

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE 62ND SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST
SESSION (2012-2013) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH AUGUST, 2013
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
BRICKDAM, GEORGETOWN.

MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (68)

Speaker (1)

The Hon Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT (34)

(i) People's Progressive Party/Civic (34)

Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, O.E., M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

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

Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., Minister of Agriculture

Hon. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica),
Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Absent – on leave)

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

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

Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (Absent – on leave)

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

2.

Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsarran, M.P., Minister of Health

Hon. Mohamed I. Alli, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

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

Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn, M.P., Minister of Public Works

Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice),
Minister of Education

Hon. Ganga Persaud, M.P., Minister of Local Government
and Regional Development

Hon. Jennifer I.M. Webster, M.P., Minister of Human Services
and Social Security

Hon. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P., Minister of Amerindian Affairs

*Hon. Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul, M.P., Minister of Labour

Hon. Alli Baksh, M.P. (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam),
Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture

Hon. Norman A. Whittaker, J.P., M.P. (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini),
Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Hon. Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P., Minister in the
Ministry of Finance

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

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Bibi S. Shaddick, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Islands/West Demerara)

***Non-Elected Minister**

3.

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

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P.

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

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Dr. Vishwa D.B. Mahadeo, M.P.

Rev. Dr. Kwame A. Gilbert, M.P.

**Mr. Joseph Hamilton, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Health

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

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

Mr. Faizal M. Jafarally, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Members of the Opposition (33)

(ii) Members of A Partnership for National Unity(26)

Brigadier (Ret'd) David A. Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Dr. George Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

****Non-Elected Member**

4.

Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret'd) Joseph F. Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P. (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Winston Felix, D.S.M., M.P.

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

Mr. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P.

Ms Africo Selman, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Desmond Trotman, M.P.

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

Mr. James A. Bond, M.P.

Mr. Ronald A. Bulkan, M.P.

Mr. Jaipaul Sharma, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Mabel Baveghems, M.P.

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

Mr. Christopher A. Jones, M.P.

Ms Rennita L. Williams, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

Mr. Renis Morian, M.P. (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Miss Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.

(iii)Members of The Alliance For Change (7)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

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

Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Dr. Veersammy Ramayya, M.P. (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms June Eula Marcello, M.P. (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

Mr. Trevor Williams, M.P.

OFFICERS

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

Ms Hermina Gilgeours, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly (a.g.)

COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING

The Sitting commenced at 2.58 p.m.

PRAYERS

The Clerk read the prayers.

6.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker made the following announcements:-

(i) **Death of a former Minister of Government**

“Hon. Members a former Member of this House and Minister of Government, Mr. Shiv Sahai Naraine, who held the Cacique Crown of Honour, died after a brief illness in Canada on the 30th July this year. He was 89 years old. Mr. Naraine first served as a Legislator from 1st August, 1972 until the 23rd July, 1973 and as Minister of Public Works and Housing from 24th July, 1973 to 31st December 1980, at which time he was appointed Senior Minister of Works and Transport. From 1st January 1981 to 14th October, 1983 Mr. Naraine was Vice President and Minister of Works and Transport. On the 14th October, 1983 Mr. Naraine tendered his resignation as a Member of the National Assembly. On the 15th October, 1983 Mr. Naraine was designated Guyana’s High Commissioner to New Delhi, India, a post he held up until 14th July, 1990.

Hon. Members, I now ask that you stand with me as we observe one minute silent as a mark of respect for the late Shiv Sahai Naraine.”

(ii) **Birthday Greetings**

The Speaker extended birthday greetings to Ms. Dawn Hastings-Williams, M.P.

(iii) **Upgrading of facilities**

“During the recess, which commences as we know on the 10th August, the entire roof of the Assembly will be restored. Thanks to the Ministry of Public Works for collaborating with us. It is leaking.

Also the washroom area, particularly, that of females, will be extended and upgraded to include a new washing area. There will also be separate washroom facilities for the members of the public and the press.

7.

The parapet in front of the Public Buildings, which has been badly damaged by the vehicles using it as a park at nights and for other occasions, will be restored. Again, thanks to the Ministry of Public Works, working in collaboration with us. On the right side of the compound, within the compound will be made into a car park, for more parking, for Members of Parliament because parking immediately outside will be restricted.

Also the air conditioning units will be replaced in the Chamber. Members who had raised concerns early last year about security, a security scanner will be installed for use by all, that would have meant Members of Parliament and members of the public who wish to access the building particularly on days of sittings. There will be an electronic scanner through which we all shall have to submit and subject ourselves.”

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

Third Annual Report of the Women and Gender Equality Commission for the period June, 2012 to June, 2013.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Loan Agreement No. 7/SFR-OR-GUY dated February 25, 2013 between the Caribbean Development Bank and the Co-operative Republic of Guyana for US\$34,200,000.00 for the West Coast Demerara Road Improvement (Fourth Road Project).

(Circulated)

8.

- (ii) Loan Contract No. 2741/BL-GY dated March 15, 2013 between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Inter-American Development Bank for US\$66,200,000.00 for the Road Network Upgrade and Expansion Program.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Compensation Agreement in the Framework of the PETROCARIBE Energy Cooperation Agreement dated May 17, 2013 between the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the PDVSA Petróleo, S.A. (PDVSA) for the cancellation of the oil debt in compensation for the white rice and paddy shipments under the Guyana/Venezuela Rice Trade Agreements in the amount of US\$190,076,919.98.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Loan Agreement GUY/L0001 dated July 6, 2013 between Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and CARICOM Development Fund for US\$7,317,996.00 for the upgrading of all Weather Access Paved Roads to all Weather Paved Roads, Region 3 Parika and Ruby and the upgrading of Fair-Weather Access Dams to all Weather Roads, Kuru Kuru to Laluni, Region 4 and Onvergwagt, Region 5.

(Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

By the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Cricket Administration Bill 2012):

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Guyana Cricket Administration Bill 2012 – Bill No. 31/2012.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

**1. AGREEMENT/CONTRACT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA
AND TELEVISION GUYANA INC.(TVG)**

Member Asking: **Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Education**

- (i) Can the Hon. Minister provide copies of the Agreement/Contract between the Government of Guyana and Television Guyana Inc. (TVG) for the use of TVG's teleport/transmission facilities to broadcast the Learning Channel?
- (ii) Can the Hon. Minister state when the tender for the provision of this service was advertised and in which media?
- (iii) How much money has been paid over to Television Guyana Inc. (TVG) to date for the provision of these services?
- (iv) What is the duration of this contract/contractual arrangement – yearly, monthly or indefinite?
- (v) How many persons are employed by the Learning Channel and from which communities are they?
- (vi) Does the Learning Channel (the Company) possess its own satellite receivers/dishes?
 - (a) If yes, in which geographical location/communities are they located?

10.

- (b) If yes, when were these purchased? From whom were they purchase and at what cost? Would the Hon. Minister provide copies of such Purchase Agreements?
- (vii) How many antennas does the Learning Channel utilise and in what geographical areas?
- (viii) In what geographical areas does the Learning Channel utilise the equipment of Digicel, GT&T or any other network for the broadcast of its programming?
- (Notice Paper No.188 (Q 114 Opp 112) published on 2013-06-06)**

Answers:

“The Hon. Minister of Education wishes to state that the subject of the establishment of the Guyana Learning Channel, its existence now, its plan for sustenance and expansion and its relationship with Television Guyana (TVG), were all matters that were extensively dealt with at a press conference hosted by the Ministry of Education on or around 24th April, 2013 at the National Centre for Resource Development, Kingston, Georgetown. Indeed, all of the questions hereunder were answered either in the opening statements made or by way of answers provided to questions asked by the various media houses. This press conference was widely covered and its contents published by all of the reputable media houses.

A copy of the statement made at the said press conference by Dr. Seeta Roath, the Head of the Multi Media Unit/Guyana Learning Channel is hereto attached and marked “PC 1”. A copy of the bullet pointed brief of the said statement issued to the press is also hereto attached and marked “PC 2”. (See Appendix)

- (i) “The Hon. Minister is happy to provide same. A copy of the contract is attached. (See Appendix)

- (ii) The Minister has been advised that TVG was at the time of the procurement of the service, and remains now, the only supplier of this service which allows communities all across this country to be able to benefit from the programs on the Learning Channel and that no other reasonable alternative or substitute exists. The Minister would be happy to be advised if, contrary to advice, the Honourable member asking this question is aware of the existence of any other supplier of the same service with the same specifications that would allow for the same quality of service to reach the sons and daughters of Guyana.

The service entity may engage in single-source procurement under the Procurement Act of 2003 to wit, section 28(a) which states as follows:-

“the goods or construction are available only from a particular supplier or contractor, or a particular supplier or contractor has exclusive rights with respect to the goods or construction, and no reasonable alternative or substitute exists.”

- (iii) As per abovementioned contract, the sum of \$3 million per month from December, 2011 – present has been paid to TVG for their service which TVG has been, as per contract, providing.
- (iv) The contract was entered into in 2010 for a period of five years.
- (v) Six full time, six part-time and two temporary persons are employed at the Learning Channel. All others, such as studio teachers and scriptwriters, are contracted as needed. The Learning Channel hires the best skill available for the best price available. Decisions to hire are not based upon any other consideration such as ethnicity, community from which persons have emanated, gender, social background,

class etc., and it is hoped that the basis for this question was not for purposes of profiling any of the persons employed by that entity. The persons presently employed are from Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Orealla and Kwakani.

- (vi) Yes, the Learning Channel owns its own satellite receivers/dishes. They are located in Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Benab, Orealla, Kwakwani, Linden, Lethem, Annai, Aishalton, Mahdia, Port Kaituma, Mabarauma, Bartica, Morakaibai, Anna Regina, Karasabai and Ituni. It is because of the said satellite receivers/dishes that the residents of said community are able to receive the programs shown on the said channel.

These items were purchased from TVG. The items purchased were 17 antennas, 20 dishes, 17 receivers and 16 dish stands along with the service to install of all of these at the price of \$6.987M.

- (vii) The Learning Channel owns and utilizes 17 Antennas. They were located in Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Benab, Orealla, Kwakwani, Linden, Lethem, Annai, Aishalton, Mahdia, Port Kaituma, Mabarauma, Barticak, Anna Regina, Karasabai and Ituni.
- (viii) The Guyana Learning Channel utilizes the Tower of GT&T at Benab and the Tower of Digicel at Moria Point.”

2. DEATHS WHICH OCCURRED AT GOVERNMENT-FUNDED DORMITORIES/HOSTELS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE HINTERLAND REGIONS

Member Asking: Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P.,
Leader of the Opposition

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly of the names of persons who have died by suicide or other causes in Government-Funded Dormitories/Hostels attached to Secondary Schools in the Hinterland Regions of Guyana between January, 1999 and April, 2013?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly of the actual dates, the names of the schools of each of these events?
- (iii) Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly whether inquiries have been conducted into any or all of these events and whether, as a result of the findings of those inquiries, if any, there has been remedial action to prevent recurrences?
(Notice Paper No.190 (Q 116 Opp 114) published on 2013-06-06)

Answers:

“Deaths amongst Hinterland Dormitory students during the period January 1999 – June 2013

Region	Date	Name of school	Name of student	Grade	Age	Cause of death
1	Nil	Santa Rosa Sec. Sch.	NIL	-	-	-
		Port Kaituma sec.	NIL	-	-	-

		Sch. North West Sec. Sch.	NIL	-	-	-
2	2011-09-13	Charity Sec. Anna Regina Sec. Aurora Sec. Wakapau Sec.	Kester De Agrella NIL NIL NIL	8 - - -	14 - - -	Suicide - - -
7	August 31, 2008 Easter Vacation 2000	Waramadong Sec. Waramadong Sec.	Zanida Sam Savlyn David Sharmilyeza George Robert Daniels	6 8 8 9	11 13 13 14	Fire Fire Fire Drowning
9		St. Ignatius Sec. Aishalton Sec. Sand Creek Sec. Annai Sec.	NIL NIL NIL NIL	- - - -	- - - -	- - - -
8		Mahdia Sec. Paramakatoi Sec.	NIL NIL	- -	- -	- -

Investigations were conducted into all of these unfortunate and horrific deaths and recommendations made and other actions taken with a view to preventing such occurrences.”

3. **NATIONAL GRADE SIX ASSESSMENT**

Member Asking: **Ms Amna Ally, M.P.,**
Opposition Chief Whip

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Education**

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister present in a written form the analysis of the National Grade Six Assessment for all the regions in Guyana?

- (ii) (a) Could the Hon. Minister give an overall percentage of pupils who fell below the pass marks in Mathematics, Science, English and Social Studies?

 (b) How many students fell below 400 marks?

- (iii) Could the Hon. Minister state whether the results of the Grades 2 and 4 Assessment were included in the final Grade 6 Assessment in all cases?

- (iv) (a) Could the Hon. Minister indicate whether there were requests in 2012 for reviews of the NGSAs exam results? If so, how many and were these reviews done?

 (b) Could the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly whether there were requests for reviews of the National Grade Six Assessment in 2013? If so, how many and when will these reviews be completed?

(Notice Paper No.202 (Q 125 Opp. 123) published on 2013-07-03)

Answers:

“The National Grade Six Assessment 2013 was written on the 25 & 26 March 2013 across all ten (10) administrative regions of Guyana. Sixteen thousand eight hundred and eleven (16,811) candidates were entered for the assessment. Ninety eight (98%) percent of the students entered wrote the assessment. The candidates also wrote the National Grade Two Assessment (NGTA) in 2009 and National Grade Four Assessment (NGFA) in 2011. The results of the National Grade Six Assessment present a candidate’s overall performance at three assessments.

The highest possible standardize score obtainable in Mathematics – 134, English – 146, Social Studies – 138, and Science-142. The highest possible total score obtainable was 560.

Note: For logistical and analytical purposes, Georgetown is disaggregated from Region # 4 and is referred to as Region # 11.

The largest number of candidates for the National Grade Six Assessment were from Region # 4 (Demerara-Mahaica) with 3556, followed by Georgetown with 2850 and Region # 3 (Essequibo Islands-West Demerara) with 2213. The smallest number of candidates being presented were from Region # 8 (Potaro-Siparuni) with 282 candidates.

Georgetown secured the highest percentage of candidates obtaining 50% and more in all four subject areas, Mathematics – 58.11%, English Language -43.19%, Science-43.51% and Social-Studies-58.18%. Region # 10 (Upper Demerara- Berbice) followed with 51.05% in Mathematics, English - 34.94%, Science-40.79% and Social Studies – 52.5%. Region # 3 was third in candidates receiving 50% and more in all four subject areas, with Mathematics – 48.76%, English - 31.95%, Science - 35.65% and Social Studies - 47.99%. Region # 8 and Region # 1 secured the lowest percentage of candidates obtaining 50% and more in the four subject areas.

- (i) The norm reference test is the type of assessment or evaluation which yields an estimate of the position of the tested individual in a specific population, therefore the highest possible score by a candidate one year can be 555 marks and in another year 548 marks. The National Grade Six Assessment utilizes the norm-reference type of testing and is specifically geared at the placement of students into the secondary level.

In 2013 43.9% of the candidates scored over 50% in Mathematics, 28.7% scored over 50% in English 31.8% scored over 50% in Science and 44% scored over 50% in Social Studies.

Please note that significant improvements were recorded over the years as can be seen from the table below.

PERCENTAGE OF CANDIDATES GAINING 50% & MORE					
Year	# entered for examination	Mathematics	English	Science	Social-Studies
1993	14,495	8.4	9.5	22.4	13.5
1998	13,861	Not available presently	Not available presently	Not available presently	Not available presently
2003	14,858	28.3	32.1	49.1	36.1
2008	16,885	35.4	32.9	34.8	24.7
2013	16,623	43.9	28.7	31.8	44

- (ii) The results for the National Grade Six Assessment are presented using standardized scores therefore 400 marks cannot be use as a bench mark for pass or failure.

It should be noted that marks gained at the National Grade Six Assessment might not place a candidate at a List A school in Georgetown, but place another candidate with the same score in a List A school in another Region. 9,040 students scored below 400 marks.

The table below indicates the number of candidates placed at the secondary level:

Types of School	# of Candidates
National Top	708
Regional Top	301
List A Schools	2145
List B Schools	4898
List C “	3030
List D “	1012
List E “	2018
List F “	1516
List G “	379
Remain in Primary Top	616

- (iii) The National Grade Two Assessment 2009 and National Grade Four Assessment 2011 were added to the National Grade Six Assessment 2013 scores. A percentage of the marks gained at the Grade Two and the Grade Four Assessments was combined with the marks gained at the Grade Six Assessment in order to determine the candidates' overall scores. Five percent (5%) of each candidate's Grade Two score in Mathematics and English, and ten percent (10%) of the Grade Four score in the same subjects, were added to eighty five percent (85%) of each candidate's score in those subjects. The combined scores in Mathematics and English were added to the scores gained in Science and Social Studies.

Score at Grade 2 (5%), Grade 4 (10%) and Grade 6 (85% - English & Math) 100 % Soc St, Science

The statistics below show the results for two actual candidates:

Name	Grade Two (5%)		Grade Four (10%)		Grade 6			SST	SCI	Total
	Eng	Math	Eng	Math	Eng	Math	SST			
Highest Possible Score	6.9	6.5	13.7	14.1	125.8	113.05	138	142	560	
6047---6.05	5.4	11	9.7	95.2	90.1	104	103		424	
11102---6.65	6.5	13.1	13.9	121.55	113.05	131	140		545	

It should be noted that candidate 6047--- was awarded a place at Tutorial Academy and candidate 11102--- was placed at Queen's College.

- (iv) Examinations Division, Ministry of Education, entertains reviews for the National Grade Six Assessment on an annual basis. A letter indicating a request for a review must be forwarded from the Headteacher of the Primary school to the Examinations Division along with a review fee. Acceptance of reviews closes three weeks after the release of the NGSA results. If there are any changes to the results the review fee is refunded.

In 2012 there were sixty seven (67) requests for reviews and all were completed.

- (v) In 2013 there were 86 requests for reviews and all were completed.

4. **THE LEARNING CHANNEL**

Member Asking: **Ms Amna Ally, M.P.,**
Opposition Chief Whip

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Education**

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister list the locations in Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9 which are reached by the Learning Channel?

- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister furnish the National Assembly with a programme guide that is disseminated to those Regions?
(Notice Paper No.203 (Q 126 Opp. 124) published on 2013-07-03)

Answers:

- (i) Region 1 – Port Kaituma and Mabarauma
 Region 7 - Moira Point
 Region 8 - Madhia
 Region 9 - Lethem, Annai, Aishalton

- (ii) Programme Guide is published on the Guyana Learning Channel everyday and in the newspapers on Wednesdays.

The Learning Channel Guide is published on the Channel about 35-50 times per day, 7 days a week.

5. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Member Asking: Ms Amna Ally, M.P.,
Opposition Chief Whip

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly whether the IT equipment given to Secondary Schools is in use and functional?
 - (ii) Could the Minister list the schools where IT equipment is not functional?
 - (iii) How soon will such equipment be functional?
- (Notice Paper No.204 (Q 127 Opp. 125) published on 2013-07-03)**

The Minister of Education did not pass copies of the answer to the above question to the Clerk of the National Assembly for circulation to Members at that sitting, as required by Standing Order No. 22(4).

6. REHABILITATION OF THE BARABINA ROAD

Member Asking: Ms Amna Ally, M.P.,
Opposition Chief Whip

Minister Answering: The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly what is the status quo with the \$16M that was passed in the 2012 Budget for the purpose of rehabilitation of the Barabina road since this work should have commenced in November, 2012?

22.

- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister also state whether Joshi Construction was contracted to execute the works?
- (iii) Is the Minister satisfied that works done by this firm is of acceptable standard?
(Notice Paper No. 206 (Q 129 Opp. 127) published on 2013-07-11)

Answers:

- (i) “This Project was awarded to Joshi Construction and Transportation Services by NPTAB through the Ministry of Public Works under the Hinterland Road Programme in November, 2012 and was treated as a rollover project with a start date of 2nd January, 2013.
- (ii) This Project was reported to have been in the process of Mobilisation and works has commenced (Nayeem-Ministry of Public Works).
- (iii) Duly noted this project was captured under the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development in 2011, but 6M (Budgeted) was warranted to WSG for this project so it was facilitated by Ministry of Public Works.”

7. REHABILITATION WORKS AT THE NORTH WEST SECONDARY SCHOOL

Member Asking: **Ms Amna Ally, M.P.,**
Opposition Chief Whip

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Education**

Could the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly whether the North West Secondary School rehabilitation works will be completed on time for the opening of the September, 2013 term in order to reduce the present discomfort the children of Region # 1 are experiencing?

(Notice Paper No. 207 (Q 130 Opp. 128) published on 2013-07-11)

ANSWER:

“The contract was signed on October 29, 2012 and the project duration was expected to be for 6 months. The actual start date was February, 2013 and there was a period of unforeseen delays for about 3-4 weeks with a defects liability period for 3 months

The contractor did not commence the works promptly after signing the contract in October 2012 since the Regional Administration was unable to identify alternative locations for the students and teachers. It was only until the end of January 2013 the Regional Administration indicated that they were successful in relocating the students. The contractor was then allowed access to the site and hence commenced the works during the second week of February 2013.

On March 18, 2013 a letter from the REO was sent to the Permanent Secretary, MOE highlighting issues identified by the building overseer Mr. D. Ram. Consequently, a site visit was made by the Ministry’s engineer who confirmed that the Bill of Quantities was deficient.

As a result, the entire Bill of Quantities was reviewed and re-designed. The contractor was asked to stop working for a period of 3-4 weeks during this review.

The Contractor is adamant that he will complete the entire project by the end of September 2013.”

8. MORAWHANNA SCHOOL

Member Asking: **Ms Africo Selman, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Education**

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister kindly indicate the number of teachers working at the Morawhanna School and whether in her opinion this number is adequate to deliver quality education?

24.

- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister state whether this is the full complement of teachers in keeping with what is stipulated for the number of children on enrolment at the Morawhanna School?

(Notice Paper No. 208 (Q 131 Opp. 129) published on 2013-07-11)

Answers:

“The name of the school in question is St. Peter and Paul Primary School located in Morawhanna, Region # 1. It is a Grade “D” multi-grade school.

The number of teachers working in the school is 3.

- One Headmistress
- One Senior Mistress
- One Temporary unqualified Master

The present enrolment of the school is 72.

According to the Non-Academic Standards, the establishment for staff is 1 Headteacher, 1 Senior Mistress/Master and 3 Assistant Mistresses/Masters making a total of 5. Two persons have already indicated their interest to teach at the school. They were advised to apply for the positions after which an interview would be done and forwarded to the Teaching Service Commission.”

9. **TEACHERS' QUARTERS AT MORAWHANNA**

Member Asking: Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Could the Hon. Minister state whether the establishment of a Living Quarters for the Teachers at Morawhanna is in contemplation and if so, how soon will it be made a reality and if not, what arrangements are being put in place to alleviate the financial hardship of the Teachers who have to travel back and forth to attend school?

(Notice Paper No. 209 (Q 132 Opp. 130) published on 2013-07-11)

Answer:

“The establishment of a Living Quarters for Teachers at Morawhanna is in contemplation for 2014 budget. In the interim, a proposal has been put to the Regional Democratic Council to remove the existing building (old school building) at Unity Square to be relocated at Morawhanna for Teachers’ Quarters. The Regional Administration tried to secure a building to rent at Morawhanna, but none could have found.

In order to alleviate the financial hardship of the teachers who have to travel back and forth to attend school a \$30,000 housing/accommodation allowance is recommended.”

10. **FREQUENT FLOODING IN THE MORAWHANNA AREA**

Member Asking: Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

Whereas poor drainage contribute to frequent flooding in the Morawhanna area, could the Hon. Minister indicate what measures are being instituted to improve drainage and therefore reduce and eventually prevent flooding?

(Notice Paper No. 210 (Q 133 Opp. 131) published on 2013-07-11)

Answer:

“The area of concern in Morawhanna constitutes one hundred and thirty nine (139 acres) which require rehabilitation of a sluice and empoldering of the total acreage. The Ministry of Agriculture’s National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) has discussed this problem with Region 1 Authorities and the Ministry of Public Works and has proposed construction of various structures to be budgeted either for Region 1 or the Ministry of Public Works, either via Supplementary Budget for 2013 or in 2014 Budget.

The NDIA is willing to undertake the work on behalf of Region 1.”

11. KOKERS AT MORAWHANNA

Member Asking: Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

Could the Hon. Minister kindly state whether he is aware that the two (2) Kokers at Morawhanna have not been in operation for some time now, could the Hon. Minister kindly tell this National Assembly when the two Kokers will be rehabilitated or when will new Kokers be built?

(Notice Paper No. 211 (Q 134 Opp. 132) published on 2013-07-11)

Answer:

“Rehabilitating the structure without heightening the dams surrounding the area would not solve the problem since the area is also flooded from water overtopping the dams. The works recommended on the structure include:-

1. Construction of revetment
2. Construction of new gantry columns and beams
3. Construction of timber doors
4. Repairs to reinforced concrete top slab and walls
5. Backfilling of the structure

The NDIA had done projected costs for these works.”

12. **SUPPLY OF POTABLE WATER TO THE RESIDENTS OF MABARUMA SETTLEMENT**

Member Asking: Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

Notwithstanding that pipelines were laid since 2006, the residents of Mabaruma Settlement are still without potable water. Could the Hon. Minister kindly indicate when this basic amenity will be supplied to those residents?

(Notice Paper No. 212 (Q 135 Opp. 133) published on 2013-07-11)

Answer:

“It was originally intended for the Mabaruma Settlement to be provided with service from the Mabaruma Water Supply System which is recharged from a spring. However, this spring source has deteriorated over the years and resulted in only a small percent of the Mabaruma Settlement receiving service.

Under the 2013 Capital Programme, a new spring box with an engine driven unit is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year, which will provide for supplying Mabaruma Settlement with water service, a pilot project will be undertaken for the drilling of a potable water well within the Mabaruma Settlement. Once this well drilling project is successful, the entire community will benefit from increased hours of service. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013.”

13. **TRANSFORMER TO GENERATE HIGHER VOLTAGE OF ELECTRICITY AT MABARUMA SETTLEMENT**

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, to following question was deferred:

28.

Whereas the residents of Mabaruma Settlement made vigorous protest in 2012 and as a result they were promised a transformer to generate higher voltage. Could the Hon. Prime Minister kindly state when the residents will receive this transformer which will enable them to enjoy the full use of their electrical appliances?

(Notice Paper No. 213 (Q 136 Opp. 134) published on 2013-07-11)

14. **FERRY TO KUMAKA**

Member Asking: Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Works

Could the Hon. Minister state whether any action is being contemplated to ensure that the Ferry to Kumaka operates on schedule fortnightly as in the past, so as to reduce the losses suffered by business people as a result of the delay and the lack of proper schedule of the Ferry?

(Notice Paper No. 214 (Q 137 Opp. 135) published on 2013-07-11)

Answer:

“The M.V. Kimbia, which has been under extensive docking works for the past months, will return to service by August 15, 2013.

This will allow for a full resumption of the service to Region #1.”

15. **PAYMENT OF PENSION AT THE MABARUMA POST OFFICE**

Member Asking: Ms Rennita Williams, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Could the Hon. Minister state whether she is aware of the pensioners not receiving their pension on time at the Mabaruma Post Office? If yes, what arrangements are being put in to place to resolve this problem?

(Notice Paper No. 215 (Q 138 Opp. 136) published on 2013-07-11)

Answer:

“Yes. All funding for the payment of pensions is provided to the Guyana Post Office Corporation on a monthly basis prior to the first day of the new month.

The Guyana Post Office Corporation has an administrative arrangement in place for the distribution of funds to its Post Offices in the ten (1) Administrative Regions. The Administration of the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security is currently in discussion with the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development for the Regional Administration of Region #1, to effect the payment of pensions to pensioners in Mabaruma.”

16. BARABINA ROAD

Member Asking: Ms Rennita Williams, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Could the Hon. Minister state whether works on the Barabina Road is scheduled for 2013?

(Notice Paper No. 216 (Q 139 Opp. 137) published on 2013-07-11)

Answer:

“Yes.”

17. KHAN'S HILL ROAD AT MABARUMA

Member Asking: **Ms Rennita Williams, M.P.**

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

Could the Hon. Minister state when would work commence on Khan's Hill Road at Mabaruma?
What is the expected date of completion?

(Notice Paper No. 217 (Q 140 Opp. 138) published on 2013-07-11)

Answer:

“Contract was awarded to Joshi Construction and Transportation Services on the 16th October, 2012 by RPTAB and works were expected to commence on 19th October, 2012, however to date no works have commenced and the mobilisation payment and bond has since expired.

This Project was treated as a multi-year project and was projected to be completed 16th June, 2013.”

18. FERRY SERVICE TO MABARUMA

Member Asking: **Ms Annette Ferguson, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Public Works**

Could the Hon. Minister explain/give reason(s) to the National Assembly –

- (i) Why is there only one (1) ferry providing service to residents of Mabaruma once per month?

- (ii) Why does the ferry take an approximately thirty-six (36) hours to reach its final destination from Georgetown?

- (iii) Is there any consideration to assign another ferry to ply the Mabaruma District to relieve travelling woes of residents of Mabaruma and its' Sub-Regions? If yes, how soon would this arrangement take effect?

(Notice Paper No. 218 (Q 141 Opp. 139) published on 2013-07-11)

Answers:

- (i) “The reason there is only one ferry providing service to Mabaruma is because presently the M.V. Kimbia is docked at GNIC undergoing rehabilitation and this is the designated vessel for Mabaruma. The M.V. Lady Northcote which operates the Port Kaituma route is assisting with the Mabaruma service.
- (ii) No vessel takes thirty-six (36) hours to reach Mabaruma – the vessel takes approximately twenty-five (25) hours. Discharging of cargo enroute at Morawhanna and the inclement weather conditions recently has occasionally added delay time.
- (iii) Currently there is no consideration to assign another ferry to ply the Mabaruma District. However, the M.V. Kimbia which is in dock and which plies this route is slated to be out of dock by August 15, 2013.

There has been a decision to acquire a new modern vessel for the Region #1 service, so as to upgrade the comfort, reduce time and improve serviceability on this route.

The new vessel is intended to be in service in 2014.”

19. SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO MABARUMA AND ITS ENVIRONS

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, to following question was deferred:

Could the Hon. Prime Minister indicate to the National Assembly –

- (i) Why do residents of Mabaruma and its environs (Kumaka, Hosororo, etc.) only enjoy electricity supply for six (6) hours, between the hours of 17:00 hrs. to 23:00 hrs. daily?
- (ii) Is there any consideration for twenty-four (24) hours electricity supply to residents of Mabaruma? If yes, how soon will this be done? If no, why not?

(Notice Paper No. 219 (Q 142 Opp. 140) published on 2013-07-11)

20. EXPENDITURE FOR ELECTRICITY SUPPLIED TO MABARUMA AND PORT KAITUMA

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, to following question was deferred:

What is the detailed expenditure for electricity supplied to Mabaruma and Port Kaituma, respectively?

(Notice Paper No. 220 (Q 143 Opp. 141) published on 2013-07-11)

21. ROADS IN MABARUMA

Member Asking: Ms Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Could the Hon. Minister make available to the National Assembly information on the following:-

Are works scheduled to be done on Roads in Mabaruma? If yes, kindly provide a breakdown, including name of streets/roads along with its' estimated cost. If no, when are works likely to be done?

(Notice Paper No. 221 (Q 144 Opp. 142) published on 2013-07-11)

Answer:

“Works of this Nature are captured under the Region’s Programme of Public Works as per the following table:

Name of Project	Location	Estimated Cost	Status
Completion of Khan’s Gate to Wanaina Bridge.	Mabaruma	4,480,000	Awarded to Joshi Construction-Works yet to commence
Rehabilitation of Road from Digicel to Bumbury Junction	Mabaruma	13,670,000	Awarded to Champ & Sons Enterprise. Mobilisation Advance of \$5,370,274 requested

22. KUMAKA MARKET TARMAC

Member Asking: Ms Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Could the Hon. Minister make available to the National Assembly information on the following-

- (i) What is the initial timeline given to complete works on the Kumaka Market Tarmac and what is the new timeline?
- (ii) How much money has been spent so far of the estimated cost of the works?

- (iii) Could the Minister provide a detailed breakdown on the remaining works to be done and the estimated cost?
- (iv) Could the Minister also name the contracting firm that will undertake the works at the Market Tarmac?

(Notice Paper No. 222 (Q 145 Opp. 143) published on 2013-07-11)

Answers:

1. “The Initial timeline given for this project was June of 2012, however due to some defects in the evolution of the design, constraints were encountered and the Ministry was forced to re-design the project, an Engineer from the Ministry of Public Works (Kester Hinds) spearheaded this motion through collaboration of the Regional Administration.

The Scope of works was re-examined and approved by the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board on the 22nd of August, 2012 and the contractor was advised. Works commenced on 16th September with a contract duration period of Six (6) months (16th March, 2013 projected completion date), additional changes were made due to the boggy nature of the land which now caters for a long term effect with the installation of a Revetment at the Sides and front catering for the most vulnerable and traffic traversing areas of the Tarmac with longer(from 8 to 10ft) driven piles and more backfilling and as such approval was again granted as per directions of the Supervising Engineer and the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development this created another 3 months extension which now takes effect to August of 2013.

The back of the Tarmac was excluded due to plans for future expansions which have now taken effect since award was made as part of 2013 budget estimates.

Status to date

Name of Project: Construction of Market Tarmac

Location: Kumaka, Mabaruma

Budget: \$37,116,160 (2011)

\$29,743,000(2012)

\$16,276,000(2013)

Contract Sum: \$ 30,726,160

Contractor: Joshi Construction and Transportation Services

Expenditure to Date: \$14,450,926

Physical Achievement: 45%

Works Outstanding:**Surface layers**

1. **Asphalt/Bitumen**
2. **Gravel**
3. **Surface dressing**

SEALING OF SURFACE

- Compacted gravel/sandy loam Sub-Base 4” thick
- One Layer 4” thick cu.yd

**Compacted crushed stone base course 3” thick, 3/4” minus aggregate
compacted to 96% Mod AASHTO**

- One Layer 2” thick cu.yd
- Application of RC 250 bitumen to Base Course- one layer at a rate of 0.25 gln/sq.yd
- One layersq. Rod

Application of ½” Minus Fines-one layer 1” thick-applied 15-20 minutes after Bitumen

- One Layer
- **Application of RC 250 Bitumen to Base Course-one layer at a rate of 0.45gln/sq.yd**
- One Layer
- **Application of White sand-one layer 1” thick spread over compacted fines**
- One layer
- **INGRESS & EGRESS REINFORCEMENT CONCRETE BRIDGES**
- Construction of Reinforce Concrete bridge 16’×16 linking main road to Bus/car park- cater for all piles, toe piling, etc.no.
- Construction of Timber bridge 6’×10’ - cater for all piles, toe piling, etc
- **INSTALLATION OF TIMBER REVETMENT AROUND PERIMETER**
(Excluding the back of the tarmac)Treatment of timber and bolt & nuts to be provided
- Supply and Install 8"× 8" hardwood post at 15' lengths and spaced at 10' centres
- Supply and Install 8"× 8" hardwood post at 10' lengths and spaced at 10' centres
- Supply and Install 3"× 6" hardwood wailers as directed by site engineer
- Supply and Install 4"× 8" hardwood wailers as directed by site engineer
- Supply and Install 2"× 12" hardwood wailers as directed by site engineer
- Supply and Install 40 feet timber piles(treatment and bearking inclusive)

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS NOS. 69 AND 26(e)

The leave of the Speaker was obtained in accordance with Standing Order No. 112 for the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to move the following motion at that sitting:

WHEREAS the Hydro-Electric Power (Amendment) Bill 2013 – Bill No. 15/2013 was declared lost and the Motion on the Limit of the Amount Outstanding Under the Guarantees Given Under the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act, was negatived at the Sitting of the National Assembly on 18th July, 2013;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana, as a result of recent developments, is desirous of proceeding with the second and third readings of the Hydro-Electric Power (Amendment) Bill 2013 – Bill No. 15/2013 and the consideration of the Motion to Limit the Amount Outstanding Under Guarantees Given Under the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 112 makes provision for the suspension of one or more Standing Orders to facilitate the work of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 69 states, “once the second reading of any Bill has been agreed to or negatived, no question shall be proposed during the same Session for the second reading of any other Bill containing substantially the same provision”;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 26(e) states that a motion shall not revive discussion of a matter which has been discussed in the same Session,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 69 and 26(e) be suspended to allow the National Assembly to proceed with the second and third readings of the Hydro-Electric Power (Amendment) Bill 2013 – Bill No. 15/2013 and the consideration of the Motion to Limit on Amount Outstanding Under Guarantees Given Under the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mrs. Deborah Backer

Mr. Basil Williams

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

The motion was put and carried on the following division:

AGAINST

Ms Ferguson

Mr. Morian

Ms Williams

Mr. Jones

Mr. Adams

Ms Baveghems

Mr. Sharma

Mr. Bulkan

Mr. Bond

Ms Kissoon

Mr. Trotman

Ms Selman

Mr. Allicock

FOR

Mr. T. Williams

Ms Marcello

Dr. Ramayya

Mrs. Garrido-Lowe

Mrs. Hughes

Mr. Nagamootoo

Mr. Ramjattan

Mr. Jafarally

Mr. Damon

Dr. Persaud

Rev. Gilbert

Dr. Mahadeo

Mr. Seeraj

Mr. Neendkumar

Mr. Lumumba

Mr. Chand

Ms Shaddick

Mrs. Chandarpal

Mr. Nadir

Ms Teixeira

Ms Wade
Mr. Felix
Ms Hastings-Williams
Mr. Scott
Lt. Co. (Ret'd) Harmon
Mr. Greenidge
Mrs. Backer
Dr. Norton
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. B. Williams
Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

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Bishop Edghill
Mr. Whittaker
Mr. Baksh
Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Ms Webster
Mr. G. Persaud
Ms Manickchand
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Westford
Dr. Singh
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Dr. Ramsammy
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

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SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 3.55 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 5.54 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

ITEM 1 - TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL 2012 – Bill No. 18/2012 published on 2012-08-09

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of the Telecommunications Agency and for a regular, coordinated, open and competitive telecommunications sector and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2012-08-09)

ITEM 2 - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 17/2012 published on 2012-08-09

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Public Utilities Commission Act.

(Read a first time on 2012-08-09)

ITEM 3 - FISCAL TRANSFERS BILL 2012 – Bill No. 20/2012 published on 2012-08-09

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development moved the second reading of the following Bill, which was referred to a Special Select Committee:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the objective criteria for the allocation of resources to local authorities and for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2012-08-09)

41.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Dr. Veersammy Ramayya

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development 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 to 10 were passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, the Fiscal Transfers Bill 2012 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 4 - MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 19/2012 published on 2012-08-09

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development moved the second reading of the following Bill, which was referred to a Special Select Committee:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Municipal and District Councils Act.
(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2012-08-09)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Ronald Bulkan

The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Dr. Veersammy Ramayya

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development 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 amended.

The Schedule was passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, the Municipal and District Councils (Amendment) Bill 2012 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 5 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 12/2012

published on 2012-07-31

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development moved the second reading of the following Bill, which was referred to a Special Select Committee:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Government Act.

(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2012-07-30)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Ronald Bulkan

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

Mr. Norman Whittaker

Mr. Basil Williams

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development 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 amended.

The Schedule

The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development moved the following amendment, which was put and negatived:

“Restore Section 2(4): “Regional Executive Officer” means the Clerk or Chief Executive Officer of a Regional Democratic Council.”

The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development moved the following amendments, which were put and carried:

“Delete Section 6 “The Commission may...” and replace with:

- (i) For the word “it” as per the Principal Act, substitute the words “the Minister”.
- (ii) For the word “their” substitute the word “the” and insert immediately after the word “approval” the words “of the Minister”.

44.

Retain Section 12 (subsection 1) of the Principal Act.”

The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development moved the following amendment, which was put and negatived:

“Delete Sections 13 and 14 of the amendments of the Local Government Amendment Bill 12/2012 and retain Sections 13 and 14 of the Principal Act.”

The Schedule was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, the Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2012 was read a third time and passed as amended.

ITEM 6 - LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION BILL – Bill No. 13/2012 published on 2012-07-31

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development moved the second reading of the following Bill, which was referred to a Special Select Committee:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to establish the Local Government Commission, as provided for by Article 78A of the Constitution, to provide for the Commission’s functions and procedure, and for connected and incidental purposes.

(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2012-07-30)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Ronald Bulkan

Ms Gail Teixeira

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

45.

Thereafter, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development 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 to 3 were passed as amended.

Clause 4

The Minister in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development moved the following amendments:

“Amend Clause 4 subsection (1) to read “eight” instead of “seven”

Add a new Clause 4(1)(d) which shall read as follows:-

“One member, appointed by the Minister after consultation with Local Democratic Organs”.”

The amendments were put and carried on the following division:

AGAINST

Ms Ferguson

Mr. Morian

Ms Williams

Mr. Jones

Mr. Adams

Ms Baveghems

Mr. Sharma

Mr. Bulkan

FOR

Mr. T. Williams

Ms Marcello

Dr. Ramayya

Mrs. Garrido-Lowe

Mrs. Hughes

Mr. Nagamootoo

Mr. Ramjattan

Mr. Jafarally

Mr. Damon

Dr. Persaud

Rev. Gilbert

Dr. Mahadeo

Mr. Seeraj

Mr. Neendkumar

Mr. Lumumba

Mr. Bond
 Ms Kissoon
 Mr. Trotman
 Ms Selman
 Mr. Allicock
 Ms Wade
 Mr. Felix
 Ms Hastings-Williams
 Mr. Scott
 Lt. Co. (Ret'd) Harmon
 Mr. Greenidge
 Dr. Norton
 Mrs. Lawrence
 Mr. B. Williams
 Ms Ally
 Dr. Roopnarine
 Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

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Mr. Chand
 Ms Shaddick
 Mrs. Chandarpal
 Mr. Nadir
 Ms Teixeira
 Bishop Edghill
 Mr. Whittaker
 Mr. Baksh
 Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
 Ms Webster
 Mr. G. Persaud
 Mr. Benn
 Dr. Anthony
 Mr. Ali
 Dr. Ramsarran
 Dr. Westford
 Dr. Singh
 Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
 Dr. Ramsammy
 Mr. Rohee
 Mr. Hinds

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Clauses 5 to 33 were passed as amended.

The Schedule was passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, the Local Government Commission Bill 2012 was read a third time and passed as amended.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)

At 9.32 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Standing Order No. 10(1) was suspended to enable the Assembly to continue with its business uninterrupted.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

At 9.37 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

RESUMPTION OF SITTING

At 10.15 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

ITEM 7 - HYDRO-ELECTRIC POWER (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No.15/2013
published on 2013-06-13

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Hydro-Electric Power Act.

(Read a first time on 2013-06-13)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Carl Greenidge

The Minister of Public Works

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

48.

Thereafter, the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

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

In Committee

Clause 1 was passed as printed.

Clause 2

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following amendments, which were put and carried:

“Clause 2 - For the words beginning with “for” and ending with “facilities” substitute the following –

“for the management, conservation and preservation of the environment surrounding hydroelectricity generating facilities or areas intended as compensation for residual impacts from hydroelectricity generating facilities”.”

Clause 2 was then passed as amended.

Clause 3

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following amendments, which were put and carried:

“Renumber clause 3 as clause 6 and insert the following as clause 3 –

3. Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended –

(a) by the insertion immediately after paragraph (vi) in the definition of “undertaking” of the following paragraph as paragraph (viA) –

“(viA) the taking of all appropriate measures for the management, conservation and preservation of the environment, flora, fauna, aquatic life and ecological habitat of areas surrounding hydroelectricity generating facilities or areas intended as compensation for residual impacts from hydroelectricity generating facilities;”;

(b) by the insertion in the definition of “water-power” immediately after the words “commercial value” of the words “and in a manner consistent with the conservation and preservation of the environment surrounding hydroelectricity generating facilities or areas intended as compensation for residual impacts from hydroelectricity generating facilities”;

(c) by the insertion in the definition of “works” immediately after the words “electrical energy” the words “and any measures taken for the management, conservation and preservation of the environment surrounding hydroelectricity generating facilities or areas intended as compensation for residual impacts from hydroelectricity generating facilities”;

(d) by the insertion immediately before the definition of “divert” of the following definition –

“biodiversity offset” means measurable conservation outcomes resulting from actions designed to compensate for significant residual adverse biodiversity impacts arising from project development, and persisting after appropriate prevention and mitigation have been taken with the

50.

goal to achieve no net loss and preferably a net gain of biodiversity on the ground with respect to species composition, habitat structure, ecosystem function and people's use and cultural values associated with biodiversity;”;

(e) by the insertion immediately after the definition of “Engineer” of the following definition –

“hydroelectric offset reserve area” means the identified portions of land and water set aside by reason of their physical and biological values, ecosystem function, to be managed to enhance biological diversity, sustenance, people's use and cultural value, habitat structure and protect against negative anthropogenic impact;”;

(f) by the insertion immediately before the definition of “water-power” of the following definition –

“watershed” means the area or region drained by a river, river system, or other body of water;”.

Clause 3 was then passed as amended.

Clause 4

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following amendments, which were put and carried:

“Insert the following as clause 4 –

1. Section 6 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (1) by the substitution for the full stop at the end of paragraph (c) of a colon and by the insertion after the colon of the following words -

“Provided that such licence shall be granted subject to the taking of all appropriate measures for the conservation and preservation of the environment, flora, fauna, aquatic life and ecological habitat of areas surrounding hydroelectricity generating facilities.”.

Clause 4 was then passed as amended.

Clause 5

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following amendments, which were put and carried:

“Insert the following as clause 5 –

1. Section 12 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion immediately after paragraph (h) of the following as paragraph (i) –

“(i) failure by the licensee to take all appropriate measures for the conservation and preservation of the environment, flora, fauna, aquatic life and ecological habitat of areas surrounding hydroelectricity generating facilities.”

Clause 5 was then passed as amended.

Clause 6

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following amendments, which were put and carried:

“Section 23 of the Principal Act is amended as follows –

- (a) in section (1) by inserting immediately after paragraph (o) the following paragraph as paragraph (oA) –

“(oA) the establishment of a hydroelectric offset area authority or similar authorities, the creation of hydroelectric offset areas and rules for the establishment, management and operation of hydroelectric offset reserve areas for the conservation and preservation of the environment surrounding hydroelectricity generating facilities;”

- (b) in subsection (2) by the substitution for the words “nineteen thousand five hundred dollars” of the words “one million dollars”.

Clause 6 was then passed as amended.

Clause 7

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs moved the following amendments:

“Insert the following as clause 7 –

Section 26 of the Principal Act is amended –

- (a) by the renumbering of section 26 as section 26 (1);
- (b) by the substitution for the words “of four hundred dollars” of the words “not exceeding ten million dollars”;
- (c) by the insertion of the following as subsections (2), (3), (4) (5) and (6)–

“(2) The following acts are prohibited within hydroelectric offset reserve areas—

- (a) mining, mineral locating, logging, farming and agricultural activity of any kind;
- (b) hunting, destroying, disturbing, or mere possession of any plants or animals or products except by indigenous peoples for traditional use;
- (c) dumping of any waste products detrimental to the hydroelectric offset reserve area, or to the plants and animals or inhabitants therein;
- (d) mutilating, defacing or destroying objects of natural beauty, or objects of interest to cultural communities of scenic value;

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- (e) damaging and leaving roads and trails in a damaged condition;
- (f) squatting, adverse possession or opportunistic settlement or otherwise occupying any land;
- (g) constructing or maintaining any kind of structure, fence or enclosure;
- (h) leaving in exposed or unsanitary conditions refuse or debris, or depositing in ground or in bodies of water;
- (i) altering, removing destroying or defacing boundary marks or signs; and
- (j) any other acts so designated by the Minister on the advice of the competent Hydroelectric Offset Area Authority, or any other act prohibited to satisfy obligations of the State under local or international law.

(3) Anyone who commits any of the acts in subsection (2) (a) to (j) commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten million dollars.

(4) The Minister on the advice of the competent Hydroelectric Offset Area Authority may by regulations —

- (a) amend the list of offences in subsections (2) (a) to (j) for actions that contravene the objectives of this Act and the Hydroelectricity Offset Reserve Area Regulations made under it;
- (b) fix the amount of the fine for a prescribed offence, but the amount shall not exceed ten million dollars.

(5) All new offences shall be gazetted and published weekly in a national newspaper of wide circulation for no less than three consecutive weeks.

(6) No person shall be liable for any newly created offence until three months after the last date of its publication in the Gazette.”.

The amendments were put and carried on the following division:

AGAINST

Ms Ferguson
Mr. Morian
Ms Williams
Mr. Jones
Mr. Adams
Ms Baveghems
Mr. Sharma
Mr. Bulkan
Mr. Bond
Ms Kissoon
Mr. Trotman
Ms Selman
Mr. Allicock
Ms Wade
Mr. Felix
Ms Hastings-Williams
Mr. Scott
Lt. Co. (Ret'd) Harmon
Mr. Greenidge

FOR

Mr. T. Williams
Ms Marcello
Dr. Ramayya
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe
Mrs. Hughes
Mr. Nagamootoo
Mr. Ramjattan
Mr. Jafarally
Mr. Damon
Dr. Persaud
Rev. Gilbert
Dr. Mahadeo
Mr. Seeraj
Mr. Neendkumar
Mr. Lumumba
Mr. Chand
Ms Shaddick
Mrs. Chandarpal
Mr. Nadir
Ms Teixeira
Bishop Edghill
Mr. Whittaker
Mr. Baksh
Mrs. Campbell-Sukhai
Ms Webster
Mr. G. Persaud

Dr. Norton
Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. B. Williams
Ms Ally
Dr. Roopnarine
Brig. (Ret'd) Granger

Ms Manickchand
Mr. Benn
Dr. Anthony
Mr. Ali
Dr. Ramsarran
Dr. Westford
Dr. Singh
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett
Dr. Ramsammy
Mr. Rohee
Mr. Hinds

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Clause 7 was then passed as amended.

Assembly resumed

On a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Hydro-Electric Power (Amendment) Bill 2013 was read a third time and passed as amended.

MOTION

**ITEM 8 - LIMIT ON AMOUNT OUTSTANDING UNDER GUARANTEES GIVEN
UNDER THE GUARANTEE OF LOANS (PUBLIC CORPORATIONS AND
COMPANIES) ACT**

The Minister of Finance moved the following motion:

WHEREAS in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act, Chapter 77:01, the Government may in such manner and on such terms and subject to such conditions as may be agreed between it and a lending agency –

- (a) Guarantee the discharge by a Corporation of its obligations under any agreement which may be entered into by the Corporation with a lending agency in respect of any borrowing by that Corporation that is authorised by the Government;
- (b) Assume such other obligation as may be agreed between the Government and a lending agency in relation to or pursuant to any such agreement;
- (c) Undertake the repayment to a lending agency of such sums as the lending agency may have advanced to or for the benefit of the Government;

AND WHEREAS it is provided under Section 2(2) of the aforesaid Act that, for the purposes of the Act, a borrowing by a Corporation shall be deemed to include the obligation of the Corporation to make payments to any person arising out of any contract lawfully entered into by the Corporation;

AND WHEREAS it is provided under Section 4(1) of the aforesaid Act that the aggregate amount of the liability of the Government in respect of guarantees given under Section 3 of the Act shall not at any time exceed the sum of one thousand million dollars or such greater sum as may from time to time be specified by the Resolution of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it has become necessary to specify in accordance with the said Section 4(1) a greater sum for the purpose of enabling the aggregate amount of the liability of the Government in respect of guarantees to be increased due to the extended activities of those incorporated bodies to which the Act applies in accordance with the country's development programme,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve that the aggregate amount of the liability of the Government under Section 4(1) of the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act, in respect of guarantees given under Section 3 of the Act, shall not at any time exceed the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand million dollars.

(Notice Paper No. 195 (M 75 Govt. 25) published on 2013-06-13)

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Carl Greenidge

Mr. Manzoor Nadir

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Thereafter, the Minister of Finance replied.

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., and seconded by Mr. Moses Nagamootoo, M.P., moved the following amendments, which were put and carried:

“BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve that the aggregate amount of the liability of the Government under section 4(1) of the Guarantee of Loans (Public Corporations and Companies) Act, in respect of guarantees given under section 3 of the Act, **shall not at any time exceed the sum of fifty thousand million dollars:**

Provided that this amended aggregate limit shall only apply to the obligation of the Guyana Power and light Inc. to make payments to the Amaila Falls Hydropower Inc., its lenders, or their respective lawful successors, pursuant to any agreement **and shall be reviewable by this National Assembly within three (3) months hereof, if necessary.**”

The motion as amended was then put and carried.

Eid – Mubarak Greetings

The Speaker thanked Members for their co-operation and extended Eid-Mubarak Greetings to all Muslims. He also wished Members an enjoyable recess.

Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition, the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Mr. Moses Nagamoot, M.P., joined the Speaker in extending Eid-Mubarak greetings and thanked the staff of the National Assembly for services rendered during the past twelve months.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.02 a.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to a date to be fixed.

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HON. RAPHAEL G.C. TROTMAN, M.P.,
Speaker of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

7th August, 2013.