

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 26TH 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, 28TH 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-

2.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**For Oral Replies****1. FOREIGN SERVICE DIPLOMATIC SKILLS AND COMPETENCE****Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.****Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs**

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

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

2. ROTATION OF FOREIGN SERVICE STAFF**Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.****Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs**

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

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

3. CO-ORDINATION OF FOREIGN POLICY ACTORS AND ACTIONS**Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.****Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs**

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

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3.

- (ii) *Could the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly which agency is responsible for the co-ordination and identifying challenges faced by the co-ordination?
(Notice Paper No. 72 (Q54 Opp54) published on 2007-01-23)

4. **DEPLORABLE STATE OF FOREST ROADS AND BRIDGES IN REGION NO.10**

Member Asking: Mr. David A. Patterson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

- (i) *Could the Hon. Minister acknowledge that the forest roads and bridges within Region No. 10 are in a deplorable state?
- (ii) *Could the Hon. Minister acknowledge that the above situation has been brought on by poor road alignment, sub-standard road and bridge construction and a lack of maintenance?
- (iii) *Could the Hon. Minister accept that the prevailing situation is a potential disaster in waiting especially to the environment through soil erosion and water/stream contamination?
- (iv) *What action is being taken to prevent the potential for loss of life and limb and to ensure the safety of members of the public who traverse these roads daily?
- (v) *What mitigation measures are being taken to stem the current state of environmental degradation along the roads and water ways?

(Notice Paper No. 121 (Q93 Opp92) published on 2007-02-28)

4.

5. **NATIONAL DRUG STRATEGY MASTER PLAN 2005 – 2009**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

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

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

5.

For Written Replies

6. **SUMS ALLOCATED AND DISTRIBUTED TO SPORTS ORGANISATIONS AND EVENTS 2005 – 2007**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Can the Hon. Minister state the sums allocated and distributed to sports organizations and events (other than World Cup Cricket) for the period January, 2005 to April, 2007, and the criteria used to determine the quantum each organization received?

(Notice Paper No. 149 (Q 111 Opp 110) published on 2007-05-24)

7. **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs

(i) Would the Hon. Minister indicate what progress has been made by the Government of Guyana and which assures this nation especially, civil society, that progress is being made to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) within the timeframe set by the United Nations General Assembly of 2015?

(ii) What decisions and actions have been taken to date, that clearly demonstrates to this nation that Guyana is on target to achieve these goals?

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

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-

Presentation and First Readings

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

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, to present the following Bill:

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

2. **GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION BILL 2007 – Bill No. 20/2007**

The Minister of Agriculture, on behalf of the Government, to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to repeal and replace the Guyana Forestry Commission Act 1979, re-establish the Guyana Forestry Commission, and provide for incidental matters.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Reading

***1. 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)

BILLS – Second Readings, Committee and Third Readings

***2. 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)

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

8.

***3. ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM BILL 2007 – Bill No. 18/2007 published on 2007-06-04**

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 establishment and management of a Financial Intelligence Unit; to provide for unlawful proceeds of all serious offences to be identified, traced, frozen, seized and eventually forfeited; to provide for comprehensive powers for the prosecution of money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes; and the forfeiture of the proceeds of crime and terrorist property; to require reporting entities to take preventive measures to help combat money laundering and terrorist financing; to provide for civil forfeiture of assets and for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2007-06-07)

(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2007-06-07)

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;

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

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))

(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.

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

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,

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;

11.

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. 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

MOTION

7. SECOND DRAFT PERIODIC REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services to move the following motion:

WHEREAS in accordance with Standing Order No. 103(1) of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly every Committee was required before the end of the session in which it was appointed to make a report to the Assembly upon matters referred to it;

AND WHEREAS the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services, which was a Sectoral Committee of the National Assembly of the Second Session of the Eighth Parliament, was unable, owing to the dissolution of the Eighth Parliament on 2nd May, 2006, to report on its areas of work in the Second Draft Periodic Report of the Committee 2005 – 2006,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services of the National Assembly of the Ninth Parliament take into account –

- (i) the above mentioned Report; and
- (ii) make report to the National Assembly

(Notice Paper No. 154 (M38 Opp12) published on 2007-06-11)


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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

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

22nd June, 2007.