

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 67th SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION

(2006 - 2008) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 11TH DECEMBER, 2008

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 Written Replies

1. NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORS CLASSIFIED AS EMPLOYED UNDER THE NATIONAL INSURANCE SCHEME

Member Asking: **Mr. Mervyn Williams**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Finance**

- (i) Could the Honourable Minister of Finance share with this National Assembly the number of contributors classified as employed under the National Insurance Scheme for the years 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?

- (ii) Could the Honourable Minister of Finance share with the National Assembly the number of contributors classified as self-employed under the National Insurance Scheme for the years 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?

(Notice Paper No. 273 (Q 192 Opp 187) published on 2008-10-16)

2. NUMBER OF PERSONS DETAINED FOR 48 HOURS OR MORE

Member Asking: **Mrs. Deborah Backer**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Home Affairs**

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs provide this National Assembly with a list of the number of persons detained for the year 2007, at each Police Station listed below, for 48 hours or more, who were subsequently released without any charges being preferred against them:-

- (i) Sparendaan Police Station
- (ii) Beterverwagting Police Station
- (iii) Vigilance Police Station
- (iv) Cove and John Police Station
- (v) Brickdam Police Station
- (vi) Providence Police Station

(Notice Paper No. 310 (Q226 Opp 221) published on 2008-11-05)

3. **ENTITLEMENTS OF FORMER PRESIDENTS**

Member Asking: Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman,

Minister Answering: The Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works
and Communications

What benefits are former Presidents of the Republic of Guyana entitled to?

(Notice Paper No. 311 (Q227 Opp222) published on 2008-11-20)

For Oral Replies

4. **GOVERNMENT'S FOREIGN POLICY ON SURINAME**

Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs

*Could the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs inform this National Assembly what is her Government's foreign policy on Suriname?

(Notice Paper No. 296 (Q212 Opp 207) published on 2008-10-27)

5. **CARICOM CHARTER ON CIVIL SOCIETY**

Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs

- (i) *Could the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs state whether her Government's promise to this National Assembly to establish a specific mechanism to implement the CARICOM Charter on Civil Society has been implemented?
- (ii) *If it has been implemented as promised, could the Honourable Minister state what mechanism has been implemented and what are the effects of this mechanism on the Guyanese society to date?
- (iii) *If it has not been implemented as promised could the Honourable Minister say why not?

(Notice Paper No. 297 (Q213 Opp 208) published on 2008-10-27)

6. **HEADS OF MISSION CONFERENCE**

Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs

- (i) *Could the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs tell this National Assembly why her Government's promise to this Assembly to convene a Heads of Mission Conference in 2007 was not honoured?
- (ii) *Could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly when the next Heads of Mission Conference will be convened?

(Notice Paper No. 298 (Q214 Opp 209) published on 2008-10-27)

7. **EXEMPTIONS OF PENSIONERS FROM THE PAYMENT OF WATER RATES**

Member Asking: Mrs. Volda Lawrence

Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

*Would the Honourable Minister of Human Services and Social Security share with this National Assembly the procedure for pensioners to access exemptions from the payment of water rates to the Guyana Water Inc?

Notice Paper No. 305 (Q221 Opp 216) published on 2008-10-31)

8. **COST OF KEROSENE OIL**

Member Asking: Mrs. Volda Lawrence

Minister Answering: The Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

Would the Honourable Prime Minister inform this National Assembly whether his Government is prepared to subsidise the cost of kerosene oil which now sells at an average cost of GY\$ 1,020.00 per gallon?

Notice Paper No. 306 (Q222 Opp 217) published on 2008-10-31)

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

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN OBSERVANCE OF NOVEMBER 25TH
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security to move the following motion:

WHEREAS violence against women and children has been perpetuated for centuries, the twentieth century was marked by a strong and vibrant voice at international levels which lead to its international condemnation;

AND WHEREAS as a result, at the end of the UN Decade for Women, the United Nations Convention against the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was born;

AND WHEREAS the United Nations on December 17, 1999 proclaimed November 25th as the International Day dedicated to raising awareness and renewing condemnation of Violence against Women;

AND WHEREAS Guyana signed and ratified the UN Convention against the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on July 17, 1980 and the Belem do Para convention in 1994, and has been annually observing November 25th for many years;

AND WHEREAS despite global condemnation against violence against women and children and greater public recognition and strengthening of constitutional and legislative frameworks to condemn such violence whether during conflict situations, at social, community,

familial and individual levels, the horrific violence being meted out to women and children in our societies continues;

AND WHEREAS the enactment of the Domestic Violence Act is now in its 12th year of implementation and under review for further strengthening and new legislation on Sexual Offences is drafted;

AND WHEREAS the government's policy paper on sexual violence known as "Stamp it Out", has been placed before the nation through country wide consultations with the objective of raising awareness about sexual violence and introducing new legislative provisions addressing sexual violence;

AND WHEREAS new laws recently passed in this 9th Parliament such as the Prevention of Crimes (Amendment) Act 2008, Act No. 11 of 2008, in relation to mandatory supervision for certain acts of violence including domestic violence and paedophilia, and the recently passed Evidence (Amendment) Bill, No. 22 of 2008, will enhance the prosecution of perpetrators of such crimes and give greater protection and support to the victims of violence, especially children;

AND WHEREAS our society is still baffled by the senseless violent murders of women by predominantly male partners, whether past or present;

AND WHEREAS much has been written and researched globally and regionally about this growing level of violence in peace time and in times of civil strife, this social phenomenon demonstrates that there appears to be many complex and profound variables and factors which contribute to its continued presence in modern day societies in this the 21st century.

BE IT RESOLVED that the members of this National Assembly, comprised of men and women parliamentarians of both sides of the House, condemn in no uncertain terms this continued wave of violence against women and children, and, commit themselves in observance of the International Day for the elimination of Violence against Women, to use their influence within their political parties, within their constituencies and at all fora;

- to condemn such behaviour as socially and culturally unacceptable in our society;
- to assist victims to seek help and to use the laws and support systems available to victims in order to protect the victims and prevent further abuse and murders;
- to consciously develop programmes, for and with men, and more particularly young males, to have greater respect for themselves and women as equals and to learn to address conflict situations in a non-violent manner;

BE IT RESOLVED that this National Assembly, calls on civil society, not only Women's groups but the private sector, the labour movement and the religious communities, to lend their voices in openly condemning acts of domestic and sexual violence and to develop awareness programmes and support systems to prevent violence as well as assist victims of violence.

(Notice Paper No. 333 (M83 Govt48) published on 2008-11-28)

BILLS – Second Readings, Committee and Third Readings

*2. **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

***Not to be proceeded with at this Sitting**

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)

*3. **THE FORESTS BILL 2007 – Bill No. 21 of 2007 published on 2007-07-24**

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 consolidate and amend the law relating to forests.

(Read a first time on 2007-08-02)

(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2007-11-08)

*4. **COURT OF APPEAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 – Bill No. 12 of 2008 published on 2008-07-11**

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 amend the Court of Appeal Act to provide for appeals by the Director of Public Prosecutions to the Court of Appeal and the Caribbean Court of Justice and for connected matters.

(Read a first time on 2008-07-17)

(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2008-07-25)

***Not to be proceeded with at this Sitting**

*5. **MONEY TRANSFER AGENCIES (LICENSING) BILL 2008 – No. 15 of 2008**
published on 2008-07-23

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 persons carrying on the business of money transferagencies; to make provision for the registering of money transfer agents and for connected purposes.

(Read a first time on 2008-07-24)

(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2008-08-07)

(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.

***Not to be proceeded with at this Sitting**

MOTION

LIVE AND UNEDITED BROADCAST OF THE SITTINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P. to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana enshrines the protection of Freedom of Expression in Article 146 (1) and guarantees the Guyanese citizen the “freedom to receive ideas and information without interference, freedom to communicate ideas and information without interference”;

AND WHEREAS the people of Guyana are entitled to hear and/or see the presentations and representations made on their behalf in the National Assembly and be able to assess the contributions of all and make their own judgment;

AND WHEREAS the National Communication Network (NCN) is owned by the People of Guyana and has the widest coverage and is in a position to broadcast live and uninterrupted the proceedings of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Opposition Members of Parliament are entitled to have their views heard in an unedited way by the people of Guyana;

BE IT RESOLVED that this National Assembly agrees that the sittings of the National Assembly be broadcast live and unedited to the people of Guyana by the National Communication Network and that the cost of the broadcast be borne by the State;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this National Assembly calls on the Government to allocate a broadcast frequency for a parliamentary channel as happens in most democratic countries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this National Assembly calls on the Government to begin the live and unedited broadcast of the sittings of the National Assembly no later than one month after the adoption of this Motion.

(Notice Paper No. 320 (M82 Opp23) published on 2008-11-27)

(iii) COMMITTEE BUSINESS


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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

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

3rd December, 2008