

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

SINGAPORE, 25TH MAY, 1955

No. 5

10.00 a.m.

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## AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF PUBLIC BUSINESS.

### Notice of Presentation of Bills

1. The Attorney-General—  
Interpretation and General Clauses (Amendment) Bill.
  2. The Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing—  
Land Titles Bill.
  3. The Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing—  
Land Acquisition (Temporary Provisions) Bill.
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### ORDERS OF THE DAY AND NOTICES OF MOTIONS

1. The Legislative Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Bill—Second Reading.
2. The Labour Bill—Second Reading.
3. The Minister for Education to move—

*(With Mr. Speaker's consent, under S.O. 23, but subject to the general assent of Members present to dispensation with the requisite one clear day's Notice).*

That this Assembly is of the opinion that a Committee be appointed with the following terms of reference—

'to investigate the situation in Chinese schools in Singapore and to make recommendations for the improvement and strengthening of Chinese education in the interests of Chinese culture and orderly progress towards self-government and ultimate independence in Singapore';

that the Committee do consist of the following—

1. Mr. Chew Swee Kee (*Chairman*)
2. Mr. Richard Chuan Hoe Lim
3. Mr. Wong Foo Nam
4. Mr. Abdul Hamid bin Haji Jumat
5. Mr. Lim Yew Hock
6. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew
7. Mr. Goh Tong Liang
8. Mr. Lim Cher Kheng
9. Mr. M. P. D. Nair;

that the Committee have powers to send for persons, papers and records;

that 5 members of the Committee shall form a quorum;

that the Committee do meet inside the Assembly House building.

4. The Minister for Communications and Works to move—

That this Assembly is of the opinion that a Commission should be appointed to examine the Public Passenger Transport system of Singapore and to advise on its development.

5. The Minister for Local Government, Lands and Housing to move—

That this Assembly is of the opinion that a Committee should be appointed to enquire into the desirability of decentralising the powers and functions of the City Council and the Rural Board and in particular:

- (a) to enquire into and make recommendations on the desirability of setting up District Councils responsible for local government functions in different geographical areas of Singapore;
  - (b) to recommend names for such District Councils and the boundaries within which they should function having regard to the municipal status of the older parts of the city area;
  - (c) to enquire into and make recommendations on the desirability of establishing statutory corporations responsible for the supply of water, electricity and gas and for any other services now performed by the City Council;
  - (d) to enquire into and make recommendations on the re-allocation of the functions and financial responsibilities between the Government and the local authorities;
  - (e) to make recommendations on the procedure to be adopted to allow the business of the local authorities to be conducted in languages in addition to English and to recommend which languages should be allowed;
- and to report in accordance with the foregoing provisions.

6. The Chief Secretary to move—

That this Assembly, in accordance with sub-section (2) of section 11 of the University of Malaya Ordinance, 1949 (No. 12 of 1949), resolves that the University of Malaya (Staff Transfer) (Amendment) Rules, 1955, made on the 24th day of March, 1955, and published as Notification No. S 106 in the *Gazette Supplement* No. 26 of 7th April, 1955, as contained in Sessional Paper No. S.L. 1 of 1955 be approved.

7. The Financial Secretary to move—

*(Governor's recommendation or consent to be signified).*

That this Assembly resolves that the Government should be empowered to authorise expenditure on new services up to a limit of \$10,000 in each case, and revotes of provision approved in the previous year, pending the covering approval of this Assembly.

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### QUESTIONS NOT FOR ORAL ANSWER

1. Mr. JOHN EDE: To ask the Minister for Commerce and Industry whether, in view of Government's declared policy "to foster the expansion of our great entrepot trade" and "to encourage in all practical ways the development of local industries", he will consider expanding the Agricultural Fair, announced to be held this year, into a Trade and Agricultural Fair, giving special emphasis to local agricultural and industrial products.
2. Mr. R. JUMABHOY: To ask the Chief Secretary if he will state,
  - (a) the number of expatriate officers appointed by the Government since the adoption of his motion on the Survey of needs for trained personnel in Divisions I and II of the Public Service by the then Legislative Council on 18th November, 1952, to this date;
  - (b) how many of these, if any, are on—
    - (i) Pensionable basis;
    - (ii) Contractual basis; and
  - (c) whether the Government will give an assurance that in future the names of any expatriate officers and the reasons for their employment will be given to this House.

3. Mr. JOHN EDE: To ask the Chief Secretary what steps are being taken by Government to revise and improve in accuracy the present electoral registers; and whether he will guarantee that the necessary steps are taken before the City and Island Council elections.
4. Mr. JOHN EDE: To ask the Minister for Labour and Welfare whether he will state—
  - (a) the number of manual workers employed in Singapore on (i) 31st March, 1954, (ii) 30th September, 1954, and (iii) 31st March, 1955;
  - (b) the daily average of applicants for employment at the Government Employment Exchange (i) during 1953, (ii) during 1954, and (iii) during the first four months of 1955; and
  - (c) the daily average placings in employment by the Exchange in the same periods.
5. Mr. JOHN EDE: To ask the Minister for Education whether he will state the numbers of applicants received for evening classes in each of the 16 subjects in the Junior Technical School for the school year which commenced on 2nd May, 1955.
6. Mr. JOHN EDE: To ask the Minister for Health whether he will state how many school-children, expressed (i) in terms of the total number of (a) boys and (b) girls and (ii) as a percentage of (a) boys and (b) girls at school, have been X-rayed for signs of tuberculosis in 1952, 1953, 1954 and the first four months of 1955 respectively; what percentage of the total were X-rayed (a) in Government clinics and (b) at the S.A.T.A. clinic on behalf of Government; and what is Government's policy in this matter.

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#### SESSIONAL PRINTED PAPERS PRESENTED

1955

- L.A. 1. Report from the Committee of Selection (6th May, 1955).
- L.A. 2. Minutes of Proceedings of the House Committee on 9th May, 1955 (18th May, 1955).
- S.L. 1. University of Malaya (Staff Transfer) (Amendment) Rules, 1955 (20th May, 1955).
- S.L. 5. Prohibition of Imports (Amendment) Order, 1955 (30th April, 1955).
- \*S.L. 6. Central Provident Fund Regulations, 1955 (27th April, 1955).
- \*S.L. 7. Central Provident Fund Rules, 1955 (27th April, 1955).
- S.L. 9. Workmen's Compensation Regulations, 1955 (6th May, 1955).
- S.L. 11. *Gazette* Notifications cancelling G.N. No. S 95 and G.N. No. S 96 of 4th April, 1955 [Sessional Papers Nos. S.L. 6/1955 and S.L. 7/1955] (16th May, 1955).
- S.L. 12. Central Provident Fund Regulations, 1955 (10th May, 1955).
- S.L. 13. Central Provident Fund Rules, 1955 (10th May, 1955).
- S.L. 14. Pineapple Industry (Amendment) Regulations, 1955 (18th May, 1955).

\* Note:—S.L. 6 and S.L. 7 of 1955 have been cancelled *vide* S.L. 11 of 1955.

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