

THIRD PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION

1973 1975

MINUTES of the Proceedings of the 69th Sitting of the National Assembly held in the Parliament Chamber at the Public Buildings, Georgetown, Demerara,

AT 2.00 P.M.

FRIDAY, 11TH JULY, 1975

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Speaker

Cde. Sase Narain, J.P., Speaker

Members of the Government - People's National Congress (50)

Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister (2)

Cde. L.F.S. Burnham, O.E., S.C., Prime Minister (Absent - on leave)

Cde. P.A. Reid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Development

Senior Ministers (9)

Cde. H.D. Hoyte, S.C., Minister of Economic Development

Cde. H. Green, Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation

Cde. H.O. Jack, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources (Absent - on leave)

Cde. F.E. Hope, Minister of Finance

Cde. S.S. Naraine, A.A., Minister of Works and Housing

Cde. G.A. King, Minister of Trade and Consumer Protection

Cde. G.B. Kennard, C.C.H., Minister of Agriculture

Cde. C.L. Baird, Minister of Education and Social Development (Absent - on leave)

Cde. F.R. Wills, S.C., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice

Ministers (5)

Cde. W.G. Carrington, Minister of Labour

Cde. S.M. Field-Ridley, Minister of Information and Culture (Absent - on leave)

Cde. B. Ramsaroop, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House

Cde. D.M.R. Harper, Minister of Health (Absent)

Cde. C.V. Mingo, Minister of Home Affairs

Ministers of State (9)

Cde. M. Kasim, A.A., Minister of State for Agriculture

Cde. D.E. Clarke, Minister of State - Regional (East Berbice/Corentyne) (Absent - on leave)

Cde. P. Duncan, J.P., Minister of State - Regional (Rupununi) (Absent)

#Non elected Minister

- Cde. C.A. Nascimento, Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister
 Cde. M. Zaheeruddeen, J.P., Minister of State - Regional (Essequibo Coast/West Demerara)
 Cde. K.B. Bancroft, Minister of State - Regional (Mazaruni/Potaro)
 # Cde. W. Haynes, Minister of State for Consumer Protection (Absent)
 # Cde. A. Salim, Minister of State - Regional (East Demerara/West Coast Berbice)
 # Cde. F.U.A. Carmichael, Minister of State - Regional (North West)

Parliamentary Secretaries (8)

- Cde. J.R. Thomas, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Development
 Cde. C.E. Wrights, J.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Housing
 Cde. M.M. Ackman, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, and Government Chief Whip
 Cde. E.L. Ambrose, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
 Cde. S. Prashad, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation
 Cde. J.P. Chowritmootoo, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Social Development
 Cde. R.H.O. Corbin, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister (Absent)
 Cde. M. Corrica, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Housing

Deputy Speaker (1)

- Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, Deputy Speaker

Other Members (16)

- Cde. J.N. Aaron
 Cde. L.M. Branco
 Cde. E.H.A. Fowler
 Cde. J. Gill
 Cde. W. Hussain
 Cde. S. Jaiserrisingh (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. K.M.E. Jonas (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. M. Nissar
 Cde. L.E. Ramsahoye
 Cde. J.G. Ramson (Absent - on leave)
 Cde. P.A. Rayman
 Cde. E.M. Stoby, J.P.
 Cde. S.H. Sukhu, M.S., J.P.
 Cde. C. Sukul, J.P.
 Cde. H.A. Taylor
 Cde. L.E. Willems

Members of the Opposition - Liberator Party (2)

- Mr. M.F. Singh, Leader of the Opposition
 Mrs. E. Da Silva

OFFICERS

- Clerk of the National Assembly (F.A. Narain)
 Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (M.B. Henry, AMBIM)

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

Non elected Minister

OATHS

Cde. Frederick Rudolph Wills, S.C., Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice (a non elected Minister) made and **subscribed the** oath of office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKERAppointments

The Speaker informed the Assembly that-

- (i) Cde. F.R. Wills, S.C., was appointed Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Justice, with effect from 24th April, 1975, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Justice, with effect from 1st July, 1975, and was designated a Senior Minister, from **1st July, 1975,**
- (ii) Cde. C.L. Baird, Minister of Education and Social Development, had been designated a Senior Minister, with effect from 1st July, 1975,
- (iii) Cde. J.R. Thomas, who had been a Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of Works and Housing, had been appointed Parliamentary Secretary at the Ministry of National Development with effect from 1st July, 1975, and
- (iv) Cde. M. Corrica had been appointed Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works and Housing, with effect from 1st **July, 1975.**

On behalf of the Assembly and himself, the **Speaker extended** congratulations to the Comrades on their appointments and wished them success in their new offices.

Leave

The Speaker announced that leave had been granted to Cdes. Burnham, Jack, Baird, Field-Ridley, Clarke and **Cde. Ranson** for that day's sitting.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.

- (1) By Cde. R.C. Van Sluytman, Deputy Speaker (as Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee in the absence of the Speaker):

Report of the Standing Orders Committee on the motion for the amendment to Standing Order No. 35(5).

(PARL: 5/12 V)(Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Finance:

- (a) Sugar Levy (Security for Payment) Regulation 1975 (No. 8), made under section 7 of the Sugar Levy Act 1974 (No. 22 of 1974), on the 27th of June, 1975, and published in the Gazette on the 28th of June, 1975.

(F: 1 T.J.)(Circulated)

- (b) Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Order 1975 (No.63), made under section 8 of the Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Act, Cap. 1:07, on the 17th of June, 1975, and published in the Gazette on the 21st of June, 1975.

(8/5/3)(Circulated)

- (c) Customs Duties Order 1975 (No.65), made under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, on the 26th of June, 1975, and published in the Gazette on the 28th of June, 1975.

(CEX 22 TJ)Circulated)

- (d) Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1975 (No.66), made under section 4 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, on the 27th of June, 1975, and published in the Gazette on the 28th of June, 1975.

(G 669 III)(Circulated)

- (e) Customs (Exemption from Duties) Order 1975 (No. 67), made under section 8 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, on the 27th of June, 1975, and published in the Gazette on the 28th of June, 1975.

(G 669 III) (Circulated)

- (f) Loan Agreement (Second Education Project) between Guyana and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development dated May 9, 1975 (Loan Number 1106 GUA).

(4/6/5/2/9)(Circulated)

- (g) Development Credit Agreement (Second Education Project) between Guyana and International Development Association dated May 9, 1975 (Credit Number 544 GUA).

(4/6/5/2/9 .(Circulated)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

- (1) CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975 - Bill No. 27/1975

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
CUSTOMS ACT.

- (2) TIMEHRI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (AMENDMENT) BILL 1975 -
Bill No. 26/1975

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, on behalf of the Minister of Works and Housing, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND THE
TIMEHRI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ORDINANCE.

PUBLIC BUSINESSBILL Second and Third ReadingsITEM 1. PRISON (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL 1975 - Bill No. 25/1975
published 31.5.75

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT TO AMEND
THE PRISON ACT.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the motion was put and carried.

The Bill was then read a second time.

Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

In Committee

Clauses 1 to 5 were passed as printed.

Insertion of Clause 5A: On a motion by the
Minister of Home Affairs the following was
inserted as clause 5A;

"Insertion of section 5A in the Principal Act. 5A. Insert immediately after section 5 of the Principal Act the following section -

<p>'Duties of Deputy Director.</p>	<p>5A. The Deputy Director shall act as principal assistant to the Director in the performance of his duties and shall have power, during the absence or incapacity of the Director, or when so authorised by him to do or suffer any act or thing which may by law be done or suffered by the Director.'."</p>
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Clauses 6 to 10 were passed as printed.

Recommittal of clause 10

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs clause 10 was recommitted.

Clause 10: On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs the following amendment was put and carried:

Substitution of the words "Public Service Commission"
for the word "Minister" in subsection(2)(c).

Clause 10 was then passed as amended.

Insertion of clause 11: On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs the following was inserted as clause 11:

<p>"Insertion of section 39A in the Principal Act.</p>	<p>11. Insert immediately after section 39 of the Principal Act the following section -</p> <p>'Appointment of Senior Superintendent to enquire into prison offence.</p> <p>39A. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act, where a prisoner commits any prison offence the Director may appoint a Senior Superintendent, a Superintendent or an Assistant Superintendent to enquire into the offence and if the prisoner is found guilty of the offence the person so appointed may impose any or all of the punishments specified in section 39.'."</p>
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Assembly resumed.

On a motion by the Minister of Home Affairs the Bill was read the third time and passed as amended in Committee.

MOTIONSSUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 76 (5)

On a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, and with the leave of the Speaker, Standing Order No. 76 (5) was suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed with the motion for the adoption of the Report of the Standing Orders Committee on the motion for amendment to Standing Order No. 35(5).

ITEM 2 - ADOPTION OF REPORT OF STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Standing Orders Committee on the motion for the amendment to Standing Order No. 35(5) be adopted.

ITEM 3 - AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 35(5)

Assembly resumed the debate on the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 35 be amended by the substitution of the following for paragraph (5):

"(5) A Member shall be referred to in the Assembly either with the title "Comrade" before his surname or official designation or as the Honourable Member, Mr "

Mrs. Da Silva and the Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

ITEM 4 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTOMS DUTIES ORDER 1975 (NO. 65)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in terms of section 9 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirm the Customs Duties Order 1975 (No. 65), which was made on the 26th of June, 1975, and published in the Gazette on the 29th of June, 1975.

ITEM 5 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CONSUMPTION TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDER 1975 (NO. 66)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in terms of section 5 of the Consumption Tax Act, Chapter 80:02, confirm the Consumption Tax (Amendment) Order 1975 (No. 66), which was made on the 27th of June, 1975, and published in the Gazette (extraordinary) on the 28th of June, 1975.

Mrs. Da. Silva spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried.

ITEM 6 - CONFIRMATION OF THE CUSTOMS (EXEMPTION FROM DUTIES) ORDER 1975 (NO. 67)

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion which was put and carried:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in terms of section 9 of the Customs Act, Chapter 82:01, confirm the Customs (Exemption from Duties) Order 1975 (No. 67), which was made on the 27th of June, 1975, and published in the Gazette (Extraordinary) on the 28th of June, 1975.

ITEM 7 - AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION NO. XXXII OF 17TH APRIL, 1974 GUARANTEE OF CREDITS TO GUYANA BAUXITE COMPANY LTD.

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. XXXII passed on 17th April, 1974, this National Assembly, authorised **the Minister of Finance to sign Agreements, as guarantor,** between international financial institutions and the Guyana Bauxite Company Ltd., amounting to G\$85 million for the purchase of capital equipment and engineering services in connexion with its expansion scheme for increasing the production of calcined bauxite;

AND WHEREAS the rate of exchange of the Guyana Dollar against the United States Dollar, which is the denomination of most of the loans, may be subject to wide fluctuation;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that a fixed sum for borrowing in United States Dollars should be authorised:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly do amend the terms of Resolution No. XXXII, passed on 17th April, 1974, by the addition at the end of the Resolution of the words "or the equivalent amount of forty two million, five hundred thousand U.S. dollars (U.S. \$42,500,000)".

8.

The Leader of the Opposition spoke to the motion.

Thereafter the motion was put and carried.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.45 p.m., on a motion by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Leader of the House, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.



S. NARAIN
Speaker

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown,
22nd July, 1975.