spoke on the matter.

Mr. Kwayana, the Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture and Cde. Sankar spoke on the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

At 15:10 hrs, on a motion by the Minister of Regional Development, the Assembly was adjourned to 14:00 hrs on Fr day 1986-11-07.

S. Narain
S. NARAIN
Speaker
86-11-05

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
1986-11-05