

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 25TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION

(2006 - 2007) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 7TH JUNE, 2007

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

BUSINESS FOR SITTING

PRAYERS

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER-

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT-

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS-

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**For Oral Replies****1. CARICOM CHARTER OF CIVIL RIGHTS****Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.****Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs**

- (i) *Can the Hon. Minister say whether his Government has established "the mechanism at the national level to monitor the recommendations of the Caricom Charter of Civil Rights?
- (ii) *If such a mechanism has been established can the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly what results have been obtained to date?
- (iii) *If the mechanism has not been established can the Hon. Minister say when this mechanism will be established?

(Notice Paper No. 67 (Q49 Opp49) published on 2007-01-23)**2. CONFERENCE/RETREAT OF HEADS OF OVERSEAS DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS****Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.****Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs**

- (i) *Can the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly when last a Conference/Retreat of Heads of Overseas Diplomatic Mission was convened?
- (ii) *Could the Hon. Minister say what is the date and venue for the next Heads of Overseas Diplomatic Missions Conference/Retreat?

(Notice Paper No. 68 (Q50 Opp50) published on 2007-01-23)

3. **HEAD OF A DIPLOMATIC MISSION**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs

- (i) *Could the Hon. Minister indicate if the disadvantages of having the Head of a Diplomatic Mission for more than five (5) years in one post outweighs the advantages?

- (ii) *Is such an approach useful in the present international situation?
(Notice Paper No. 69 (Q51 Opp51) published on 2007-01-23)

For Written Reply

4. **HOSTING OF CRICKET WORLD CUP SUPER EIGHT GAMES**

Member Asking: Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

- (i) Can the Hon. Minister provide a breakdown of the total sum spent by the Government of Guyana for the hosting of Cricket World Cup Super Eight Games?

- (ii) How much of the amount spent is recoverable, and how much has to date been recovered?

- (iii) Will the government be preparing and publishing a comprehensive report on all matters pertaining to the hosting of Cricket World Cup Super Eight Games?
(Notice Paper No. 142 (Q 109 Opp 108) published on 2007-04-25)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS-

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

**1. THE PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA MANUAL OF RULES OF PROCEDURE
AND OPERATIONS OF COMMITTEES**

The Assembly to resume the debate on the following motion:

WHEREAS on the 10th May, 2007 the Parliament of Guyana Manual of Rules of Procedure and Operations of Committees was laid in the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the said Manual contains the rules, procedure and operations of Committees functioning in the National Assembly,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly accepts in general the rules, procedure and operations of the said Manual;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That a Select Committee be appointed to make recommendations to the National Assembly on the adoption of the said rules, procedure and operations.
(Notice Paper No. 147 (M37 Govt23) published on 2007-05-09)

BILLS – Second Reading

- *2. **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL – Bill No. 17/2007 published on 2007-05-04**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution in accordance with Articles 66 and 164.

(Read a first time on 2007-05-10)

BILL – Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

- *3. **HEALTH FACILITIES LICENSING BILL 2006 – Bill No. 29/2006 published on 2006-12-21**

The Assembly to proceed upon the further stages of the following Bill, after the Special Select Committee has reported thereon:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the licensing of Health Facilities and for related matters.

(Read a first time on 2006-12-21)

(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2007-01-11)

MOTION

***4. AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 54**

The Assembly to resume the debate on the following Motion, after the Standing Orders Committee has reported thereon:

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 54 provides that an interval of not less than seven (7) days must elapse between the first and second reading of a Bill;

AND WHEREAS a sitting of the National Assembly is generally held on a Thursday;

AND WHEREAS the stipulation of seven (7) days does not allow for the second reading of the Bill on the following Thursday;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that Standing Order 54 be amended to allow for a Bill, read a first time on a Thursday to be read a second time on the following Thursday;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Standing Order 110 this National Assembly refers this motion to amend Standing Order No. 54 to the Standing Orders Committee for further consideration with a view to effect the desired amendment.

(Notice Paper No. 57(M15 Govt 11) published on 2007-01-18)

(Referred to Standing Orders Committee on 2007-01-31 in accordance with Standing Orders No. 110 (3))

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

(ii) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and first Reading

***FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL 2006 – Bill No. 26/2006**

Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., is to seek leave to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to give access to information to members of the public.

MOTIONS

5. **AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE AND SLAVERY**

Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., to move the following motion:

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

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

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

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

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

8.

BE IT RESOLVED:

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

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

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

6. **CRICKET WORLD CUP**

The Assembly to resume the debate on the following motion:

WHEREAS Guyana played host to Cricket World Cup Super Eight matches in March and April, 2007, and the overall hosting of the event can be categorized as successful;

AND WHEREAS notwithstanding the overall success of the event, there are the issues of the future viability of the National Stadium including the means of recovering the financial outlay, and the servicing of the loan agreements and other facilities which were entered into to ensure the construction of the National Stadium and appurtenant facilities such as bridges, roads and car parks;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly expresses its appreciation and extends congratulations to all the organizations and persons which were instrumental in making preparations for the successful hosting of the event including the Local Organising Committee, the Disciplined Forces and Private Security firms, the Private Sector, the Georgetown Municipality and other Local Government Organs, the Guyana Scouts Association, volunteers, and others; and

That this National Assembly directs the Economic Services Committee to conduct a review of all processes and aspects of the preparation and hosting of the games and to make recommendations thereafter for future events and for the viability of the stadium.

(Notice Paper No.143 (M33 Opp 11) published on 2007-04-25)

7. **THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

Ms Chantelle Smith, M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS in 1991 Guyana signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

AND WHEREAS Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that “Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child”;

AND WHEREAS the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child has consistently proposed the abolition of corporal punishment when the reporting process under the convention has revealed the continued existence of school corporal punishment;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana's report to the Committee of the Convention of the Rights of the Child of July 29, 2002 states: "Enhanced legislation is an integral element in this country's efforts to give tangible effect to the provisions of the Constitution Reform Commission";

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana's report to the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child of July 29, 2002 further states "The Constitutional Reform Commission acknowledged that the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child should inform constitutional provisions to protect children's rights. The Oversight Select Committee of the Revised Guyana Constitution subsequently accepted the above recommendations and in 2001 these rights were accorded the status of fundamental and human rights in the amended Constitution",

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly declares the continued use of corporal punishment in schools in Guyana a violation of Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly declares the continued use of corporal punishment in schools in Guyana a violation of the Constitution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly recommends the abolition of corporal punishment under the new Education Act.

(Notice Paper No. 22 (M3 Opp2) published on 2006-11-22)

***8. AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 10**

The Assembly to resume the debate on the following Motion, after the Standing Orders Committee has reported thereon:

WHEREAS the hours of Parliament are prescribed by Standing Order No. 10 of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly to be 2.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. with suspensions at 4.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. respectively;

AND WHEREAS Members of the National Assembly have expressed varying views on the times for sittings of the Assembly with some Members favouring the commencement of sessions at an earlier time whilst others appear to prefer the strict observance of the prescribed times;

AND WHEREAS it would be desirable for a compromise to be found so as to allow for the hours of sittings to be varied from time to time by the Parliamentary Management Committee depending on the business to be disposed of,

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Standing Orders Committee examines the issue of the times at which the Assembly shall meet including, the right of the Speaker to suspend the Standing Orders to allow the time to be abridged or varied and to report to the National Assembly its finding and recommendations within three months.

(Notice Paper No.92 (M23 Opp 7) published on 2007-01-30)

(Referred to Standing Orders Committee on 2007-05-24 in accordance with Standing Order No. 110 (3))

(iii) COMMITTEE BUSINESS


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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

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

1st June, 2007.