

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ORDER PAPER**

**FOR THE 27<sup>TH</sup> 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, 12<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 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-**

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

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

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-**

**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.

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

**4. 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)**

4.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.

**7. RECRUITMENT OF HYDROLOGICAL ENGINEERS/HYDROLOGISTS**

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

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture**

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

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

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

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

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture**

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

Can the Minister state:

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

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

6.

**For Written Replies**

9. **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

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

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs**

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

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

10. **FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED BY SIMAP**

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

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

Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:

- (i) Whether it is mandatory by law that the Chairman of a Neighbourhood Democratic Council should be appointed Chairman of the Committee or Board responsible for the management of facilities constructed by SIMAP and other similar Agencies?

- (ii) Whether his Ministry has mandated that the beneficiary entity or group should not be allowed to elect or appoint their own Committee or Board, accountable to them, to manage a facility constructed by SIMAP and other similar Agencies?  
(Notice Paper No. 155 (Q 116 Opp 115) published on 2007-06-18)

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

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

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture**

Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:

- (a) Whether the land holdings of the former Leonora Estate have been sold?
- (b) If the answer is yes, could the Minister state:
  - (i) When and to whom the holdings were sold?
  - (ii) What was the price agreed for the holdings?
  - (iii) What were the other terms and conditions of the sale?
  - (iv) What was the process used for the sale of the holdings, for example, was it by Public Tender or some other transparent process?
  - (v) If the process was by Public Tender:
    - How many Bids were submitted?
    - Which Tender Board was responsible for the evaluation and ranking of the Tenders submitted?
  - (vi) If some other transparent process was used for the sale of the holdings, will the Minister please inform this National Assembly what that process was?

8.

(c) If the land holdings have not yet been sold could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:

- (i) Whether an imminent sale is currently under consideration?
- (ii) Whether such a sale will be by Public Tender?

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

## 12. LABOUR INSPECTORS

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

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

Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:

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

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

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

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

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

Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:

- (i) Whether there are collaborative efforts by the agencies responsible for education, training, welfare and guidance of children and young persons, to eradicate abuses, including sexual abuse, and other forms of exploitation of children?



9.

- (ii) How many persons have been successfully prosecuted for violating laws relating to the employment of children, child prostitution and pornography and other such forms of abuse of children?

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

**14. FORMER GENESIS HOME**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16. **THREAT EMANATING FROM SURINAME**

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

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

(i) Is the Guyana Defence Force ready for any threat emanating from Suriname if that country were to violate a United Nations ruling favourable to Guyana on the maritime border dispute between the two countries?

(ii) Are there any measures being actively implemented by our Government and/or Army to prevent such a violation by Suriname from occurring?

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

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-**

**PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS-**

11.

**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**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

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

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

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

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

**\*2. GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION BILL 2007 – Bill No. 20/2007 published on  
2007-06-21**

The Minister of Agriculture to move the second reading of 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.

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

/...12

\*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

**\*3. 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**

**\*4. 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)**

/...13

**\*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting**

**\*5. 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**

**\*6. 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;

/...14

\*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.

/...15

\*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

15.

**MOTIONS****7. AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE AND SLAVERY**

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

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

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

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

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

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

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

/...16

16.

**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)**

**\*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,

/...17

\*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**

.....  
**S.E ISAACS**  
**Clerk of the National Assembly**

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

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