

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 27<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2006-2007) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON THURSDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2007**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)**

**Speaker (1)**

The Hon. Hari. N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

**Members of the Government (42)**

**(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (41)**

**(ii) The United Force (1)**

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice),  
 Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International  
 Cooperation

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),  
 Minister of Health

The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, M.P., (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo),  
 Minister of Amerindian Affairs (Absent)

\*The Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance

\*The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs

The Hon. Harry Narine Nawbatt, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

**\*Non-elected Minister**

2.

The Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),  
Minister of Agriculture

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni),  
Minister of Public Service

The Hon. Kellawan Lall, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

\*The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. B.H. Robeson Benn, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

\*\*The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Labour

The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice),  
Minister of Human Services and Social Security (Absent)

The Hon. Dr. Desrey Fox, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Education

The Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health

The Hon. Jennifer I. Webster, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

The Hon. Manniram Prashad, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip

Ms Bibi S. Shadick, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P.

Mr. Albert Atkinson, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

**\*Non-Elected Minister**

**\*\*Elected Member from the United Force**

3.

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

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Mohamed F. Khan, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

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

\*\*\*Mr. Steve P. Ninvalle, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

Mr. Parmanand P. Persaud, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

\*\*\*Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Mr. Norman A. Whittaker, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

**Members of the Opposition (28)**

**(i) Members of People's National Congress Reform-One Guyana (22)**

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P.

\*\*\*Non-elected Member

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4.

● Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P. (Absent)

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Anna Ally, M.P.

Mr. James McAllister, M.P. (Absent)

Mr. Dave D. Danny, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Ernest B. Elliot, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P., (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P., (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

Dr. John Austin, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

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

Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P., (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Mr. Desmond Fernandes, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

**(ii) Alliance For Change (5)**

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.

Ms Chantalle L. Smith, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

(iii) **Guyana Action Party/Rise Organize and Rebuild (1)**

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P.

**OFFICERS**

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

Mrs. Lilawttie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

**COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The sitting commenced at 2:05p.m.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-**

By Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments:

Special Report of the Committee on Appointments in relation to the Appointment of Members of the Police Service Commission.

(Circulated)

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

**For Oral Replies**

1. **FOREIGN SERVICE DIPLOMATIC SKILLS AND COMPETENCE**

**Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.**

\*Can the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly when will his Ministry put in place a mechanism to ensure that young officers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are allowed to travel and attend conferences and participate in diplomatic work with the aim of developing their own and that of the foreign service diplomatic skills and competence?

(Notice Paper No. 70 (Q52 Opp52) published on 2007-01-23)

6.

Thereafter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The Minister also replied to a supplementary question which was asked by Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.

## 2. ROTATION OF FOREIGN SERVICE STAFF

**Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.**

\*Can the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly when will a policy and an effective and efficient system of rotating staff between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and our overseas missions be formulated and implemented?

(Notice Paper No. 71 (Q53 Opp53) published on 2007-01-23)

Thereafter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The Minister also replied to a supplementary question which was asked by Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.

## 3. CO-ORDINATION OF FOREIGN POLICY ACTORS AND ACTIONS

**Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.**

(i) \*Can the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly what action is being taken to co-ordinate the various foreign policy actors and actions in the various government agencies?

(ii) \*Could the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly which agency is responsible for co-ordinating and identifying challenges faced by the co-ordination?

(Notice Paper No. 72 (Q54 Opp54) published on 2007-01-23)

Thereafter, the Minister of Foreign Affairs replied.

The Minister also replied to supplementary questions which were asked by Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.

4. NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY MASTER PLAN 2005 – 2009

Member Asking: Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P.

- (i) \*What is the status of the implementation of the national drug strategy master plan 2005 – 2009?
- (ii) \*If the implementation of the plan has commenced what was the date of commencement?
- (iii) \*What has the government done to date to promote demand reduction?
- (iv) \*How many civil society organizations or groups are enlisted in the promotion of anti-substance/drug abuse advocacy?
- (v) \*What level of financial assistance has civil society organizations/groups received from the government to promote demand reduction?

**(Notice Paper No. 148 (Q 110 Opp 109) published on 2007-05-24)**

Thereafter, the Minister of Home Affairs replied.

The Minister also replied to supplementary questions which were asked by the following Members:

- Mr. Everall Franklin
- Mr. Raphael Trotman
- Mr. Winston Murray



**DISTRIBUTION OF LAND TITLES – LINDEN SOESDYKE HIGHWAY**

**Member Asking: Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P.**

- (i) \*What is the status of land title distribution along the Soesdyke/Linden Highway as it relates to persons who have applied over two years ago?
- (ii) \*How many land titles were granted in the years 2005 and 2006?

**(Notice Paper No. 151 (Q 113 Opp 112) published on 2007-06-18)**

Thereafter, the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications replied.

**6. GUYANA POWER AND LIGHT CO., LTD.**

**Member Asking: Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P.**

- (i) \*Will the Hon. Prime Minister state what is the percentage of commercial and technical losses at GPL to date?
- (ii) \*What figure (percentage) was supplied to the IDB?

**(Notice Paper No. 152 (Q 114 Opp 113) published on 2007-06-18)**

Thereafter, the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications replied.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications also replied to supplementary questions which were asked by the following Members:

Mr. Everall Franklin

Mr. Winston Murray

Mrs. Sheila Holder



**RECRUITMENT OF HYDROLOGICAL ENGINEERS/HYDROLOGISTS**

**Member Asking: Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.**

**\*Why to date has there not been the recruitment of hydrological engineers/hydrologists to enhance capacity in the operationalisation and management of water control in the East Demerara Water Conservancy and at the National Drainage and Irrigation Agency?**

**(Notice Paper No. 162 (Q 123 Opp 122) published on 2007-06-18)**

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture replied.

**8. MAJOR PROJECT CONCERNING THE CONSEQUENCES TO GUYANA BY CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Member Asking: Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.**

The World Bank and the Guyana Government are presently negotiating a major project concerning the consequences to Guyana by climate change, and preventative/remedial actions to be taken to avoid adverse infrastructural and social damage, monies for which will be in the form of a grant not a loan. There are two "sticking points" which need clarification before negotiations can be completed so that the project could commence.

Can the Minister state:

**\*Whether there are any obstacles in the negotiations between the World Bank and the Guyana Government in connection with the project on Climate Change and its consequences to Guyana. If there are any obstacles, can the Minister state what are these obstacles and Guyana's position relating to them?**

**(Notice Paper No. 163 (Q 124 Opp 123) published on 2007-06-18)**

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture replied.

**For Written Replies****9. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS****Member Asking: Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P.****Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs**

- (i) Would the Hon. Minister indicate what progress has been made by the Government of Guyana and which assures this nation, especially civil society, that progress is being made to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) within the timeframe set by the United Nations General Assembly of 2015?
- (ii) What decisions and actions have been taken to date, that clearly demonstrates to this nation that Guyana is on target to achieve these goals?

**(Notice Paper No. 150 (Q 112 Opp 111) published on 2007-05-24)****Answers:**

- (i) The Government of Guyana recently completed a report on Guyana's progress in achieving the MDGs by 2015. This report was prepared under the leadership of the Office of the President, by a team of technical experts across various sectors directly pertinent to the Goals.

The Report makes the following conclusions:-

**1. Goals Guyana was most likely to achieve by 2015:**

Guyana has already achieved Goal 2 of universal primary education, reached in 2003.

The Report concluded that Guyana was on track with respect to targets addressing:

- The eradication of extreme hunger,
- The empowerment of women and achievement of gender equity in education and;

11.

- Ensuring environmental sustainability.

2. **Goals Guyana could potentially achieve by 2015:**

The Report concluded that, with respect to the following goals, progress has been slow in the past, but recent developments have significantly improved the likelihood that Guyana could be back on track in the near term and potentially able to achieve the targets by 2015:

- Halving the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty and;
- Reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

3. **Goals Guyana was unlikely to achieve by 2015:**

The Report concluded that, given the existing policy conditions (both external and domestic), the following targets were unlikely to be achieved:

- Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate;
- Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio;
- Halt by 2015, and begin to reverse, the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

Given the above conclusions, the Report recommends that actions be developed and resources prioritized to target Category 3 above, which refers to the goals for which insufficient progress is being made.

- (ii) The Government has commenced the preparation of a new Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) which will set out the development agenda for the period 2007 – 2011. The new PRSP is the logical and timely next step that follows on the 2007 MDG Report as it will set out the country’s strategic response to the Report’s conclusions, aligning Guyana with the MDGs for 2015, particularly in addressing the goals for which Guyana is currently



off-track. The new PRSP will be developed through a participatory process which will provide opportunities for Guyanese in every sphere of life to contribute directly to the identification and implementation of programs to secure Guyana's development and the meeting of its poverty, social and economic objectives.

The Government has recently completed a Household Budget Survey (HBS) that will provide much needed diagnosis on the state of poverty in Guyana, allowing for the updating of poverty indicators and assessment of Guyana's progress with respect to Goal 1 which refers to the eradication of poverty. The results of the HBS will form the baseline analysis for the 2007 PRSP. The Bureau of Statistics is currently finalizing this report.

Guyana is also a recipient of the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative. About US\$800 million of Guyana debt has been written off by the IMF, World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. While this debt relief frees up resources for development, it is also accompanied by a significant reduction in expected net inflows. The drastically transformed resource envelope necessitates a reassessment of the government's priorities with a view of making fundamental adjustments to existing and future programs. These changes will have a marked impact on re-aligning Guyana's progress to meeting its MDGs in 2015.

The maintenance of progress towards the achievement of the 2015 MDGs assumes that Guyana continues to benefit from a conducive policy environment, has access to adequate fiscal resources and is able to achieve projected economic growth over the next decade.



10. **FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED BY SIMAP**

**Member Asking: Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development**

Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:

- (i) Whether it is mandatory by law that the Chairman of a Neighbourhood Democratic Council should be appointed Chairman of the Committee or Board responsible for the management of facilities constructed by SIMAP and other similar Agencies?
- (ii) Whether his Ministry has mandated that the beneficiary entity or group should not be allowed to elect or appoint their own Committee or Board, accountable to them, to manage a facility constructed by SIMAP and other similar Agencies?  
(Notice Paper No. 155 (Q 116 Opp 115) published on 2007-06-18)

**Answers:**

- (i) No, it is not mandatory that the Chairman of a Neighbourhood Democratic Council be appointed Chairman to the board or committee responsible for the management of facilities constructed by SIMAP or other Agencies. It is, however, advisable that representative/representatives of the NDC's be a part of this management committee since they have oversight functions for these facilities.
- (ii) No, the Ministry has not mandated that the beneficiary entity or group should not be allowed to elect or appoint their own Committee or Board.

11. **LAND HOLDINGS OF THE FORMER LEONORA ESTATE**

**Member Asking: Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture**

Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:

- (a) Whether the land holdings of the former Leonora Estate have been sold?
- (b) If the answer is yes, could the Minister state:
- (i) When and to whom the holdings were sold?
  - (ii) What was the price agreed for the holdings?
  - (iii) What were the other terms and conditions of the sale?
  - (iv) What was the process used for the sale of the holdings, for example, was it by Public Tender or some other transparent process?
  - (v) If the process was by Public Tender:
    - How many Bids were submitted?
    - Which Tender Board was responsible for the evaluation and ranking of the Tenders submitted?
  - (vi) If some other transparent process was used for the sale of the holdings, will the Minister please inform this National Assembly what that process was?
- (c) If the land holdings have not yet been sold could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:
- (i) Whether an imminent sale is currently under consideration?
  - (ii) Whether such a sale will be by Public Tender?

**(Notice Paper No. 156 (Q 117 Opp 116) published on 2007-06-18)**

15.

**Answers:**

- (a) No
- (b) None
- (c) Yes
- (ii) Yes

**12. LABOUR INSPECTORS**

**Member Asking: Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security**

Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:

- (i) Whether Labour Inspectors:
  - (a) Are trained to detect abuses in the employment and/or work of children and young persons?
  - (b) Are empowered to effect remedies for detected abuses?

**(Notice Paper No. 157 (Q 118 Opp 117) published on 2007-06-18)**

**Answers:**

- (a) Yes
- (b) Yes

13. **ERADICATION OF ABUSES AND OTHER FORMS OF EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN**

**Member Asking: Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security**

Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:

- (i) Whether there are collaborative efforts by the agencies responsible for education, training, welfare and guidance of children and young persons, to eradicate abuses, including sexual abuse, and other forms of exploitation of children?
  
- (ii) How many persons have been successfully prosecuted for violating laws relating to the employment of children, child prostitution and pornography and other such forms of abuse of children?

**(Notice Paper No. 158 (Q 119 Opp 118) published on 2007-06-18)**

**Answers:**

- (i) Yes
  
- (ii) The question is vague and as a result is impossible to answer sensibly. The Honourable Member has failed to state the period to which he refers as well as to what would be included in "other such forms of abuse". In any event the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security does not address the prosecution of persons irrespective of the offence and any question addressing same should be made to the relevant Ministry/Authority.



**14. FORMER GENESIS HOME**

**Member Asking: Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security**

Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly with respect to the former Genesis Home:

- (a) The name of the organization which is now responsible for its management?
- (b) Provide the names of the office bearers thereof?
- (c) State the terms of reference which govern their functions?
- (d) What is/are the source(s) of funding for this home?
- (e) Whether this home is adequately serving the destitute and the vulnerable children of Region No. 3 in a fair, unbiased and equitable manner?
- (f) What is the statutory age at which a resident must leave the home?
- (g) Whether there are any resident currently in the home who are above that age and, if so, how many?
- (h) Whether she agrees that having over aged residents in the home could have adverse consequences given the fact that children of both sexes are resident therein?

**(Notice Paper No. 159 (Q 120 Opp 119) published on 2007-06-18)**

**Answers:**

- (a) Save Our Kids: The Guyana Chapter, an organization registered under the Friendly Societies Act, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2004.
- (b) With respect to questions contained in paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) and (h) it would be prudent if the questions were to be posed to same Friendly Society.

With respect to issue raised in paragraph (e) the said home is not the only home which serves the orphans and vulnerable children of Region No. 3. The Government treats all OVC equally in a fair, unbiased and equitable manner.

With respect to issues arising out of paragraphs (f), (g) and (h) the Government's policy is that children should only as a last resort be placed in institutions and that when children are placed in said institutions, only children should be housed therein.

15. **NEW DRAFT RULES OF THE HIGH COURT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE**

**Member Asking: Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs**

Why the New Draft Rules of the High Court of the Supreme Court of Judicature – completed by the Rules Committee headed by the then Honourable Chancellor Madam Desiree Bernard and presented to the Attorney General's Chambers for final drafting over one (1) year ago – as yet not been approved and passed into law?

**(Notice Paper No. 160 (Q 121 Opp 120) published on 2007-06-18)**

**Answer:**

The preparation of New Rules of the High Court was commissioned by the Carter Center and sponsored by the United States Agency for international development. The Members of the Committee were Honourable Chancellor Bernard, Miss Vijaya Jagnandan, Mr. Nigel Hughes, Justice La Bennett and Ms Sita Ramlall, who considered the Draft Rules which had been prepared by former Chancellor George together with the views of the Bar Association and other stakeholders.

The draft was accordingly revised and amended and submitted to the Attorney General's Chamber and circulated to Judges and Members of the profession. The Acting Chancellor has invited Members to sit and review the revised and amended draft. As soon as this exercise will have been completed, steps will then be taken for the Rules to be enacted.

16. **THREAT EMANATING FROM SURINAME**

**Member Asking: Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications**

- (i) Is the Guyana Defence Force ready for any threat emanating from Suriname if that country were to violate a United Nations ruling favourable to Guyana on the maritime border dispute between the two countries?
- (ii) Are there any measures being actively implemented by our Government and/or Army to prevent such a violation by Suriname from occurring?

**(Notice Paper No. 161 (Q 122 Opp 121) published on 2007-06-18)**

**Answers:**

The Government of Guyana would not engage in any conjecture as to what the Government of Suriname may or may not do following the handing down of a ruling by the UNCLOS Tribunal.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

**ITEM 1 - HIGH COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2007 – Bill No. 19/2007 published on 2007-06-14**

At the request of the Prime Minister the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the High Court Act.

**(Read a first time on 2007-06-28)**



**MOTION**

**ITEM 2 - AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE AND SLAVERY**

At the request of Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., the consideration of the following motion was deferred:

WHEREAS the 25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007 marked the bicentenary of the abolition of the Slave Trade Act between Africa and the British Empire;

AND WHEREAS scholars estimate that between 50 and 100 million Africans were either killed or abducted during the existence of European slavery and the slave trade;

AND WHEREAS it is universally accepted that slavery and the transatlantic slave trade were the most inhumane tragedies in the history of mankind;

AND WHEREAS our African fore parents, first as slaves and then as free men and women built the infrastructure of modern Guyana and made unparalleled contributions to the development of Guyana,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly unequivocally acknowledges the immense debt that all Guyanese owe to our African ancestors and recognizes the outstanding contribution they have made to the development of Guyana;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That an African Land Commission be established, similar in status to the Rights Commissions established under Article 212G of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, to determine the issue of ancestral land rights of African Guyanese;



**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly urges the British Government to enact measures to effect reparation to the descendants of the victims of the African Slave Trade and slavery.

**(Notice Paper No.141 (M32 Opp 10) published on 2007-04-17)**

**AJOURNMENT**

At 3:08 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, the Assembly was adjourned to 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2007.



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**HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,**  
**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**12<sup>th</sup> July, 2007.**