

FEDERATION OF MALAYA

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATES

Official Report

THIRD MEETING OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 12TH OCTOBER, 1955. AT 10 A.M.

PRESENT :

- The Honourable Mr. Speaker (RAJA SIR UDA BIN RAJA MUHAMMAD, K.B.E. C.M.G.).
- .. the Chief Minister and Minister for Home Affairs (YAN TERAMAT MULIA TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN PUTRA).
- .. the Chief Secretary (MR. D. C. WATHERSTON, C.M.G., M.C.S. (*ex officio*)).
- .. the Minister for Transport (COLONEL H. S. LEE, C.B.E., J.P.).
- .. the Attorney-General (MR. M. J. P. HOGAN, C.M.G., Q.C. (*ex officio*)).
- .. the Financial Secretary (MR. C. J. THOMAS, C.M.G., M.C.S. (*ex officio*)).
- .. the Minister for Natural Resources (DR. ISMAIL BIN DATOH ABDUL RAHMAN).
- .. the Minister for Economic Affairs (MR. O. A. SPENCER).
- .. the Secretary for Defence (MR. A. H. P. HUMPHREY, O.B.E., M.C.S.).
- .. the Minister for Education (DATO ABDUL RAZAK BIN DATO HUSSAIN, Orang Kaya Indera Shahbandar).
- .. the Minister for Health and Social Welfare (MR. LEONG YEW KOH).
- .. the Minister for Labour (MR. V. T. SAMBANTHAN).
- .. the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Town Planning (ENCHE SULEIMAN BIN DATOH ABDUL RAHMAN).
- .. the Minister for Agriculture (ENCHE ABDUL AZIZ BIN ISHAK).
- .. the Minister for Works (ENCHE SARDON BIN HAJI JUBIR).
- .. the Minister for Posts and Telecommunications (MR. ONG YOKE LIN).
- .. the Menteri Besar, Perak (TUAN HAJI ABDUL WAHAB BIN ABDUL AZIZ, Dato Panglima Bukit Gantang).
- .. the Menteri Besar, Perlis (RAJA HAJI AHMAD BIN RAJA ENDUT, P.J.K., O.B.E.).
- .. the Menteri Besar, Trengganu (DATO PERDANA MENTRI-DI-RAJA, CHE KAMARUDDIN BIN HAJI IDRIS, M.C.S.).

that this procedure is not satisfactory, and with the changed composition of this Council it is considered to be preferable for the Government to propose the names of members to be elected and submit a list to the Council in the form of a resolution for approval.

The former representatives of this Council on the Court of the University were the Honourable Dato Sir Clough Thuraisingham, the Honourable Datoh Haji Mohamed Eusoff, the Honourable Mr. C. Thornton and the Honourable the late Mr. Yong Shook Lin. I should like, Sir, to take this opportunity on behalf of Council to place on record our appreciation of the work that these four gentlemen had done on behalf of Council on the Court of the University. (*Applause*).

In conclusion, Sir, I may add that the four members whose names I propose in the resolution have been approached as to whether they would be willing to serve as representatives on the Court of the University and they have indicated their consent to do so. I accordingly beg to move.

The Minister for Works (Enche Sardon bin Haji Jubir): Sir, I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

BILLS

THE PENSIONS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 1955

First Reading

The Chief Secretary: Sir, I beg to move that the Pensions (Special Provisions) Bill, 1955, be read a first time.

The Financial Secretary: Sir, I beg to second the motion.

The Bill is read a first time.

The Chief Secretary: Sir, I beg to give notice that I shall move the second reading of this Bill at the next meeting of this Council.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1955

First Reading

The Minister for Transport (Colonel H. S. Lee): Sir, I beg to move that a

Bill intituled "An Ordinance to amend the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1952" be read a first time.

The Minister for Works: Sir, I beg to second the motion.

The Bill is read a first time.

Colonel Lee: Sir, I beg to give notice that I intend to move the second reading of the Bill at the next meeting of Council.

THE CONTROL OF RENT BILL, 1955

First Reading

The Attorney-General: Sir, I beg to move that a Bill intituled "an Ordinance to amend and re-enact the law relating to the control of rent and matters incidental thereto" be read a first time.

The Minister for Local Government, Housing and Town Planning: Sir, I beg to second the motion.

The Bill is read a first time.

The Attorney-General: Sir, I beg to give notice that I shall move the second reading of this Bill at the next meeting of this Council, which takes place tomorrow.

THE PETALING JAYA AUTHORITY (SPECIAL PROVISIONS AND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1955

First Reading

The Minister for Local Government, Housing and Town Planning (Enche Suleiman bin Datoh Abdul Rahman): Sir, I beg to move that a Bill intituled "an Ordinance to provide for the levying of rates in the town area of Petaling Jaya during the year 1955 and to amend the Petaling Jaya Authority Ordinance, 1954" be read a first time.

The Financial Secretary: Sir, I beg to second the motion.

The Bill is read a first time.

Enche Suleiman: Sir, I beg to give notice that I shall move the second reading of this Bill at the next meeting of this Council.

Council adjourns to the 13th October, 1955.

Council resumes.

The Chief Secretary: Sir, I beg to report that the Bill has been considered in Committee and has been agreed to without amendment.

Third Reading

The Chief Secretary: Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be read a third time and passed.

The Financial Secretary: Sir, I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a third time and passed.

THE MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1955

Second Reading

The Minister for Transport (Colonel H. S. Lee): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a Bill intituled "an Ordinance to amend the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1952" be read a second time.

Sir, this Bill contains a number of amendments almost entirely in matters of detail which it is proposed to make to the Merchant Shipping Ordinance, 1952. The principal Ordinance came into force in 1953 and it provided, for the first time, a uniform and comprehensive merchant shipping law applicable throughout the Federation. It is a formidable Ordinance, consisting of 531 sections and numerous appendices, and it is, perhaps, not surprising that experience of its operation over a number of years—two to three years—has shown that certain adjustments are desirable to facilitate the working of the Ordinance. A glance at the Objects and Reasons accompanying this Bill will have indicated the nature of the proposed amendments. While I do not think that I need go over them in detail, I should like to touch on one or two points.

When a shipping casualty occurred in 1953 we held a Court of Investigation under section 335 of the principal Ordinance. We found we had no power to cancel or suspend a local certificate issued in Singapore. Clauses 13 (b) and 15 of the Bill are designed to remedy this state of affairs and the Singapore Government has agreed to make a reciprocal provision in its law.

I should like to refer to Clauses 22 and 23 of the Bill which are designed to transfer to State and Settlement Governments the power to fix boat fares. The power at present is vested in the High Commissioner in Council under sections 445 and 483 of the Ordinance. Boat fares, however, necessarily depend upon local conditions, circumstances and requirements; therefore, the fixing of these fees is a matter of local concern.

Finally, I would like to touch on Clauses 27, 28 and 29. These three Clauses deal with the Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Schedules. These Schedules are somewhat inconsistent; they do not each provide the necessary fees for all the services performed, yet the work involved in respect of the various classes of vessels—native sailing ships, boats and ships—is similar. Broadly speaking, the amendments to these Clauses are designed to make the three Schedules consistent.

Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be read a second time.

The Attorney-General: Sir, I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a second time.

Committee

Council resolves itself into Committee.

The Bill is agreed to without amendment.

Council resumes.

Colonel H. S. Lee: Sir, I beg to report that the Bill has been considered in Committee and agreed to without amendment.

Third Reading

Colonel H. S. Lee: Sir, I therefore move that the Bill be read a third time and passed.

The Attorney-General: Sir, I beg to second the motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read a third time and passed.

THE CONTROL OF RENT BILL, 1955

Second Reading

The Attorney-General: Sir, I beg to move that a Bill intituled an Ordinance to amend and re-enact the law relating