

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE
EIGHTH PARLIAMENT (2002-2006)**

**DECLARATION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA
ON THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2005

**EMANATING OUT OF THE WORKSHOP ON
HIV/AIDS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS**

SPONSORED BY

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
AND THE
UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND**

19TH & 20TH JULY, 2005

PRESENTED BY

THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON

6TH APRIL, 2006

**DECLARATION BY THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF GUYANA ON THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC**

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

We, the members of the National Assembly in Guyana, having participated in the forum entitled "Leadership as a vital tool against HIV/AIDS- Guyanese Parliamentarians Fighting Against HIV, AIDS" express our gratitude to the Hon. Speaker and Support Staff of the National Assembly, the two Chief Whips and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for their support in making this event a success, and hereby:

1. Recognise

- a. that HIV/AIDS represents a serious threat to our population at large
- b. the negative impact this epidemic on our social and economic life
- c. that the epidemic also represents a threat to our prospects for economic growth and development.

2. We commit to

- a. give priority to participation in the development of the appropriate legislative framework for the fight against the disease and the approval of any necessary legislative reforms.
- b. use our good offices to mobilise the people of Guyana to become aware of and work together in the fight against this scourge.
- c. work in our communities and other spheres of influence to eliminate the negative stigma and discrimination against persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS
- d. support suitable initiatives for the education and protection of women, men, children, especially orphans and young people in the fight against HIV/AIDS
- e. the strengthening of the National Health System as the basis for the delivery of the programmes of prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS.

3. We pledge to

- a. work together with civil society including the private sector, religious organisations, youth and sport organisations, NGOs, and networks of persons living with HIV/AIDS in the fight against this epidemic**
- b. work in our constituencies and other areas of influence to raise awareness and encourage community participation in the fight against HIV/AIDS.**
- c. work in a non-partisan and collaborative way to ensure full national support for the fight against this epidemic.**

4. We undertake to

- a. support the allocation of adequate levels of resources by the National Assembly for the fight against HIV/AIDS.**
- b. use our political influence to advocate for and support all initiatives and worthwhile projects at the national, regional and international levels.**
- c. initiate and support, wherever appropriate, Public Education Programmes for the fight against HIV/AIDS; and discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS.**

5. We will

- a. advocate and support programmes which promote responsible and culturally appropriate behaviour in all communities countrywide and in particular amongst young people.**
- b. become actively involved in programmes for the mobilisation of financial and other resources**
- c. seek to improve the effectiveness and positive impact of existing programmes for the fight against HIV/AIDS.**

6. Work in collaboration with the international community and regional initiatives in the global fight against this pandemic.

7. We undertake to

- a. support and initiate programmes in support of the fight in all of the regions of Guyana.**
- b. widely publicise the outcome of this workshop and to undertake follow up events in support of our undertakings to support the nationwide programme.**