

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 63<sup>RD</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2012-2013) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON THURSDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 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 (Absent – on leave)

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

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 (Absent – on leave)

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 2.08 p.m.

**PRAYERS**

The Clerk read the prayers.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

The Speaker made the following announcements:-

#### **Renovation works done to the Public Buildings**

“Hon. Members, in keeping with a promise made by the Clerk of the National Assembly, he was able to have some works undertaken to the building and its environs. I would like to personally thank the Minister of Public Works and commend his staff for the work done. The Minister personally visited the works on many occasions inspecting with his hard hat, and I must say we were able to have the works completed on time.

The works include, for your benefit, the replacement of all air-conditioning units in this Chamber, save and except for two. So we should see an improvement in our environment, certainly in terms of our breathing and comfort. Our washroom facilities; some Members have had a chance to visit them and particularly for the female facilities, I am most pleased Hon. Minister and Mr. Clerk with what I have seen. Again I commend the engineers, the workers, and all who were able to get the works done.

The roof was also completely overhauled. There was a difficulty which I am pleased was also overcome in terms of having the Dome resurfaced because it required lead, which was the original material used to provide the covering. We were able to have the roof recovered in lead. Also on the parapet outside the building there has been a curb wall put up to stop what has become a car park facility for the public. I know some Members have expressed, and rightly so, concerns about parking for them and the Clerk assures, the office is working on a solution: firstly, an extension of the car park in the compound; and, secondly, we are hoping we can have a temporary facility on one of the lawns only on days of sittings.

Lastly the drainage; part of our problem in having the corridor immediately to my left always wet when rain fell was because the drainage coming from the roof was very, very poor. So the engineers and contractors ensured there are now pipes to discharge the water from the roof, rather than onto the corridor. So once again, Mr. Clerk, Minister, staff, contractors and members of the construction team coming from the Ministry of Works my personal thank you and commendation.”

### **Delegation of Members of Parliament and Staff to South Africa**

“Hon. Members, I would like to say as well that a delegation representing this Parliament, the Guyana Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, travelled to Johannesburg, South Africa at the end of August. That delegation was led by the Government’s Chief Whip, Ms. Gail Teixeira. Also as part of that delegation were the Opposition’s Chief Whip, Ms. Amna Ally and the Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly, Acting, Ms. Hermina Gilgeours. They attended the 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. We have not yet seen a report except to say what we have heard that the three got on famously well. I am not getting anything else out of them except that the relation among the three good women of Parliament was excellent.”

### **Staff Training**

“Hon. Members, in terms of staffing Ms. Deslyn West, our Table Officer, successfully completed an attachment as part of our ongoing relations, the Memorandum of Understanding with the Parliament of the United Kingdom, the House of Commons. Ms. Deslyn West completed an attachment from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September, which would enable her to discharge her duties as Table Officer who is really the Procedural Clerk of the National Assembly. Congratulations to Ms West.

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Also Mr. Deo Dookie our IT Officer and Mrs. Onieka Walton, the Public Relations Officer attended an ICT Workshop in Montevideo, Uruguay, at the end of October. We congratulate them for that and expect to see, of course, their continued high levels of service.”

### **Visit of Suriname Speaker of the House and Delegation to Guyana**

“Hon. Members, I would like to announce as well that on 27<sup>th</sup> October the Speaker of Suriname, Dr. Jennifer Geerlings-Simons, along with a delegation of 12 persons visited the Parliament of Guyana. It is the first of its kind. We were able to welcome her and have good meetings. Most important, I believe, was the meeting held with the Foreign Relations Committee which went well. We would like to thank the President, the Leader of the Opposition, the Prime Minister, Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs, and the police for their excellent attendance of our facilities. I will be sending out letters thanking everyone. Mr. Clerk again, Thank you.”

### **Guyana Hosted CPA Conference**

“Hon. Members, immediately after that visit, Guyana hosted the 16<sup>th</sup> Biannual Conference of Speakers, Presiding Officers and Clerks of the Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic Region. That concluded a few days ago. Again, I would like to thank everyone. I will be sending out letters, but I would like to say that I am very, very proud of the way the staff of this National Assembly under the guidance of the Clerk handled all matters. So Mr. Clerk, thank you very much.”

### **CPA Workshop, London**

“Hon. Members, I am reliably informed that later in the month in keeping with good governance and better relations both inter-parliamentary and intra-parliamentary, Hon. Dr. Ashni Kumar Singh, Minister of Finance and Mr. Basil Williams will together, holding hands preferably, travel to London, England to participate in a workshop on the future development of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Please stay warm gentlemen and come back with good news.”



### **Birthday Greetings**

“Hon. Members, today I would like to recognise that in our midst we have a birthday to celebrate. Dr. George Aubrey Norton celebrates his birthday today, happy birthday to you. Also two members of staff share birthdays today, Mr. Deo Dookie, the IT Officer and Mr. Avinash Gariba.

### **Reports of Committees**

“Hon. Members, I would like to say as well that we at the Parliamentary Management Committee are still to finalise this. But we have agreed in principle to have all reports of the Rights Commissions, something we have given a commitment to, not just laid in Parliament, but to be laid, debated and discussed, perhaps even dissected and dilated on in the Social Service Committee.”

### **Security Measures**

“Hon. Members, I would like to have a meeting with Members of the Security sub-committee of the Parliamentary Management Committee during the suspension. We are going to be introducing some new security measures which Members of the press, of the Assembly and members of the public will be seeing. There will be a security scanner. A metal detector is going to be put in place and we want to make sure it is in the best location possible to capture all of us. I do not think there should be any exemptions. That is my personal view.”

### **Loss of Members**

“Hon. Members, I come now to a more sombre aspect of my announcements. That is to say that during the recess Guyana and this Assembly lost two former Members, the first being Mr. Doodnauth Singh, Senior Counsel, former Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs. Mr. Singh passed on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2013 at the Balwant Singh Hospital after a prolonged illness. He was remarkably 80 years old. Mr. Singh was once Chairman of the Guyana Elections Commission, where he presided over the 1997 General and Regional Elections. Following the

General and Regional Elections which were held on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2001, Mr. Singh was first appointed a Minister of the Government of Guyana on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2001 and was thereafter designated Hon. Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs. Mr. Singh served with distinction in the Eighth Parliament of Guyana until it was dissolved on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2006. He returned in the Ninth Parliament again as the Hon. Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2006. On 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2009, he resigned his office as Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs.

On Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2013, a giant in the form of a former female Member Mrs. Margaret Mathilda John, nee Ackman, passed away. I wish to recognise that her son, I think she would be proud to know, sits with us and so we would like to express to you, Sir, our sincerest condolences on your mother's passing.

Mrs. Margaret Mathilda John, CCH, nee Ackman died in the USA on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2013 after a prolonged illness. Mrs. John was an elected Member of the Parliament of Guyana who served continuously for eleven years from 1969 to 1980 in the following capacities. From 3<sup>rd</sup> January, 1969 to 6<sup>th</sup> June, 1973, Mrs. John was an ordinary Member of the National Assembly. Mrs. John became Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister with effect from 26<sup>th</sup> July 1973 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1980. Mrs. John was also Government's Chief Whip. Following the elections of 15<sup>th</sup> December, 1980 Mrs. John ceased to be a legislature in this House.

Hon. Members I invite you please to stand and let us observe one minute's silence as a mark of respect for the late Mr. Doodnauth Singh, Senior Counsel and Mrs. Margaret Mathilda John, CCH, respectively."

**President Assents Bills**

Hon. Members, most of us would have heard in the news yesterday, and read in the newspapers today, and I am informed that the President has assented to two acts, though the news was reporting three. The Parliament Office has been notified with respect to two of those bills, but the newspapers are reporting three. These are the Fiscal Transfers Act No. 16 of 2013 and the Local Government Commission Act No. 18 of 2013. The other act, as I said, based on information received by Parliament Office, I am unable to officially make a comment on. However, I wish to note that there have been two previous bills which were returned. I have not seen the letter from His Excellency as to reasons given, if any, but I propose in the first instance to invite Mr. Greenidge at a date soon to have these bills, the first two which should be bills brought by Mr. Greenidge early in the year, returned on the Order Paper and to enquire of the Hon. Prime Minister as to the one bill, which was not signed and what is the wish of the Government, because the Constitution says we are to have it reconsidered by the House.”

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS-**

Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., on behalf of the Private Sector Commission of Guyana Ltd., presented a Petition requesting the National Assembly to consider and pass the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill 2013 – Bill No. 12 of 2013, which sought to amend the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act of 2009 as a matter of national and economic priority.

(Circulated)

The following Members spoke to a Point of Order raised by Mr. Carl Greenidge, M.P.:

Ms Gail Teixeira

Mrs. Deborah Backer

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

The question that the Petition be read was put and negatived on the following division:

**AGAINST**

Mr. T. Williams  
Ms Marcello  
Dr. Ramayya  
Mrs. Garrido-Lowe  
Mrs. Hughes  
Mr. Nagamootoo  
Mr. Ramjattan  
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  
Mr. Scott

**FOR**

Mr. Jafarally  
Mr. Damon  
Dr. Persaud  
Rev. Gilbert  
Dr. Mahadeo  
Mr. Seeraj  
Mr. Neendkumar  
Mr. Lumumba  
Mr. Chand  
Bibi 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

Lt. Col. (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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Dr. Singh  
Mrs. Rodrigues-Birkett  
Mr. Nandlall  
Dr. Ramsammy  
Mr. Hinds

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**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

Report of the Auditor General to the National Assembly on the Public Accounts of Guyana and on the Accounts of Ministries, Departments and Regions for the fiscal year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012.

(Circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(i) Charter of the Commonwealth which was endorsed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 and signed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.

(Circulated)

14.

- (ii) Charter of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference held in Dakar, Senegal 2008.

(Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Finance:

- (i) Mid-Year Report 2013.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Industrial and Commercial Investments Ltd., (Company) for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011.

(Circulated)

- (iii) Audited Financial Statements of Matthews Ridge Power and Light Inc. for the period 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011.

(Circulated)

- (iv) Audited Financial Statements of Matthews Ridge Power and light Inc. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012.

(Circulated)

- (v) Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Securities Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012.

(Circulated)

- (vi) Audited Financial Statements of the Linden Mining Enterprise Limited for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012.

(Circulated)

(vii) Annual Report of the Guyana Oil Company Limited for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012.

(Circulated)

(viii) Annual Report of the Financial Intelligence Unit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011.

(Circulated)

(ix) Annual Report of the Financial Intelligence Unit for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012.

(Circulated)

(x) Annual Report of the Property Holdings Inc. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2009.

(Circulated)

(xi) Annual Report of the Property Holdings Inc. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2010.

(Circulated)

(xii) Annual Report of the Property Holdings Inc. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011.

(Circulated)

(xiii) Annual Report of the Property Holdings Inc. for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012.

(Circulated)

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(xiv) Financial Paper No. 1/2013 – Statement of Excess on the (Current and Capital) Estimates totalling \$3,384,528,708 for the period ended 2013-12-31.

(Circulated)

(xv) Financial Paper No. 2/2013 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$1,261,596,480 for the period 2013-08-13 to 2013-11-05.

(Circulated)

(xvi) Financial Paper No. 3/2013 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$7,737,984,510 for the period ended 2013-12-31.

(Circulated)

(4) The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, presented the following Annual Reports:

(i) Annual Report of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment for the year 2012.

(Circulated)

(ii) Annual Reports of the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

(Circulated)

(iii) Annual Reports of the Environmental Protection Agency for the years 2000 to 2011.

(Circulated)

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(iv) Annual Reports of the Guyana Forestry Commission for the years 2005 to 2012.  
(Circulated)

(v) Annual Reports of the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission for the years 2011 and 2012.  
(Circulated)

(vi) Annual Report of the Protected Areas Commission for the year 2012.  
(Circulated)

(5) By the Minister of Housing and Water:

(i) Annual Reports of the Central Housing and Planning Authority for the years 2011 and 2012.  
(Circulated)

(ii) Audited Financial Statements of the Central Housing and Planning Authority for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012.  
(Circulated)

(iii) Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Water Incorporated for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012.  
(Circulated)

By the Minister of Public Works:

Audited Financial Statements of the Cheddi Jagan International Airport Corporation for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011.  
(Circulated)

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-**

By Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P. (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill 2013):

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill 2013 – Bill No. 12/2013.

(Circulated)

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**Agreement/Memoranda of Understanding signed between the Government of Guyana and Chinese Agency**

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P. asked the Minister of Agriculture the following questions:

- (a) What Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with the Chinese Agency with respect to the inventorising of the stock of harvestable marine species in Guyana's deep sea fishing grounds?
- (b) Were tendering procedures applied to the selection of this agency to undertake the study?

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture replied.

Dr. Rupert Roopnarine, M.P. asked the Minister of Agriculture supplementary questions.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture replied.

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip, asked the Minister of Agriculture supplementary questions.

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Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture replied.

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P. asked the Minister of Agriculture a supplementary question.

Thereafter, the Minister of Agriculture replied.

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

#### **For Written Replies**

#### **1. 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)**

#### **Answers:**

- (i) "IT equipment was provided to 95 Secondary Schools between 2010 and 2013. It is virtually impossible to say at any specific moment that all the equipment is in use and functional. However, based on feedback received from the Regions and visits, over 90% of the IT labs are in use with functioning computers.

(ii) Please see attached list. (See Appendix)

(iii) Once the computers are installed and certified as functional in the schools, it is the responsibility of the various Departments of Education to budget for repairs and maintenance and even replacement of equipment. The MIS Unit does not have the staff to service hundred of schools throughout Guyana, though it may assist from time to time. Indicated timeframe for addressing outstanding issues are given on the attached list. (See Appendix)”

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

**Member Asking:** Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

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)**

**Answer:**

“The transformer has been procured and arrangements are presently being made to transport same to Mabaruma.

Work has began to upgrade and extend the transmission and distribution network. The Regional Officials from Region #1 and officers from the Hinterland Electrification Unit (HEU) of the Office of the Prime Minister are collaborating on this project.

Government has been pursuing a policy of improving the electricity supply in hinterland areas in a step by step and sustainable way in line with the resources available to the Government, the level of development and other circumstances of the community, inclusive of what the community could be expected to and was ready to pay.

With respect to Mabaruma:

- (i) A transformer has been procured and arrangements are being made to transport same to Mabaruma.
- (ii) Work has begun to upgrade and extend the transmission and distribution network. The Regional Officers of Region # 1 and officer from the Hinterland Electrification Unit (HEU) of the Office of the Prime Minister are collaborating on this project.

Arrangements are being put in place for a mini-electricity utility centered on Mabaruma.”

### **3. SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO MABARUMA AND ITS ENVIRONS**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

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)**

**Answers:**

- (i) “Government has been pursuing a policy of improving the electricity supply in hinterland areas in a step by step and sustainable way, in line with the resources available to the Government, the level of development and other circumstances of the community inclusive of what the community could be expected to and was ready to pay.

It is in accord with that policy that the electricity supply that was previously for four hours per day was increased to six hours per day.

- (ii) In line with the policy stated above and Government’s desire to proceed in a step by step and sustainable way to a 24 x 7 supply of electricity in Mabaruma and its environs that (i) works are in progress to upgrade and extend the electricity network. (ii) a mini-electricity utility is being establish.

I cannot say now how soon a 24 hr. electricity supply will be available in Mabaruma, not until after we would have discussed with residents the requirements for such a service and learnt of what they would be ready to support.”

4. **EXPENDITURE FOR ELECTRICITY SUPPLIED TO MABARUMA AND PORT KAITUMA**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

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)**

**Answer:**

See Appendix

**5. REVETMENT IN KUMAKA**

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

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

Could the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly –

- (i) What is the initial estimated cost to effect works on the revetment in Kumaka?
- (ii) What is the initial timeline given to complete works on the revetment?
- (iii) To whom is the contract awarded?
- (iv) What is the nature of the work completed to date?
- (v) What is the cost incurred to date?
- (vi) Why has there been a Cessation of the Works?
- (vii) How much more money is intended to be expended and what is the new timeline?
- (viii) When are works likely to commence in 2013?

**(Notice Paper No. 223 (Q 146 Opp. 144) published on 2013-07-11)**

**Answers:****“Response- San Jose, Kumaka Revetment and Bridge**

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Contract Sum(Initial)</b>	<b>Contract Signed</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Initial Completion Date</b>	<b>Cost Incurred</b>
<b>Deowdat Singh Construction Firm</b>	33,000,000	\$28,502,300	25/8/2012	3/09/2012	12 Weeks	03/12/2012	19,951,610

**Nature of Works Completed**

Mobilisation

Revetment-Land Clearance

Cut existing revetment to Road

Survey and Setting out works including signs , barriers and the like

Bridge

Piles

Supply and use form work and install HDPE tubes

Clean Existing Piles

Supply and Install ½” HT shore as per Drawing

MIX 1:2:4 concrete and pour

Supply 14”-16” butt more and GH Pile

Allow for de-watering inside of HDPE tube

Capping Beam

Supply and Install 14”×12”×16’×20nr capping beam



25.

Supply and Install 5/8"×20" MS bolt and nut 2nr washer per bolt

Allow for cutting and dismantling of material

Supply and install 5/8"×2nr washer per bolt

Beam

Supply and Install 8"×12"×224'×6nr beams, Tar 1 Coat

Supply and Install 5/8"×20 MS Bolt beams to capping Beam, Tar 1 Coat

Decking Plank

Supply & Install 2"×12"×16' decking plank, Tar 1 coat

Supply & Install 1/4"×4" MS coach screw, 12 nr per decking plank

### **1) Reports by M & E Team**

Regional Administration reported on the 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 that works were progressing slowly and that the contractor indicated that he had some issues sourcing materials

A subsequent report 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012 indicated that contractor was transporting equipment to the site and was commencing works slowly.

### **2) Complaints by Residents**

Concerned were raised by residents of the area to the pertinent stakeholders including the Regional Administration and the Regional Democratic Council in December of 2012 concerning substandard nature of the works being executed.

### **3) Halt to works**

Regional Democratic Council halted works in February 2012 due to complaints by residents and observations made by the Regional Works Committee.

The Administration of the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development addressed the issue indicating a one week period to the Regional Engineer to respond to these allegations on the 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2012 which was responded to on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February, 2012.

#### **4) Response by Regional Engineer**

The Engineer indicated that the issues were addressed by the contractor who indicated that amendments will be made before completion of the Project.

#### **Technical Analysis of the Project**

- The Design of the Project had some discrepancies but such could have been addressed by the Regional Engineer
- The area where piles and construction are undertaken holds much concerns for the dept the piles were driven and their dimensions since this area is boggy and can cause structure to collapse if not properly install
- Use materials were utilised in some instances
- The Spacing apart holds much concern since it was not uniformly placed
- Physical Verification of Works were not consistent with Bill of Quantity

#### **5) Response by Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development**

The Administration of the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development addressed the issue by immediately dispatching Regional Engineer, Region No. 5 to the project site.

The Engineer executed a technical analysis and made the following recommendations:

- The Entire Structure should be dismantled, aligned and rebuild
- The Revetment requires backfilling with sand-loam (60/40) as base layers along with crusher run as finishing layer and also needs to be aligned

- The Current structure only has an estimated capacity of 5 ton which is not compatible for the area since mining and logging are prominent
- Piles should be between 25 to 30 feet in length
- Greenheart materials should be use at all times because of its durability
- Quality Control Management or stronger Monitoring and Evaluation should be fortified
- The Wailers used should be 4 × 6

**Current Status**

Cabinet has approved an additional \$15,727,000 to facilitate the new scope of works which is intended to commence shortly.

Regional Administration advise that the contractor is preparing his mobilisation bond and has requested mobilisation so works are anticipated to commence shortly.”

**6. REPORT ON CARIFESTA X**

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

**Minister Answering:**              **The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport**

Guyana hosted CARIFESTA X in August, 2008, could the Hon. Minister say to the National Assembly –

(i) Was a report compiled?

(ii) If so, was the report laid in the National Assembly?

(iii) If not, why, and how soon will the report be presented to Members in the National Assembly?

**(Notice Paper No. 224 (Q 147 Opp. 145) published on 2013-07-11)**

**Answers:**

- (i) “I will assume that by report the Hon. Member is referring to the Audit Report for Carifesta X. If that is the report that the member is referring to then the answer is yes. Carifesta X Audit Report was part of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport Audited Accounts for 2008.
- (ii) The Audited Report for the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport for 2008, which contains the accounts for Carifesta X was laid in the National Assembly on the 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2010, as part of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana, and on Ministries, Departments and Regions for the fiscal year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2008.

It was then sent to the Public Accounts Committee for its consideration. The Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly considered the report. The report from the PAC was laid in the National Assembly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2011, and the motion for the Adoption of the said report was considered and passed in the National Assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.”

**7. AMBULANCE SERVICE AT MABARUMA**

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

**Minister Answering:**                **The Minister of Health**

Could the Hon. Minister explain to the National Assembly the following –

- (i) Is there an ambulance currently servicing residents in Mabaruma? If so, how many?
- (ii) Is/are these ambulance(s) in working conditions?

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- (iii) If not, what is/are the reason(s) for them not operable?
- (iv) How long have the communities of Mabaruma out of ambulance services?
- (v) Is/are there temporary alternative arrangement(s) in place to ensure that patients/residents are transported from one area to another in the region?
- (vi) If yes, who provides the service and at what cost, if any?
- (vii) How soon can residents anticipate the restoring of ambulance services in the communities of Mabaruma?

**(Notice Paper No. 225 (Q 148 Opp. 146) published on 2013-07-11)**

**Answers:**

“There is no working special purpose ambulance vehicle presently in Mabaruma. The special purpose ambulance vehicle was sent to Georgetown by the Regional Democratic Council (RDC) in November, 2012 for general repairs. The RDC has put in place alternative arrangements to ensure that Mabaruma and the surrounding communities were never without some level of ambulance services. These include a fulltime driver and a 4x4 pick-up along with pre-packed emergency kits and oxygen cylinders, which are ready for access and deployment to temporarily provide ambulance services. This temporary improvised service to the people of Mabaruma and surrounding communities is expected to be in place until the special purpose ambulance vehicle is repaired and returns to active service. This arrangement ensures that the temporary improvised ambulance service is available on a 24 hour basis. The cost of this activity is borne by the RDC budget.

The repair and maintenance services and appropriate spares cannot be sourced easily in Mabaruma, hence these services are sourced in Georgetown. The ambulance developed mechanical problems and also needs general undercarriage repairs or replacement of such parts as shocks, springs and steering ends, among others. These mechanical works are being executed in Georgetown by a private provider, Mr. Kurt Branker.

The ambulance is scheduled to return to Mabaruma to serve Mabaruma and the surrounding communities by the end of August, 2013.”

**8. REVISION OF SALARIES AND EMOLUMENTS OF MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY**

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

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

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly of the date of the last revision of salaries and emoluments of Members of the Judiciary?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly if the Government will revise the salaries and emoluments of Members of the Judiciary before the end of 2013?

**(Notice Paper No. 227 (Q 149 Opp. 147) published on 2013-07-24)**

**Answers:**

- (i) “The last revision of salaries and emoluments of Members of the Judiciary was done in 2008. Since then, percentage increase in salaries given to public officers is also given to Members of the Judiciary.

(ii) The Executive and the Judiciary are currently in discussion with respect to revision of salaries and emoluments.”

9. **PAYMENT OF TAX-FREE SALARIES TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE JUDICIARY AND CHIEF JUSTICE**

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

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

Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly if the Government does not consider it is discriminating against the majority of the Members of the Judiciary by only paying the Chancellor of the Judiciary and Chief Justice tax-free salaries?

**(Notice Paper No. 228 (Q 150 Opp. 148) published on 2013-07-24)**

**Answer:**

“The Government does not consider the grant of tax-free salaries to the Chancellor and the Chief Justice to be discriminatory. Historically, there was always a differential between the emoluments of the Chancellor and the Chief Justice and other Judges because of the administrative responsibilities which devolve upon these two most senior functionaries of the Judiciary, including, their duties as ex-officio members of the Judicial Service Commission.

The current emoluments were negotiated by Chancellor Desiree Bernard, O.R., and accepted by former President Bharrat Jagdeo.”

**10. TAX-FREE SALARIES FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY**

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

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

Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly if the Government will make salaries for all Members of the Judiciary tax-free?

**(Notice Paper No. 229 (Q 151 Opp. 149) published on 2013-07-24)**

**Answer:**

“Government is not inclined to grant tax-free salaries to all Members of the Judiciary.”

**11. SCHOOL UNIFORM VOUCHERS**

**Member Asking:**                    **Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P.**

**Minister Answering:**            **The Minister of Education**

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister inform this House who/what categories of students receive school uniform voucher?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister say whether the students of El Paso, Region # 8, receive school uniform voucher?
- (iii) If yes, could the Hon. Minister say what are the total cost of the school uniform voucher and say if students of El Paso received this amount?
- (iv) If no, could the Hon. Minister explain why not?

**(Notice Paper No. 230 (Q 152 Opp. 150) published on 2013-07-29)**



**Answers:**

“Every nursery, primary and secondary school student is entitled to access government assistance to purchase uniforms/school supplies.

On Coastal areas this assistance is in the form of vouchers worth \$1,500. In the Hinterland/some Riverian areas this assistance is provided by the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs by giving fabric/sewn uniforms.”

**12. WELFARE OFFICER AT EL PASO**

**Member Asking:** Ms Vanessa Kisson, M.P.

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

Could the Hon. Minister inform this House why there is no Welfare Officer in El Paso?

(Notice Paper No. 231 (Q 153 Opp. 151) published on 2013-07-29)

**Answer:**

“There is currently no Probation and Social Services Officer assigned to El Paso. Presently, the Administration of the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security has been unable to identify a suitably qualified individual to fill that position. In view of the fact that there is no accommodation available in that area, the Administration’s preferred approach is to appoint someone who is suitably qualified and who resides in that area to fill the position”

**13. HEALTH WORKER AT EL PASO**

**Member Asking:** Ms Vanessa Kisson, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Health

Could the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly why there is no health worker at El Paso, Region # 8?

(Notice Paper No. 232 (Q 154 Opp. 152) published on 2013-07-29)

34.

**Answer:**

“El Paso (same at Tumatumari or Cassava Hill), is located in the Mahdia Sub-district approximately one (1) hour from Central Mahdia. It has a population of approximately one hundred (100) persons. A Health Post is located in the Community.

In 2011, the Community Health Worker (CHW) who was stationed at the Health Post resigned and another CHW was assigned to the location until April, 2012. The CHW was transferred to Moruwa Health Post, Region No. 8 after it was determined that the need was greater there. An alternative/replacement CHW was being prepared for deployment.

During this transition phase, the Regional Administration took the opportunity to renovate and furnish the CHW apartment in the interim. Unfortunately, the works were not completed in a timely manner and the alternative CHW could not be deployed to El Paso. This CHW is not stationed in Mahdia serving the community of Region No. 8 since the Central Sub-district, Mahdia Hospital has experienced an increase in Medical staff and the local administration was advised to increase medical outreaches to remote locations.

In the interim, El Paso Health Post is being serviced by the CHW from Micoby Health Post which is approximately twenty (20) minutes from El Paso.”

14. **HEALTH POST/CLINIC AT EL PASO**

**Member Asking:** Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Health

Could the Hon. Minister explain to this House why there is no Health Post/Clinic at the El Paso Community?

(Notice Paper No. 233 (Q 155 Opp. 153) published on 2013-07-29)

**Answer:**

Answer can be found in answer for Health Worker at El Paso.

15. **PROVISION AND INSTALLATION, ETC. OF SOLAR PANELS**

**Member Asking:**                    **Mr. Ronald Bulkan, M.P.**

**Minister Answering:**            **The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs**

- (i) Can the Hon. Prime Minister provide the National Assembly with the current plan for supplying, installing, monitoring, maintaining and repairing the solar panels and associated electrical supply systems provided to schools, medical facilities and individual households in Region # 8, especially the villages in the Pakaraimas?
- (ii) Detail village-by-village, how this plan has been implemented since December, 2011?
- (iii) Explain the basis for prioritizing allocation of solar panels between villages and households within villages?
- (iv) Explain the system for preventing bias in allocation of solar panels in Region # 8?
- (v) Report to the National Assembly, if any, bias in allocations has occurred in Region # 8 and how this has been corrected, village-by-village, in Region # 8?

**(Notice Paper No. 234 (Q 156 Opp. 154) published on 2013-10-04)**

**Answers**

- (i) “The plan for providing and sustaining “a degree of electrification” in our hinterland is the same for all Regions including the Pakaraimas. Each household is to be provided with a Solar PV home system.
- (a) Each village council is required to establish accounts to receive on average, \$500 per month from each household so that funds will be available to replace lamps and batteries and for other repairs.
- (b) Also, the above account may be used to provide an appropriate stipend as may be arranged in each village, to the two trained persons.
- (c) HEU is endeavouring to arrange to visit each household in every village and record the condition of the system, twice each year.

Concerning schools, medical facilities and other public buildings, a number of these Solar PV systems were installed on various community buildings over the last 25 years, which were not part of the recent home electrification programme. For the majority of these, no system was put in place for routine monitoring and maintenance. HEU would include these in the records of installation in each village and will seek to establish with the “owners”, explicit arrangements for maintaining them.

- (ii) The distribution of the 11,000 systems was started where generally delivery was by road or river, being easier, quicker and less costly: roughly, directly to the villages of Regions 9, 2, 1, lower 7,4,5,6 and 10, with some overlapping depending on the availability of trucks and boats. The systems for villages in upper Region 7 and Region 8 have to be flown to various airstrips, then some were moved by trail and river to the particular villages. The delivery of system to these mountainous areas was extended by the low availability of charter flights and inclement weather at the time.

The arrangements for receiving the sets in each village were made with the Village Councils or the Community Development Officers of the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs. The captain or a senior member of each village council signed as receiving the items on behalf of his or her village. Each village council was responsible for the distribution of the systems to the households within its village, and to monitor the installation of the systems. Following the completion of the installations, HEU began sending engineers to inspect the installations and to have corrections made wherever there was non-compliance with basic standards.

HEU can report that all available systems were eventually delivered to villages and installed by about the end of the first quarter of 2013.

HEU is seeking to identify persons to carry out the twice yearly inspection and documentation; and to ensure a high availability, HEU has ordered a quantity of replacement parts which would be available for purchase.

- (iii) Answer to question (ii) above states how systems were distributed to Regions and villages according to ease of access, speed and lower costs. Once the systems reach a village, arrangements were made at the village level for each household to collect a system and to have it installed.

The intention was and is to provide a system to every household in each village. A database of villages and their respective number of households provided in early 2010 was used to arrive at the total amount of systems to be acquired. Because of growth in the villages during the planning of the project, and possibly some inaccuracies in the database occurring during data compilation, a few villages were inadvertently left

out and many others had households greater than the number listed. As a result, the 11,000 systems were insufficient to satisfy all the households in the hinterland villages. The systems ran out before villages at the end of the delivery line were reached. Those villages are:

Arau – Region 7

Kurutuka – Region 7

Taruka – Region 8

Kaibarupai – Region 8

Tuseneng – Region 8

Maikawak – Region 8

These villages, however, are scheduled to receive systems by the end of the year or early in 2014 as the HEU recently received bids for the supply of an additional 500 systems for which new funds were allocated.

- (iv) As stated, the intention is to provide every household with a solar system. This leaves no room for bias in the allocation. The villages that did not receive systems from the 11,000 units that were distributed will certainly receive from the next batch.
- (v) There was no bias in the distribution of the solar systems. The order of the distribution of systems was influenced by availability of transportation, weather conditions, water-ways and roads being passable at particular times, and communication with villages to confirm arrangements to receive and check the systems delivered.

The safe distribution and installation of 11,000 systems to nearly 200 hinterland villages/communities within eighteen months was a huge logistical accomplishment of this project which is worthy of commendation.”

**16. CONTROL OF ACOUSHI ANTS**

**Member Asking:**                      **Mr. Ronald Bulkan, M.P.**

**Minister Answering:**                **The Minister of Agriculture**

- (i) Can the Hon. Minister provide the National Assembly with the current national plan for control of acoushi ants in hinterland farms?
- (ii) Explain why fogging and insecticidal powders are still being used for the control of acoushi ants at least in Region # 8, instead of more effective sealed baits?
- (Notice Paper No. 235 (Q 157 Opp. 155) published on 2013-10-04)**

**Answers:**

- (i) “Acoushi Ants are leaf-cutting fungus feeders. They are highly polyphagous, i.e. feed on most crop species. The plant material that they cut is not utilized directly as food, rather it is used as substrate for a fungus which the ants cultivate and consume. The fact that the vegetation is used only as a base material for the insect’s only food, the fungus allows them to exploit a wide range of plant species.

Acoushi Ants are being managed using the following management techniques:

<b>Method</b>	<b>Chemical Used</b>
1. Insecticide Ant Baits produced by NAREI	Fipronil as the Active Ingredient
2. Insecticide Powder	Fipronil as the Active ingredient in a different formulation
3. Insecticide Fog	Fastac

Hinterland Communities have continued to benefit from the supply of 30 Litre of Fastac per village per year for Acoushi Ant control, together with insecticide baits and powder provided by NAREI. All insecticide are being provided free of cost by the Ministry of Agriculture.

**ACOUSHI ANTS MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME – National Plan:**

(1) Establishment of Acoushi Ant Control Unit:

A dedicated Unit (Team) was established at NAREI, which is being headed by the Hinterland Coordinator, who reports directly to the CEO/ DCEO. He is assisted by a Research Assistant and a Technician. The Unit is responsible for the day to day management of the ant control programme.

The Extension Agents (where employed) are responsible for the Community activities. Where these personnel do not exist, others are being identified to manage the activities. A stipend is provided to those individuals.

(2) Training of Field Personnel:

The Team visit the communities and provide training to field staff as well as farmers on the various methods of Acoushi ant control. This entails the fumigation of nests, use of bait and Light Duster (Bonga pumps) and other cultural practices such as the use of trap crops on the perimeter of the farms.

(3) Acquisition and Supply of Inputs:

Fastac and Light Duster (with chemical) together with the insecticide baits are acquired and provided to the villages (30Lt of Fastac per village). The team carries out regular assessment of the needs of each community.



(4) Monitoring and Reporting:

Data is collected from each community on the effectiveness of the various practices employed. Regular contacts are made between the team and personnel on the ground. A formal report is submitted to the CEO/ DCEO on a monthly basis.

Conclusion:

It is envisaged that the interventions of the Ministry of Agriculture will continue in the affected areas until the activities can be completely handled by the farmers themselves.

- (ii) As mentioned before, the Ministry of Agriculture attempts to control Acoushi ants using a menu of measures. Each measure has its own benefits, for example, fogging is more effective for the management of large nests whilst the insecticidal powder is being used for small and medium nest. The sealed baits are used in all Regions and are distributed after the fogging exercise so as to destroy the few ants that may have been out of the nest at the time of fogging.

Additionally, the ant bait is ineffective during the wet season since the active ingredient is deactivated when wet.

Training is also carried out in all communities for the appropriate handling and application of the bait as part of the programme.”

**17. MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE – VILLAGES IN REGION # 8**

**Member Asking:**                    **Mr. Ronald Bulkan, M.P.**

**Minister Answering:**            **The Minister of Agriculture**

Explain what specific assistance is being provided by the Ministry to villages in Region # 8, particular in sub-region 1 (North Pakaraimas), for marketing of agricultural produce, since December, 2011?

**(Notice Paper No. 236 (Q 158 Opp. 156) published on 2013-10-04)**

**Answer:**

“The Ministry of Agriculture continues to provide technical assistance to farmers in every community in the country. In the case of marketing, the role of the Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC) is to link farmers with markets. In the case of North Pakaraimas, the GMC stands ready to link coastland as well as other hinterland markets to their agriculture producers (farmers).

Additionally, the Guyana Shop will purchase any quantity of processed agriculture product, for example, farine, cassareep, cassava bread as well as honey, peanuts and spices produced in this areas.”

**18. WORK PLANS OF DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS OF REGION # 8**

**Member Asking:**                    **Mr. Ronald Bulkan, M.P.**

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

Can the Hon. Minister provide the National Assembly with the current work plans of the District Development Officers in Region # 8 since December, 2011, village-by-village, in the Pakaraimas, and the associated back-to-office reports from each outreach activity and Officer, for each date in each village?

**(Notice Paper No. 237 (Q 159 Opp. 157) published on 2013-10-04)**

43.

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development 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).

**19. CURRENT PLAN FOR PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES IN REGION # 8**

**Member Asking:**                      **Mr. Ronald Bulkan, M.P.**

**Minister Answering:**                **The Minister of Health**

Can the Hon. Minister provide the National Assembly with the current plan for public health measures in Region # 8, especially the villages in the North Pakaraimas?

**(Notice Paper No. 238 (Q 160 Opp. 158) published on 2013-10-04)**

**Answer:**

“There are two plans addressing the public health measures in the Region 8, one emanating from the Regional Democratic Council - Health Services and one from the Central Ministry of Health. The Regional Health Services has a plan to visit all the villages in the Region. In March 18-26, 2013, all the villages in the North Pakaraimas were visited to conduct scheduled general medical outreach to that sub-district. The services that were offered were general medical consultations, vaccination, testing and treatment for Malaria, laboratory testing, dental services, environmental health services, voluntary counseling and testing for HIV and health education on promotion and prevention practices including hygiene, sanitation, water treatment and waste management. Significant volumes of health information in the form of pamphlets and posters were distributed. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 2013, a visit was made to Chinepau, in response to reports of increased numbers of malaria cases. Apart from the prevention measures, and diagnosis and treatment of these cases, the opportunity was taken to also provide general medical checks, malaria smears

and treatment, and laboratory services. Additionally, on a weekly basis, the surveillance system is used to monitor the health situation of both sub-districts in the region. The surveillance system sees the health workers in the field at the level of the Health Posts and the Health Centers and home visits collecting data on syndromic patterns of illnesses in the population in the territorial areas under their watch for local analysis and scheduled transmittal to the RHOs and the central MOH. This data is analyzed to generate information allowing these higher bodies to make informed decisions on disease patterns across the Nation as well as to identify early changes pointing to emerging public health threats and mounting the required responses.

From the Central MOH Level, the Ministry of Health, through its Programme 4 - Regional and Clinical Services (popularly referred to as "*Regional Health Services*") had planned two visits per year for the North Pakaraimas to conduct supervisory visits as well as general medical outreach, and more specialist care such as including eye care, VIA testing for cervical cancer and health education. The first visit which was planned for March 2013 was postponed until June and reduced in scope because of bad weather. The surveillance component of this visit to the North Pakaraimas in June was dominant. As a result of findings during this visit a surveillance workshop is planned before the end of the year to bring together all surveillance officers in region 8 to reinforce surveillance techniques. Further, a visit from *Regional Health Services* is scheduled for the second week in November 2013, from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>. The planned services include Immunization, Maternal and Child health Services, management of communicable and non-communicable diseases, such as Malaria, HIV, Tuberculosis, diabetes and hypertension and screening for cervical services and eye care."

20. **INTRUSION OF UNITS OF THE NATIONAL ARMED FORCES OF VENEZUELA INTO THE TERRITORY OF GUYANA**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary  
Affairs

1. Could the Honourable Prime Minister inform the National Assembly of the circumstances surrounding the intrusion of units of the Venezuelan National Armed Forces into Guyana's territory on or about Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2013?
2. Could the Honourable Prime Minister inform the National Assembly of the actual time and duration of the said intrusion, of the titles of the units and numbers of members of the Venezuelan National Armed Forces and the numbers of the vessels etc., involved?
3. Could the Honourable Prime Minister inform the National Assembly of the response of members of the Guyana Defence Force who were stationed at Eteringbang and what was the effect of the actions taken, if any?
4. Could the Honourable Prime Minister inform the National Assembly whether an inquiry has been conducted into the incident and whether, as a result of the findings of that inquiry, if any, it has been found that there was a breach of any Agreement, Standing Order, Regulation, Act or Law?
5. Could the Honourable Prime Minister inform the National Assembly whether any persons were found to be blameworthy of any breach or offence with regard to the intrusion and, if so, what were the outcomes of disciplinary action and what measures have been taken to prevent a recurrence?

**(Notice Paper No. 244 (Q 166 Opp. 164) published on 2013-10-07)**

**Answers:**

- (i) “On Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> August, 2013, at about 15:00hrs., a delegation of Venezuelan nationals, consisting of academics and media, accompanied by Venezuelan soldiers sought and received permission from the local Guyanese authorities to enter Guyana’s territory in the Eteringbang area at the landing of the Guyana Police Force.
- (ii) The available records speak to the details of the delegation and its purpose and not to the accompanying soldiers. The group left from a landing used by miners at about 17:00 hrs.
- (iii) The Guyanese civilian powers at Eteringbang exercised the authority allowing the Venezuelan delegation to visit Guyana.
- (iv) There was no formal investigation. An account of the visit by the Venezuelan delegation was sought and provided to the Administration.
- (v) The account of the visit by the Venezuelan delegation did not disclose any intrusion of Guyana’s territory.”

**21. APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO ENQUIRE INTO THE EVENTS AT THE NEW OPPORTUNITY CORPS**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Appointment of the Commission of Inquiry to enquire into the events at the New Opportunity Corps at Onderneeming, with particular reference to”“All pertinent matters prior to, during and

after the escape on August 22, 2012; All pertinent matters prior to, during and after the fire on August 23, 2012; Culpability of the person or persons involved in the escape; Culpability of the person or persons involved in the fire; Recommendations as to the appropriate disciplinary actions to be taken against those found culpable; Review existing arrangements, and make recommendations to prevent any such reoccurrences; Such matter(s) as may in the opinion of the Board be considered relevant for the purpose of the inquiry and the Board can if necessary co-opt other skills and expertise that in its view will aid in the inquiry.

1. Could the Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly whether the aforementioned Commission of Inquiry has completed its work on this matter and, if not, whether a new deadline has been set for its completion and, if so, by what date has the Commission been directed to complete its work?
2. Could the Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly, if the Commission of Inquiry has indeed completed its work, when the Report will be made available to members of this honourable House?

**(Notice Paper No. 246 (Q 167 Opp. 165) published on 2013-10-09)**

**Answers:**

- (i) “A Board of Inquiry was established on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2012. Mr. Prem Persaud, Justice (Ret’d) was appointed to Chair the Board. Chairman Persaud resigned and a new Chairman, Mr. Winston Moore Justice (Ret’d), was subsequently appointed in December, 2012. The Board of Inquiry has completed a draft report. This final report is due on the 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.
- (ii) When the Report is finally received on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, it would be considered by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport and would subsequently be laid in the House.”

**22. APPOINTMENTS WITHIN THE GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE**

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

**Minister Answering:**            **The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs**

1. Could the Honourable Prime Minister inform the National Assembly of the identity of the officer appointed to the position of 'Deputy Chief of Staff' of the Guyana Defence Force, consequent to the retirement of Rear Admiral Gary Best and the announced appointment of Brigadier Julian Lovell as Military Attaché to the Federative Republic of Brazil?
2. Could the Honourable Prime Minister inform the National Assembly of the identity of the officer appointed to the position of 'Colonel General Staff' of the Guyana Defence Force?
3. Could the Honourable Prime Minister inform the National Assembly of the effective dates of the appointments to the respective positions?
4. Could the Honourable Prime Minister inform the National Assembly whether it is the intention of the Guyana Defence Board that the positions of Deputy Chief of Staff and Colonel General Staff be held simultaneously and by the same Officer?
5. Could the Honourable Prime Minister inform the National Assembly whether it is the intention of the Guyana Defence Board that Captain (Coast Guard) John Flores continue in his present appointment as Colonel Administration and Quartering (Col AQ)?

**(Notice Paper No. 247 (Q 168 Opp. 166) published on 2013-10-09)**



**Answers:**

- (i) “Deputy Chief of Staff is Colonel Kemraj Persaud.
- (ii) Colonel General Staff is Colonel Kemraj Persaud.
- (iii) Both positions appointed with effect from Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2013.
- (iv) This has been the standard practice of the Guyana Defence Force with exception to August 2007 when Colonel Andrew Pompey was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff and the then Colonel Julian Lovell, Colonel General Staff.
- (v) Captain (Coast Guard) John Flores at the request of the current Chief of Staff Brigadier Mark Phillips, is to remain in his appointment as Colonel Administration and Quartering (ColAQ).”

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-**

**Incident involving the illegal arrest of the RV Teknik Perdana by a Venezuelan Naval Vessel in Guyana’s Exclusive Economic Zone on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2013**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs made a statement on the incident involving the illegal arrest of the RV Teknik Perdana by a Venezuelan Naval Vessel in Guyana’s Exclusive Economic Zone on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**PROCUREMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 17/2013**

The Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill, which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Procurement Act.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

(i) **GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

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

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

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)**

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 4.19 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 5.30 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs continued and concluded his speech.

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Carl Greenidge

Mr. Trevor Williams

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

The Bill was then read a second time.

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Telecommunications Bill 2012 was referred to a Special Select Committee.

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

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

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

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

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Carl Greenidge

Mr. Trevor Williams

Thereafter the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs replied.

The Bill was then read a second time.

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Public Utilities Commission (Amendment) Bill 2012 was referred to a Special Select Committee.

**ITEM 3 - GUYANA CRICKET ADMINISTRATION BILL 2012 – Bill No. 31/2012**

**published on 2012-12-20**

At the request of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provisions for the incorporation of autonomous national cricket administrative organizations in Guyana and to provide for other matters connected therewith.

**(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2012-12-20)**

*Please note that the abovementioned Report was laid in the National Assembly on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2013.*

**ITEM 4 - LAND SURVEYORS (PROFESSION) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 16/2013**

**published on 2013-06-26**

At the request of the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, the second reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the establishment of a Board of Land Surveyors, the registration and licensing of land surveyors, the regulation of the practice of land surveying and for connected matters.

**(Read a first time on 2013-06-27)**

**BILLS – THIRD READINGS**

**ITEM 5 - THE DEEDS REGISTRY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 11/2012**  
**published on 2012-07-10**

At the request of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs (Chairman of the Special Select Committee on the Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill 2012), the third reading of the following Bill was deferred:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Deeds Registry Act.

**(Read a first time on 2012-07-12)**

**(Read a second time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2012-08-02)**

**ITEM 6 - THE ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE**  
**FINANCING OF TERRORISM (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No.**  
**12/2013 published on 2013-04-22**

In accordance with Standing Orders No. 58(4), the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs moved the third reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act.

**(Read a first time on 2013-04-22)**

**(Read a second time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2013-05-07)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Mr. Carl Greenidge

Ms Gail Teixeira

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 7.00 p.m., the Speaker suspended the sitting in order to have consultations with the Clerk and certain Members.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 7.52 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Finance

Mr. Basil Williams

Mrs. Valarie Garrido-Lowe

The Minister in the Ministry of Finance

A motion by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs that the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Amendment) Bill 2013, be read a third time and passed as amended, was put and negatived on the following division:

**AGAINST**

Mr. T. Williams

Ms Marcello

Dr. Ramayya

Mrs. Garrido-Lowe

Mrs. Hughes

Mr. Nagamootoo

Mr. Ramjattan

Ms Ferguson

Mr. Morian

Ms Williams

**FOR**

Mr. Jafarally

Mr. Damon

Dr. Persaud

Rev. Gilbert

Dr. Mahadeo

Mr. Seeraj

Mr. Neendkumar

Mr. Lumumba

Mr. Chand

Bibi Shaddick

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  
 Mr. Scott  
 Lt. Col. (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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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  
 Mr. Nandlall  
 Dr. Ramsammy  
 Mr. Hinds

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(i) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Reading**

**ITEM 7 - THE MARRIED PERSONS (PROPERTY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 –  
Bill No. 9 of 2013 published on 2013-06-14**

At the request of Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., the second reading of the following Bill, was deferred:

A Bill intituled AN ACT to amend the Married Persons (Property) Act.

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

**MOTIONS**

**ITEM 8 - ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL VETERANS COMMISSION**

At the request of Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition, consideration the following motion, was deferred:

WHEREAS Article 24 of the Constitution of the Co-Operative Republic of Guyana prescribes that “Every citizen has the right to free medical attention and also to social care in case of old age and disability;”

AND WHEREAS thousands of persons have served in the defence forces and disciplined services of Guyana in which they rendered essential national defence and public security services to the nation as a whole;



57.

AND WHEREAS in accordance with Section 20 of the Defence Act, Ch. 15:01 certain members of the defence forces are required to retire after only twenty-two years of service and other veterans of the disciplined services may be discharged honourably from regular service or transferred to the reserve for various prescribed reasons;

AND WHEREAS many ex-soldiers and servicemen have faced challenges which have had deleterious effects on their employment, health and welfare and of their dependants;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with Article 197 A (5) of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, “Disciplined Forces Commissions may be constituted by the National Assembly from time to time, as may be necessary, with power to examine any matter etc;”

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly, acting in accordance with the Constitution, appoint a commission, styled the National Veterans Commission, to examine the conditions and circumstances facing veterans of the defence forces and disciplined services to make recommendations to ensure their health and welfare and for the general administration of veterans affairs in Guyana.

**(Notice Paper No. 245 (M 79 Opp. 48 ) published on 2013-10-07)**

**ITEM 9**      **NATIONAL DAY OF VILLAGES**

Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition moved the following motion:

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, in its Preamble, declares that, “We the Guyanese People...proclaim our commitment to “Safeguard and build on the rich heritage, won through tireless struggle, bequeathed us by our forebears, etc. ;”

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58.

AND WHEREAS the said Constitution, at Article 35, states further, “The state honours and respects the diverse cultural strains which enrich the society and will seek constantly to promote national appreciation of them at all levels, etc.;

AND WHEREAS emancipated Africans purchased Plantation Northbrook, and established, thereon, on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1839, a free community which was named Victoria Village and this act was followed by a series of other purchases and the establishment of communities which came to be known as the village movement;

AND WHEREAS the 153<sup>rd</sup> sitting of the National Assembly of the first sitting of the Ninth Parliament of Guyana on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 considered and carried a petition on behalf of the descendants, residents and heirs of the proprietors of Plantation Northbrook (renamed Victoria) for the recognition of the historic contributions of their ancestors who established the first village in post-Emancipation Guyana;

AND WHEREAS Victoria Village will observe the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its purchase on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 and due recognition should be given to the seminal role of that significant historic act and of the series of subsequent purchases of plantations which, thereupon, were transformed into human settlements;

AND WHEREAS the State, from time to time, may consider the observance of events to fulfill the various cultural and educational needs of the peoples of Guyana,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls on the Government to issue a commemorative stamp and a commemorative coin and to issue a declaration to designate 7<sup>th</sup> November as a ‘National Day of Villages’ in order to honour and respect the pioneering purchasers and to promote national appreciation of the village movement at all levels.

**(Notice Paper No. 248 (M 80 Opp. 49) published on 2013-10-10)**

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The following Members spoke to the motion:

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Mr. Moses Nagamootoo

Mr. Joseph Hamilton

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 10(1)**

At 9.47 p.m. the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, moved that Standing Order No. 10(1) be suspended to enable the Assembly to conclude the debate on the motion.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Mr. Basil Williams

The Minister of Public Works

Thereafter, Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger replied.

The motion was then put and carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 10.20 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Assembly was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2013.

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

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

**7<sup>th</sup> November, 2013.**