

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE 23RD SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (1986) OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD

AT 14:00 HRS

ON MONDAY - 1986-12-22

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (75)

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 (63)

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 (Absent)

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 Minister (1)

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

Senior Ministers (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 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 (Absent - on leave)
- *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
- 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 (24)

- Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. Agnes W. Bend-Kirton, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. E.H.A. Fowler, M.P.
- Cde. Joyce Gill-Mingos, M.P. (Absent - on leave)
- Cde. M. Ally, M.P. (Absent)
- 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)
- Cde. Anna Ally, M.P.
- Cde. L.R. Arthur, M.P.
- Cde. J.R.L. Bovell-Drakes, M.P.
- Cde. N. Calistro, M.P. (Absent)
- 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. (Absent - on leave)

*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) (Absent)
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)
Cde. S.I. McGarrell, M.P. (Region No. 8 - Potaro/Siparuni) (Absent)
Cde. M. Stephens, M.P. (Region No. 9 - Upper Takutu/Upper
Essequibo) (Absent)
Cde. Joycelyn Thom-Lindie, M.P. (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. (Absent)

(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

(i) Resignation of Cde. Robert Williams

The Speaker informed the Assembly that he had received from Cde. Robert Williams a letter tendering his resignation as a Member of the National Assembly with effect from 13th November, 1986 and that with that resignation, a vacancy had been created in the National Assembly.

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. Williams's name had been extracted, to further extract from the said List, the name of a person to fill the vacancy.

(ii) Election of Cde. Dr. Faith Azalea Harding

The Speaker said that he had been informed that the name of Cde. Faith Azalea Harding had been extracted from the List and that Cde. Harding had, on 17th December, 1986, been declared to be an elected Member of the National Assembly.

Cde. Harding had therefore ceased to be a non-elected Member of the National Assembly and having become an elected Member, she would have to take the Oath as such a Member.

Cde. Dr. Harding who was present made and subscribed the oath.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(i) Congratulations to Cde. Dr. Faith Harding

The Speaker, on behalf of Members of the Assembly and himself, congratulated Cde. Dr. Faith Harding on her becoming an elected Member of the National Assembly, and extended best wishes to her. He informed her that she could vote in the National Assembly.

(ii) Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to -

- (a) Cde. Parris up to 27th December,
- (b) Cde. Amna Ally up to 31st December, and
- (c) Cdes. Sharma, Corbin, Bend-Kirton and Sankar, and Mr. M.F. Singh for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

(1) By the Minister of Finance

- (i) Annual Report of the Guyana National Co-operative Bank for the year 1985.

(ST:28/1/5/3^{II}) (Circulated)

- (ii) Financial Paper No. 4/1986 - Schedule of Supplementary Provision on the Current and Capital Estimates totalling \$29,446,898, for the period ended 2nd December, 1986 (Advances made from the Contingencies Fund in 1986)
(ST:10/4^{IV}) (Circulated)

In terms of Standing Order No. 68(1), the Minister named Monday, 29th December, 1986 as the day for the consideration of the Financial Paper in Committee of Supply.

- (iii) Loan Contract between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (Industrial Reactivation Programme) dated November 1, 1985 - Loan No. 154/IC-GY.
(ST:3/2/9/12) (Circulated)
- (iv) Loan Contract between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (Programme for the Rehabilitation of the Guyana Electricity Corporation) dated November 1, 1985 - Loan No. 163/IC-GY.
(ST:3/2/9/13) (Circulated)
- (v) Loan Contract between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank (Programme for Human Resources Training and Development) dated December 27, 1985 - Loan No. 78Q/SF-GY.
(ST:3/2/9/14) (Circulated)
- (vi) State Pension (Joseph Augustus Alexander) Order 1986 (No. 58) made under Section 4 of the State Pensions Act, Cap. 27:04, on 18th November, 1986 and published in the Gazette on 22nd November, 1986.
(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

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

(A:17/6) (Circulated)

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONSCde. Dr. C.B. Jagan, Minority Leader

The Minority Leader referred to recent publications concerning a request purported to have been made by him for increased emoluments for himself, and explained that his request was for an increase in the allowance of \$1,400 per month which was being paid ~~as from~~ 1976 for the upkeep of the office of the Minority Leader.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLSPresentation and First Reading

The Minister of Regional Development, on behalf of the Minister within the Office of the President, presented the following Bills which were read the first time.

- (1) GUYANA GOLD BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL - Bill No. 16/1986

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Guyana Gold Board Act 1981.

- (2) GUYANA GEOLOGY AND MINES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1986 Bill No. 17/1986

A Bill intituled An Act to amend the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission Act 1979.

PUBLIC BUSINESSSYMPATHY TO THE SPEAKER ON DEATH OF WIFE

Before Public Business was proceeded with, the Prime Minister, the Minority Leader and Mr. Kwayana extended sympathy to the Speaker on the death of his wife, Cde. Shamshun Nisau Narain, and asked him to convey their condolences to their sons and other relatives.

The Speaker thanked them for their expression of sympathy. He extended special thanks to His Excellency the President and the Prime Minister for their concern and support during the illness of his wife.

MOTIONS

- ITEM 1 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF CDE. SYDNEY HANSEL SUKHU, M.S. - Notice Paper No. 109 published 1986-12-16

The Vice-President, National Mobilisation, and Deputy Prime Minister moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. Sydney Hansel Sukhu, M.S., 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 widow, children and relatives.

Mr. Kwayana spoke to the motion.

The motion was, thereafter, put and carried with Members standing in silence for one minute.

ITEM 2 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF CDE. RALPH CHESTERFIELD VAN SLUYTMAN - Notice Paper No. 110 published 1986-12-16

The Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Cde. Ralph Chesterfield Van Sluytman, 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 widow, children and relatives.

The Deputy Speaker and Mr. Kwayana spoke to the motion.

The motion was thereafter, put and carried with Members standing in silence for one minute.

ITEM 3 - SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF CDE. GEORGE BOWMAN - Notice Paper No. 111 published 1986-12-16

The Minister within the Ministry of National Mobilisation 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. George Bowman, 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 widow, children and relatives.

ITEM 4 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTOMS DUTIES (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1986 (No. 33) - Notice Paper No. 107 published 1986-11-07

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 9 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirm the Customs Duties (Amendment) Order 1986 (No. 33), which was made on 14th July, 1986, and published in the Gazette on 26th July, 1986.

Mr. Kwayana spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was put and carried.

ITEM 5 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT No 3)
ORDER 1986 (No. 34) - Notice Paper No. 108 published 1986-11-07

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 5 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) (No. 3) Order 1986 (No. 34), which was made on 5th August, 1986, and published in the Gazette on 9th August, 1986.

The Minority Leader and Mr. Kwayana spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was put and carried on the following division:

<u>FOR</u>	<u>AGAINST</u>
Cde. Thom-Lindie	Mr. Kwayana
Cde. Domingo	Cde. Belgrave
Cde. I. Ally	Cde. Basir
Cde. Abrahams	Cde. Nokta
Cde. Khan	Cde. Collymore
Cde. Latchminarayan	Cde. S.F. Mohamed
Cde. Bishop	Cde. R.D. Persaud
Cde. Semple	Cde. C. Jagan
Cde. E. Mohamed	
Cde. Trotman	
Cde. B. Persaud	
Cde. Marshall	
Cde. Edwards	
Cde. Deygoo	
Cde. DeJesus	
Cde. Deen	
Cde. Cumberbatch	
Cde. Chin	
Cde. Calistro	
Cde. Bovell-Drakes	
Cde. Arthur	
Cde. A. Ally	
Cde. Munroe	
Cde. Doobay	
Cde. Davidson	
Cde. Fowler	
Cde. Ferreira	
Cde. Odie-Ali	
Cde. Habibulla	
Cde. Harding	
Cde. Kissoon	
Cde. Sawh	
Cde. Johnson	
Cde. Harewood-Benn	
Cde. Van West-Charles	
Cde. Thomas	
Cde. Prashad	
Cde. Jackson	
Cde. Burnham	
Cde. Chandisingh	
Cde. Green	

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

As that was the last sitting before Christmas, the Speaker extended to all Members of the National Assembly and their families, the Staff of Parliament Office and the Press best wishes for a very merry Christmas.

The Prime Minister, the Minority Leader and Mr. Kwayana reciprocated the good wishes to them.

ADJOURNMENT

At 15:46 hrs, on a motion by the Minister of Regional Development, the Assembly was adjourned to 14:00 hrs on Monday, 1986-12-29.

S. Narain
S. NARAIN
Speaker 86.12.29

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

1986-12-29