

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 41ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION

(2015-2016) OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 4TH AUGUST, 2016,

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,

BRICKDAM, 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-

(1) By the Minister of Finance:

Financial Paper No. 1/2016 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) – Advances made from the Contingencies Fund totalling \$931,018,292 for the period 1st January, 2016 to 28th July, 2016.

(To be Circulated)

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2.

- (i) Financial Paper No. 2/2016 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$2,089,699,085 for the period 1st January, 2016 to 31st December, 2016.

(To be Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Public Infrastructure

The Technical Audit Report on the Kato Secondary School Complex by Rodrigues Architects Ltd.

(To be Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

By Mr. Irfaan Ali (Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee):

Report of the Public Accounts Committee relating to the appointment of Members of the Public Procurement Commission.

(Circulated)

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. **ENCASHING OF OLD AGE PENSION VOUCHERS FOR PENSIONERS RESIDING IN REGION NO. 9**

Member Asking: Mr. Alister Charlie, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Social Protection

Pensioners residing in Region No. 9 - North and South Rupununi, have complained that in the past the Toshaos in the Amerindian Villages were given the responsibility to encash their Old Age Pension Vouchers at the Lethem Post Office. This is not the case at present.

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3.

The pensioners have to approach certain business persons in the Sub-Districts who have been identified to encash their vouchers. This arrangement has not been working well for the senior citizens. When they approach the business persons to encash their vouchers, the persons claim that they do not have money on hand to immediately encash the vouchers. Residents who travel from the riverain communities are mostly affected by this situation.

Is the Hon. Minister of Social Protection aware of the difficulties being experienced by Pensioners in Region 9 with respect to encashing old age pension vouchers? If so, can the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly:-

- (i) Why was the system changed from the Toshaos encashing the vouchers on behalf of the Pensioners at the Lethem Post Office?
- (ii) Since the current system in place is not working properly, is the Minister prepared to reverse her decision to reinstitute the previous system, which is, having the Toshaos encash the old age pension vouchers for the Pensioners at the Lethem Post Office?

(Notice Paper No. 54 (Q11 Opp.11) published on 2016-07-07)

**2. DISTRIBUTION OF OLD AGE PENSION BOOKS FOR NEW PENSIONERS
RESIDING IN REGION NO. 9**

Member Asking: Mr. Alister Charlie, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Social Protection

Could the Hon. Minister of Social Protection say when new and eligible Pensioners who applied for old age pension in January, 2016, will receive their pension books?

(Notice Paper No. 55 (Q12 Opp.12) published on 2016-07-07)

4.

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-

In Accordance with Standing Order No. 28(2), the Speaker's consent was given to move the following motion:

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 104(9)

The First Vice-President and Prime Minister to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 104(9) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its Sitting on Thursday, 04th August, 2016, with the adoption of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee relating to the appointment of Members of the Public Procurement Commission, which was presented to the Assembly at today's Sitting.

(Notice Paper No. 62 (M49 Govt 32) published on 2016-07-22)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTIONS

1. CURBING THE RISE OF SUICIDE RATES IN 2016

Dr. Vindhya Persaud, M.S., M.P. to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the incidence of suicide has been consistently increasing in Guyana in 2016 with the younger members of the population taking or attempting to take their lives;

AND WHEREAS for the last decade a person takes his life every 1.8 to 2.4 days in Guyana; in the United States of America there is a suicide every 13 minutes and, sadly, there is a suicide every 30 seconds somewhere in the world. Suicide accounted for 1.4 per cent of all deaths worldwide in 2012, making it the 15th leading cause of death. Among the age group of 15 to 30, anywhere in the world, suicide is among the top 3 causes of deaths;

AND WHEREAS in Guyana's case suicide has ranked in the top 10 causes of death for the last several decades. In the age group 15 to 24, suicide ranks between 1 and 3 in terms of the top causes of deaths. In the 1980s, suicide deaths were about 200 to 250 per year. In the last decade it has been between 150 and 200 cases per year;

AND WHEREAS it is estimated that there are between 1500 to 2000 attempted suicide cases each year, or about one attempt every 5 hours in Guyana. Around the world, it is estimated that there is one suicide attempt almost every second;

AND WHEREAS while Guyana has done no such studies, it is estimated that suicide costs the Health Ministry conservatively about \$600M to \$900M annually excluding the loss of life, family income and emotional and psychological anguish for the surviving family members;

6.

AND WHEREAS the majority of suicides occur among people suffering mental health conditions and illness such as depression, bipolar disorders and schizophrenia, social issues such as alcohol abuse , poverty and unemployment also contribute to the growing number of suicide cases;

AND WHEREAS the current economic situation in the agricultural communities due to falling rice prices, loss of income and consequential foreclosures on loans in the banking sector coupled with the state of the sugar industry where jobs are under threat, and, the unemployment of thousands of people in the last 9 months in the public service and general society, are leading to a state of despair and hopelessness which are factors contributing to this rise;

AND WHEREAS whilst there are cultural, religious, class and other prejudices that inhibit people from seeking help for mental health problems, the mental health services are inadequate to meet the demand with only 3 full time psychiatrists (based in Georgetown and New Amsterdam), insufficient hospital beds and trained personnel in the National Psychiatric Hospital, and no day treatment or community residential facilities, and, inadequate numbers of counsellors, to help and treat patients;

AND WHEREAS there are insufficient counsellors in the educational system, both private and public, to provide support to students of all ages;

AND WHEREAS the availability and easy accessibility of poisons especially in rural agricultural communities contributes to making this the easiest method of committing suicide in Guyana;

AND WHEREAS suicide is still a crime in the statutes thereby posing serious challenges for social, health, law enforcement and prosecutorial services;

7.

AND WHEREAS there is at present no infrastructure in place for follow-up for persons who have attempted suicides even though there is high risk of a reattempt unless treated;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to implement the comprehensive 2014 Mental Health Strategic Plan and the National Suicide Prevention Plan 2015 – 2020 which were crafted under the PPP government;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to ensure that funds are allocated to provide the financial, human, technical and physical infrastructure needed to treat mental health and level of suicides as a national health priority;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Nationally Assembly calls on the Ministry of Public Health to resuscitate the National Suicide Prevention and Control Committee with regional committees, comprising both professionals from health, education, academics, law enforcement and broad- based representation from civil society including the religious community to update the National Strategy to Prevent and Control Suicide within 3months of its appointment, monitor and evaluate the data on suicide, lead a national education and awareness campaign to help individuals and their families to seek help, and make recommendations to government;

8.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly agrees that a nondenominational National education and intervention campaign be crafted with the technical support of PAHO/WHO with emphasis on the value of life, self-esteem and practical approaches to problem solving and coping mechanisms, anger management, and depression to be introduced into the schools, work places and communities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Ministry of Public Health to train health care providers – GMOs, nurses, medex, Community Health Workers as first responders at the primary health care level, emergency rooms, etc., to use the Depression Suspicion Index in recognising and diagnosing depression and to refer the individuals to GMOs and psychiatrist for further evaluation;

BE IT FURTHER RESLOVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to urgently establish a special scholarship programme to fast track training of 100 health care providers and counsellors in mental health over the next 5 years to improve the availability of properly trained personnel to address suicides and other mental health issues;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Ministry of Public Health re-establishes a 24 hour Mental Health Hotline with health care providers manning it and referring individuals to appropriate facilities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Ministry of Public Health to resuscitate community support through partnership with Faith-based and Community Based Organisations, experienced Non-governmental organisations in the Gatekeepers,

Alcohol and Substance Abuse Programmes and Pesticide Safety Programmes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly reviews and amends legislation to decriminalise suicide;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Government submits a Report to the National Assembly by August 2016 with regards to the actions taken.

(Notice Paper No. 46 (M40 Opp. 7) published on 2016-04-29)

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE DEATH IN AN EXPLOSION OF THE LATE DR. WALTER RODNEY**

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P. to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Report on “The Commission of Inquiry Appointed To Enquire and Report On the Circumstances Surrounding The Death in An Explosion Of the Late Dr. Walter Rodney On Thirteenth Day Of June, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty at Georgetown” was handed over to the Government of Guyana on February 10, 2016;

AND WHEREAS the Government laid Volume 1 of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry in the National Assembly on May 12, 2016;

AND WHEREAS the Commission in its Report presented its findings including “Critical Findings and Summary on Gregory Smith” and 11 significant recommendations,

10.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Report and its findings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls on the Government to take measures to implement the recommendations therein in order to ensure that the democratic architecture of the state is preserved and strengthened.

(Notice Paper No. 52 (M41 Opp. 8) published on 2016-05-31)

***3. NARCOTICS DRUG AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (CONTROL)
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2015 -No. 17 of 2015**

Mr. Michael Carrington, M.P., to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 52(1), grant leave for the introduction and first reading of the Narcotics Drug and Psychotropic Substances (Control) (Amendment) Bill 2015 -No. 17 of 2015:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act 1988.

(Notice Paper No. 25 (M20 APNU/AFC Private Member.1) published on 2015-12-10)

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

(ii) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

1. **Agreement between the National Assembly of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the National Assembly of the Republic of Suriname**

The First Vice-President and Prime Minister to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Suriname visited the National Assembly of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, from 24th October, 2013 to 26th October, 2013;

AND WHEREAS arising out of discussions during the visit of the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Suriname to Guyana, the idea of the National Assembly of the Republic of Suriname and the National Assembly of Cooperative Republic of Guyana entering into an agreement to be referred to as “the Parliamentary Contact Plan Suriname-Guyana and the Parliamentary Contact Plan Guyana-Suriname”, *inter-alia*, to foster friendly relations, to exchange experiences and good practices and to discuss matters of mutual interest;

AND WHEREAS during the visit of the Speaker of the National Assembly of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to Suriname, from 14th October, 2015 to 18th October, 2015, the matter was further discussed and an agreement containing the rationale for the Plan was drafted;

AND WHEREAS the draft Agreement was referred by the Speaker of the National Assembly to the Parliamentary Management Committee for consideration and recommendation;

AND WHEREAS the Parliamentary Management Committee at its 4th Meeting on 30th June, 2016, considered the draft Agreement and recommended that the National Assembly of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana should enter into the Agreement,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves that the National Assembly of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana enters into the attached draft Agreement with the National Assembly of the Republic of Suriname.

(Notice Paper No. 56 (M43 Govt 30) published on 2016-07-11)

2. **Partnership Agreement between the National Assembly of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia**

The First Vice-President and Prime Minister to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia is desirous of entering into a Partnership Agreement with the National Assembly of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana to foster development of inter-parliamentary cooperation between both Legislatures;

AND WHEREAS during the visit of the Members of Parliament and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia to the National Assembly of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana on the 11th February, 2016, the proposal was discussed with the Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly of Cooperative Republic of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS British Columbia's proposal was referred by the Speaker of the National Assembly to the Parliamentary Management Committee for consideration and recommendation;

AND WHEREAS the Parliamentary Management Committee at its 4th Meeting on 30th June, 2016, recommended that the National Assembly of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana should enter into the Agreement with the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves that the National Assembly of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana enters into the attached draft Partnership Agreement with the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

(Notice Paper No. 57 (M44 Govt 31) published on 2016-07-11)

BILLS – Second Reading

3. **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT BILL 2016 – Bill No. 14/2016 published on 2016-05-10**

The Minister of Natural Resources to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the protection, conservation, management, sustainable use and internal and external trade of Guyana's wildlife.

(Read a first time on 2016-05-12)

(iii) **COMMITTEES BUSINESS-**

MOTIONS

1. **OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT**

Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS in accordance with Standing Order No. 104(1), every Committee shall before the end of the Session in which it was appointed, make a Report to the Assembly upon matters referred to it;

AND WHEREAS the Natural Resources Committee, a Sectoral Committee of the National Assembly of the First Session of the Tenth Parliament, was unable, owing to the prorogation and subsequent dissolution of Parliament on the 10th November, 2014 and 28th February, 2015, respectively, to conclude the work that was referred to it in that Session,

BE IT RESLOVED:

That the Natural Resources Committee of the National Assembly of the First Session of the Eleventh Parliament adopt all outstanding work of the previous Committee.

(Notice Paper No. 37 (M31 Committee 4) published on 2016-03-10)

2. **ADOPTION OF THE THIRD PERIODIC REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT**

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P. (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations) to move the following motion:

WHEREAS in accordance with Standing Order No. 104(1), every Committee shall before the end of the Session in which it was appointed, make a report to the Assembly upon matters it has addressed or were referred to it;

AND WHEREAS the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations appointed in the Tenth Parliament was unable to conclude its agreed upon work programme;

AND WHEREAS the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations of the 11th Parliament reviewed the report of the previous Committee and agreed that it be laid in the National Assembly,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly adopts the Third Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations of the 10th Parliament.

(Notice Paper No. 41 (M35 Committee 5) published on 2016-05-03)

3. **ADOPTION OF THE FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS IN RELATION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

The Minister of Public Health (Chairman of the Committee on Appointments) to move the following motion:

WHEREAS in keeping with the Local Government Commission Act No.18 of 2013, Clause 4 (i) (c); the Committee is responsible for nomination of;

“one member, appointed by the President, after approval by the National Assembly upon a nomination by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Appointments from persons submitted by Trade Unions within the Local Government System”.

AND WHEREAS the Committee agreed that the following list of unions represent Trade Unions within the Local Government System and should be consulted to submit nominees for appointment to the Local Government Authority Commission:

Guyana Public Service Union;

Guyana Local Government Officers Union; and

Guyana Labour Union

AND WHEREAS the Committee on Appointments after deliberations recommended Mr. Andrew Christopher Garnett of the Guyana Local Government Officers Union as the nominee to be appointed to the Local Government Commission.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the First Report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to address matters relating to the appointment of Members of Commissions and signifies to the President that Mr. Andrew Christopher Garnett of the Guyana Local Government Officers Union has been nominated in accordance with the Local Government Commission Act No. 18 of 2013, Clause 4(i) (c), to be appointed to the Local Government Commission.

(Notice Paper No. 53 (M42 Committee 6) published on 2016-06-01)

4. **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOCUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT COMMISSION**

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P. (Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee) to move the following motion:

WHEREAS article 212X (2) of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana states:

“The President shall appoint the members of the Commission after such members have been nominated by the Public Accounts Committee and approved by not less than two-thirds of the elected members of the National Assembly.”

AND WHEREAS, in keeping with article 212X (2) the Public Accounts Committee established a Sub-Committee for the purpose of shortlisting applicants to the Public Procurement Commission.

AND WHEREAS, the Sub- Committee shortlisted the following applicants:

- 1) **Ms. Emily Dodson**
- 2) **Mr. Balwant Persaud**
- 3) **Mr. Devan Khemraj**
- 4) **Mr. Bridley Horatio Robeson Benn**
- 5) **Mr. Cecil Jerrard Jacques**
- 6) **Mr. E. Lance Carberry**
- 7) **Ms. Carol Corbin**
- 8) **Dr. Anand Goolsarran**
- 9) **Mr. Lallbachan Christopher Ram**
- 10) **Mr. Sukrishnalall Pasha**
- 11) **Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul**
- 12) **Mr. Ivor B. English.**

AND WHEREAS, the Public Accounts Committee, after deliberations, recommended, from among the applicants shortlisted by the Sub- Committee, the following persons as the suitable candidates to be appointed to the Public Procurement Commission:

- 1) **Ms. Emily Dodson**
- 2) **Ms. Carol Corbin**
- 3) **Mr. Sukrishnalall Pasha**
- 4) **Mr. Ivor B. English**
- 5) **Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul**

BE IT RESOLVED

That this National Assembly adopts the Report of the Public Accounts Committee to address matters relating to the appointment of Members to the Public Procurement Commission and signifies to the President that the following persons have been recommended in accordance with article 212X (2) of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana:

- 1) **Ms. Emily Dodson**
- 2) **Ms. Carol Corbin**
- 3) **Mr. Sukrishnalall Pasha**
- 4) **Mr. Ivor B. English**
- 5) **Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul**

(Notice Paper No. 60(M47 Committee.8) published on 2016- 07-22)

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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

28th July, 2016.