

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 96th SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2015-2018) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 8TH AUGUST, 2018,
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN.
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (69)

Speaker (1)

*Hon Dr. Barton U.A. Scotland, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (36)

(i) **A Partnership For National Unity/Alliance For Change (36)**

First Vice-President and Prime Minister (1)

+ Hon. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P., First Vice-President and
Prime Minister (Absent – on leave)

Other Vice-Presidents (3)

+ Hon. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs

+Hon. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Public Security

+*Hon. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P., Vice-President and Minister of Indigenous
Peoples' Affairs (Absent – on leave)

Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (1)

+ Hon. Basil Williams, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

Senior Ministers (15)

+ Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., Minister of Social Protection and Government Chief Whip

+ Hon. Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., Minister of State

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+ Cabinet Member

*Non-Elected Member

2.

- + Hon. Dr. Rupert Roopnaraine, M.P., Minister of the Public Service
- + Hon. Ronald A. Bulkan, M.P., Minister of Communities
- + Hon. Dr. George A. Norton, M.P., Minister of Social Cohesion with responsibility for Culture, Youth and Sport
- + Hon. Winston D. Jordan, M.P., Minister of Finance
- + Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P., Minister of Natural Resources
- + Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of Public Health
- + Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P., Minister of Public Infrastructure
- + Hon. Catherine A. Hughes, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister of Public Telecommunications
- +*Hon. Winston G. Felix, D.S.M., M.P., Minister of Citizenship
- + Hon. Hans Dominic Gaskin, M.P., Minister of Business
- +Hon. Noel L. Holder, M.P., Minister of Agriculture
- +Hon. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni), Minister of Public Affairs
- +Hon. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P., Minister of Education

Ministers (7)

*Hon. Keith Scott, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Social Protection

Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Public Infrastructure

Hon. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs

Hon. Jaipaul Sharma, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the Ministry of Finance

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+ Cabinet Member

*Non-Elected Member

3.

Hon. Dr. Karen Cummings, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica), Minister within the Ministry of Public Health

Hon. Simona Charles-Broomes, M.P., Minister within the Ministry of Natural Resources

Hon. Valarie Patterson-Yearwood, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice), Minister within the Ministry of Communities

Other Members (9)

Ms. Jennifer J. Wade, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice) (Absent)

Ms. Rajcoomarie Bancroft, M.P. (Region No. 8 –Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr. John Adams, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Richard Allen, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Mr. Michael Carrington, M.P.

Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Mr. Charrandas Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Haimraj Rajkumar, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Audwin Rutherford, M.P.

MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION (32)

(i) People’s Progressive Party (32)

Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Mr. Clement J. Rohee, M.P.

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Ms. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

4.

Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P.

Ms. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P.

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P.

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Dr. Vindhya V. Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Ms. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Joseph L.F. Hamilton, M.P.

Mr. Collin D. Croal, M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Ms. Gillian R. Burton-Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P.

Dr. Jennifer Westford, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Ms. Africo Selman, M.P.

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Ganga Persaud, M.P.

Ms. Yvonne Pearson- Fredericks, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. (Region No.3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Mr. Cornel Damon, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supenaam)

Mr. Alister S. Charlie, M.P. (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo)

Mr. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P.

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5.

Mr. Adrian V. Anamayah, M.P.

Mr. Harry Gill, M.P.

Ms. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P.

Mr. Vickram O. Bharrat, M.P.

Officers (2)

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, A.A., Clerk of the National Assembly

Ms. Deslyn West, Assistant Clerk of the National Assembly

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.12 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read Prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

(1) Leave:

Honourable Members, leave has been granted to the First Vice-President and Prime Minister and Ms. Indranie Chandarpal for today's Sitting.

(2) Welcome Members to the last Sitting before the Parliamentary Recess

“Hon. Members, I welcome you to this our last Sitting before our long recess. In accordance with our Standing Orders, our recess commences on Friday, 10th August, 2018 and ends on Wednesday, 10th October, 2018. The 96 Sittings which we have had to date span the period from 10th June, 2015, to today, Wednesday, 8th August, 2018. Those Sittings are divided as follows at the 2016 Recess on 8th August, 2016, there were a total of 42 Sittings. At the 2017 Recess on 4th August, 2017, there were a total of 70

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Sittings and as of today's Sitting, the last before the commencement of our 2018 Recess, there have been a total of 96 Sittings. Much has been achieved during that period, but it would be true to say that there is much room for a more concentrated use of the available Sitting Days.

As regards the Reports from the various Committees, some proposals will be developed during the recess with the intention of enabling a speedier attention to the Reports and Recommendations emanating from Committees.

During this period now coming to a close, the Speaker has enabled the attendance of some Honourable Members at Meetings, Training Programmes and other events to strengthen the awareness of Members of Parliament and to better fit them for the very varied issues which now confront Parliamentarians worldwide. These engagements will continue as opportunities present themselves.

Honourable Members, there have been too few meetings of the Parliamentary Management Committee this year and it is my hope that when we return we will discover how this can be changed.

Honourable Members, I refer to two of our Standing Orders, Standing Order No. 38(6) sets out the manner in which Honourable Members should present their Speeches in this House. I call the attention of Honourable Members to this provision as a means of encouraging the obedience of Honourable Members to this requirement when we meet after the recess.

Standing Order No. 41(4) reads "it shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language about Members of the Assembly". I remark on this provision by way of reminder and entreat Members to embrace civility in the presentation of their speeches."

7.

(3) **4th Annual Youth Parliament**

“Honourable Members, I am pleased to tell you that the 4th Annual Youth Parliament will be held during the period August 10 - 18, 2018. The motto this year is ‘Our Generation, Our Voice, inspire, encourage, impact’.

Unlike previous years, this year’s Youth Parliament would involve two groups - 35 students from the Secondary Schools in our ten (10) Administrative Regions and a similar number of students from the campuses of the University of Guyana.

As a result, two (2) days of debates would be held on 15th and 16th August, 2018 with one day devoted to debates by each of the two groups. As it has been in the previous encounters the participants from the Secondary Schools are provided by the Central and Regional Education Authorities for the Secondary Schools. The Student Bodies with the University Authorities would enable the presence of the Students of the University of Guyana. In both instances, the guidelines for selection were provided by the Parliament Office. Some Honourable Members have agreed to assist the Youths by way of talks on Parliamentary Procedure and other Practices relating to service in the National Assembly. This support is welcome, and commendable and we thank Honourable Members. All Honourable Members would have received invitations detailing the events for the 4th Annual Youth Parliament.”

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Minister of Finance:

(i) Mid-Year Report 2018.

(Circulated)

(ii) Green Paper on Managing Future Petroleum Revenues and Establishment of a Fiscal Rule and Sovereign Wealth Fund.

(Circulated)

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REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES –

1. By the Minister of Public Infrastructure:

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Civil Aviation Bill 2017 – Bill No. 1 of 2017.

(Circulated)

2. By Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P. (Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee):

Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 2015.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

A request by the Minister of Public Health, in accordance with Standing Order No. 22(9), to defer answers to questions on Notice Papers Nos. 155, 156, 157 and 158 was put and carried on the following division:

AGAINST

Mr. Bharrat
Ms Veerasammy
Mr. Gill
Mr. Dharamlall
Mr. Charlie
Mr. Damon
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Chand
Mr. Neendkumar
Mrs. Pearson-Fredericks
Mr. G. Persaud
Mr. Mustapha
Ms Selman
Dr. Westford
Dr. Ramsarran
Mr. Croal
Mr. Hamilton
Dr. V. Persaud

FOR

Mr. Rutherford
Mr. Rajkumar
Mr. C. Persaud
Mr. Figueira
Mr. Carrington
Mr. Allen
Mr. Adams
Ms Bancroft
Ms Wade
Ms Patterson
Ms Henry
Ms Broomes
Dr. Cummings
Mr. Sharma
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
Ms Ferguson
Mrs. Hastings-Williams
Mr. Holder

9.

AGAINST

Mr. Seeraj
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Lumumba
Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Dr. Anthony
Ms Manickchand
Mr. Nandlall
Mr. Ali
Ms Teixeira
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Jagdeo

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FOR

Mr. Gaskin
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Patterson
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. Trotman
Mr. Jordan
Dr. Norton
Mr. Bulkan
Dr. Roopnarine
Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Harmon
Ms Ally
Mr. Williams
Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Greenidge

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For Oral Replies

1. ***POOR PERFORMANCE IN MATHS AND ENGLISH AT THE 2018 NATIONAL GRADE SIX ASSESSMENT**

Ms. Africo Selman, M.P. asked the Minister of Education the following questions:

*Following the announcement that Cabinet has approved a seven-point strategy labelled the “Emergency Education intervention for improved performance in Mathematics by students in Grade Six” in November 2016, with the expenditure of \$48.6 million to address what is deemed a “crisis” in students’ performance at Grade Six Mathematics, and the commitment to release additional funds in 2017, could the Honourable Minister of Education, M.P., inform this National Assembly as to:-

- (i) How was \$48.6 million spent in improving the students’ performance in Grade Six Mathematics as publicly stated in targeting the preparation and administration of a diagnostic assessment of pupils in the hinterland region; training of teachers in content and methodology; the recruitment of math coordinators and monitors; the

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training of officers and school administrators to supervise the teaching of mathematics; and the acquisition of support material for pupils as part of the projects?

- (ii) What additional funds and resources were used in 2017 and in which areas?
- (iii) In light of the 2018 results in Mathematics and English, what corrective measures are being put in place to improve the pass rates in 2019 in these two core subjects?
- (iv) Taking into consideration your statement during the 2018 Budget debate that there was adequate supplies of the textbooks and materials budgeted for, could the Minister say if any special efforts have been made, or in progress to improve the performance of pupils in the interior, with timely access to and available supplies of textbooks and materials, for each student in the systems in those communities?

(Notice Paper No. 152 (Q 36 Opp 35) published on 2018-07-12)

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

Ms Africo Selman asked the Minister of Education a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Education replied.

2. ***AWARD OF A CONTRACT TO HDM LABS INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF PHARMACEUTICALS TO THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Member Asking: Dr. Frank Anthony, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Health

*Could the Hon. Minister of Public Health provide this National Assembly with the following information regarding the award of a contract to HDM Labs Inc. for the award of pharmaceuticals to the Ministry of Public Health:

11.

- (i) How many companies were invited to tender for this contract to supply pharmaceuticals for the Ministry?
- (ii) What were the criteria used for the selection of this company for a restricted bidding process?
- (iii) On what basis were suppliers of pharmaceuticals to the Ministry such as, Ansa McCal, International Pharmaceuticals Agency and International Healthcare disqualified?
- (iv) Why was a company that usually supplies laboratory equipment listed in the restrictive tender to supply pharmaceuticals?
- (v) What were the items procured under the contract with HDM Labs Inc., the quantity for each item and the unit cost for each item?
- (vi) Has HDM Labs Inc. provided all the procured items? If so, when?
- (vii) Does HDM Labs Inc. have the Manufacturer's Authorization in the territory of Guyana for the items listed in the contract? Have these authorizations been produced for verification?
- (viii) Does HDM Labs Inc., have their Goods certified by WHO, or the US Food and Drug Administration, and the Guyana Food and Drug Administration?
- (ix) Can the Minister of Public Health inform the National Assembly on the experience and technical capacity of the HDM Labs Inc.?
- (x) Is the Minister satisfied that the Ministry of Public Health has received value for money expended on this contract?

(Notice Paper No. 155 (Q 39 Opp38) published on 2018-07-25)

In accordance with Standing Order No. 22(9), the answers to the abovementioned questions were deferred.

For Written Replies

3. EXAMINING THE SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD AND ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT (SLED) INITIATIVE

Member Asking: Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Social Protection and Government Chief Whip

Could the Hon. Minister provide the following information to the National Assembly:-

- (a) Regarding grants totalling \$94,090,635 awarded as part of SLED Projects in 2017:
- (i) Whether any invitation for submission of proposals was advertised in the print edition of a daily newspaper with national circulation?
 - (ii) The date(s) said advertisements appeared?
 - (iii) The title(s) of the publication(s) in which the advertisements appeared?
 - (iv) By what other means were proposals to access said grants solicited by the implementing agency?
 - (v) The deadline for submission of the said proposals?
 - (vi) The nature of the documentation required as part of the submission of proposals?
- (b) Regarding the (20) Co-operatives that are listed in the government's answers to Questions to Ministers at the June 25, 2018 Sitting, regarding the socio-economic impact of the SLED Initiative on **Notice Paper No. 145:**

13.

- (i) The reason(s) SLED grants were disbursed to Co-operatives whose registrations under the Co-operatives Act were not completed at the time of the disbursement?
- (ii) The number of members in each of the twenty (20) Co-operatives who are qualified for membership pursuant to Section 21 of the Cooperatives Act?
- (iii) Whether a grant agreement has been signed between each of the (20) Co-operatives and the Ministry/Unit which manages the SLED initiative?
- (iv) The effective date and length of each such grant agreement that exist?
- (v) The date by which all parties affixed their signatures to the grant agreement?
(Notice Paper No. 153 (Q 37 Opp36) published on 2018-07-13)

Answers:

“(a) Regarding grants totalling \$94,090,635 awarded as part of SLED Projects in 2017:

- (i) Invitation for submission of proposals was not advertised in the print edition of a daily newspaper with national circulation.
- (ii) Date of advertisement: Not applicable.
- (iii) Title/s of Publication/s: Not applicable.
- (iv) Means by which proposals were solicited: Documentation was submitted based on the public’s awareness from information emanating from 2018 Budget Speech and periodic reports on the television, print and social media.
- (v) No deadline was set. However, the Ministry had a cut-off date – August, 2017 for consideration of any documentation that requested assistance.
- (vi) Nature of documentation required: request for assistance including location, contact information for point/s of contract, proposed idea/project and projected cost.

14.

- (b) Regarding the 20 Cooperatives listed on Notice Paper No. 145:
- (i) No funding/cash was provided directly to the Cooperatives. Construction work and procurement of goods and services required for the projects were done by the Ministry of Social Protection using Government's procurement processes while the lengthy registration process was being followed. Registration includes processes to ensure that members of the Committee of Management are in compliance with the requirements of the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act, No. 13 of 2009. Completed works and goods procured were handed over to beneficiary groups.

 - (ii) All members of each of the twenty (20) Cooperatives are qualified for membership pursuant to Section 21 of the Cooperatives Act which requires that members:
 - (a) have attained the age of sixteen years; and
 - (b) are resident within or in occupation of land within the society's areas of operations as described by the rules.

 - (iii) No Grant Agreement was signed between each of the Cooperatives and the Ministry. As a legal entity (having registered under the Cooperatives Act), the membership and management of the assets are governed by the Rules of the organisation in accordance with the Cooperatives Act. The Ministry of Social Protection has oversight and regulatory responsibility for Cooperative Societies in Guyana.

 - (iv) Effective date and length of each grant agreement: based on (iii), not applicable.

 - (v) Date of which all parties affixed their signatures to the grant agreement: based on (iii), not applicable."

4. **TAX BREAKS FOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE (SLED) INITIATIVE**

Member Asking: Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Finance

Could the Hon. Minister provide the following information to the National Assembly regarding the twenty (20) Co-operatives that are listed in the government's answers to Questions to a Minister on the socio-economic impact of the SLED initiative on **Notice Paper No. 145:-**

- (i) Which of the SLED beneficiaries have received from the Minister an exemption from payment of Income Tax pursuant to Section 57 of the Co-operatives Act?
- (ii) The terms of the exemption from Income Tax payment applicable to the respective beneficiary, including the amount of the exemption and the duration of the exemption?

(Notice Paper No. 154 (Q 38 Opp37) published on 2018-07-13)

Answers:

“ (i) None

(ii)Not applicable in view of the first answer.”

5. **STATUS OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S CHILD MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY COMMITTEE**

Member Asking: Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Health

Could the Hon. Minister provide the National Assembly with the following information with respect to the status of the Child Morbidity and Mortality Committee:-

16.

- (a) The date the Members of the said Committee were appointed?
- (b) The terms of reference of the Committee?
- (c) How many times has this Committee met in the last 2 years?
- (d) Are the Regional Health Officers and the Director of Medical Services at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation required to report child morbidity and mortality data on a quarterly basis to the Committee? If not, how is this information shared with/provided to the Committee?
- (e) How does the Committee track child morbidity and mortality cases?
- (f) Does it make scheduled visits to the health facilities in the regions to inspect and investigate any changes in the child morbidity and mortality patterns?
- (g) Does the Ministry provide adequate resources to the Committee for it to carry out its terms of reference?
- (h) Does the Committee prepare and submit quarterly or half yearly reports to the Chief Medical Officer on the status of Child morbidity and mortality in the country?
- (i) Has the Committee made any recommendations and, if so, has any been implemented?
- (j) What would you say are the most urgent recommendations the Committee has made to the Ministry?

(Notice Paper No. 156 (Q 40 Opp39) published on 2018-07-25)

In accordance with Standing Order No. 22(9), the answers to the abovementioned questions were deferred.

6. PREVENTING INFECTION LEVELS IN THE NEO-NATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT, GEORGETOWN PUBLIC HOSPITAL CORPORATION

Member Asking: Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Health

17.

With respect to the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, during the period June 2017 to June 2018, could the Minister state:-

- (a) How often is scheduled testing for sterility in the NNICU done?
- (b) Were there sufficient culture bottles to identify infectious organisms?
- (c) Were any multi-drug resistant organisms identified in the cases of sepsis and, if yes, which organisms were identified?
- (d) Was medication to combat the identified multi-drug resistant organisms and other organisms readily available? How many occasions were the medication not readily available?
- (e) Was any cause of death due to iatrogenic infection?
- (f) What organism was identified where the cause of death was due to iatrogenic infection and what methods were used to address the sterility of the unit in instances where multi-drug resistant organisms were identified?
- (g) In instances where contamination of the NNICU was detected, were the neonates moved to another sterilized area to allow for a complete disinfection and sterilization of the unit including all equipment?
- (h) In instances where the cause of death was due to iatrogenic infection and where contamination of the NNICU was detected, was any special investigation and or procedure were followed to ensure sterility of the facility and equipment before re-use?
- (i) What was the ratio of trained nurses to babies in the unit during the period June 2017 to June 2018?
- (j) How many specially-trained neonatal nurses are working in the Ministry of Public Health and how many of these specially-trained nurses are working in the NNICU to deal with critically ill babies?

(Notice Paper No. 157 (Q 41 Opp40) published on 2018-07-25)

In accordance with Standing Order No. 22(9), the answers to the abovementioned questions were deferred.

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7. **EXAMINING THE STATUS OF THE NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNITS COUNTRYWIDE**

Member Asking: Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Health

Could the Hon. Minister provide the National Assembly with the following information:-

- (a) A list of government-run Neonatal Intensive Care Units countrywide?
- (b) The number of admissions from each government-run Neonatal Intensive Care for each month during the period June 2017 to June 2018?
- (c) The number of deaths and the causes of death at each government-run Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for each month during the period June 2017 to June 2018?
- (d) The number of neonates referred to the NNICU at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation during the period June 2017 to 2018?
- (e) Did the number of neonates in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit NNICU at Georgetown Public Hospital exceed the capacity of 18 during this period?
- (f) With respect to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation could the Minister state/provide:
 - (i) How many incubators and ventilators were available and working between January 2018 to June 2018?
 - (ii) How many incubators and ventilators have been added since May 11, 2015?
 - (iii) How many incubators and ventilators are operational as of July 1, 2018?
- (g) How many qualified technicians are available to repair these incubators and ventilators?
- (h) The average length of downtime of incubators and ventilators for each month for the period June 2017 to June 2018?
- (i) How many incubators and ventilators are not functioning as of June 2018 in all the government-run NNICUs?

19.

- (j) What measures has the Minister put in place to ensure that all government-run NNICUs are properly equipped and functioning?

(Notice Paper No. 158 (Q 42 Opp41) published on 2018-07-25)

In accordance with Standing Order No. 22(9), the answers to the abovementioned questions were deferred.

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-

Increase in Crime across Guyana

A request by Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, Increase in Crime across Guyana, was allowed by the Speaker.

The motion accordingly stood over until the resumption of the Sitting following the suspension thereof.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Reading

ITEM 1 - TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2018 – No. 11/2018 published on 2018-07-25

The Minister of Finance moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Tax Act.

(Read a first time on 2018-07-27)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Bishop Juan Edghill

20.

The Minister within the Ministry of Finance
Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clauses 1 and 2 were passed as printed.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Finance, the Tax (Amendment) Bill 2018 was read a third time and passed as printed.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 4.02 p.m., the Sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.19 p.m., the Sitting was resumed.

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**

Increase in Crime across Guyana

In accordance with permission granted earlier by the Speaker, Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, moved the adjournment of the Assembly and spoke on the matter, to wit, the Increase in Crime across Guyana.

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The following Members spoke to the motion:

Ms Gail Teixeira

Mr. Clement Rohee

The Minister of Public Security

Thereafter, Ms Gail Teixeira replied.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

ITEM 2 - AFFIRMATION OF THE PETROLEUM (EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION) (TAX LAWS) (MID-ATLANTIC OIL & GAS INC.) ORDER 2018 – NO. 26 OF 2018

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Section 51 of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act No.3 of 1986, affirms the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) (Tax Laws) (Mid-Atlantic Oil & Gas Inc.) Order 2018 – No. 26 of 2018 which was made on 30th July, 2018, under Section 51 of the Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act, No. 3 of 1986 and published in an Extra Ordinary copy of the Official Gazette dated 30th July, 2018.

(Notice Paper No. 159 (M 115 Govt 62) published on 2018-07-30)

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali spoke to the motion.

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

PARLIAMENTARY RECESS GREETINGS

The Speaker wished Members a restful and pleasant recess. The Acting First Vice-President and Prime Minister also extended best wishes for a restful recess to Members and staff. Ms Gail Teixeira, Opposition Chief Whip, joined the Speaker and the Acting First Vice-President and Prime Minister in extending best wishes to the Members.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8.04 p.m., on a motion by the Acting First Vice-President and Prime Minister, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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HON. DR. BARTON U.A. SCOTLAND, O.R., C.C.H., M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.**

8th August, 2018.

