

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 72ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION

(2012 - 2014) OF THE TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 1.00 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 31ST MARCH, 2014

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-

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Reply

CONSTRUCTION OF THE PARAMAKATOI PRIMARY SCHOOL

Member Asking: Mrs. June Marcello, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister tell this House why construction of the Paramakatoi Primary School, Region 8 that started in April, 2012, has not been completed?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister tell this House when construction of the Paramakatoi Primary School would be completed?

(Notice Paper No. 293 (Q 195 Opp. 193) published on 2014-02-13)

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-**

3.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

LAND SURVEYORS BILL 2014 – Bill No. 7/2014

The Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment, on behalf of the Government, to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to enact a new Land Surveyors Act and to repeal the existing Act, to repeal the Surveys (Special Provisions) Act and to consolidate and reform the law governing the practice of land surveying, including aerial surveys, the preparation of plans, the maintenance of records of land surveys and for related matters.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT’S BUSINESS

MOTION

1. BUDGET SPEECH 2014 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2014

Assembly to resume the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2014.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2014-03-24)

BILLS – Second Readings

***2. MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2014 – Bill No. 4/2014 published on 2014-01-29**

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

/...4

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

4.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act.

(Read a first time on 2014-02-10)

*3. **GUYANA CRICKET ADMINISTRATION BILL 2012 – Bill No. 31/2012 published on 2012-12-20**

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport to move the second reading of the following Bill, which was referred to a Special Select Committee:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provisions for the incorporation of autonomous national cricket administrative organizations in Guyana and to provide for other matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2012-12-20)

Please note that the abovementioned Report was laid in the National Assembly on 7th August, 2013.

*4. **WILDLIFE IMPORT AND EXPORT BILL 2013 –Bill No. 20/2013 published on 2013-11-27**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to regulate international trade of Guyana's wildlife and to enable Guyana to fulfill its obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, Washington, 1973.

(Read a first time on 2013-12-12)

/...5

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

MOTIONS

***5. SYMPATHY ON THE DEATH OF MR. DOODNAUTH SINGH, S.C. FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That we the Members of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana –

- place on record our profound grief at the great loss to the Parliament of Guyana by the death of Mr. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., Former Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs on 21st August, 2013, after a prolonged illness;
- pay tribute to the committed and distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly directs that an expression of our heartfelt sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives.

(Notice Paper No. 258 (M 90 Govt 30) published on 2013-11-19)

***6. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTION**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the House selected nine (9) members to the Parliamentary Committee on Selection of the 10th Parliament on February 10, 2012;

/...6

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

6.

AND WHEREAS the House selected four (4) members for the governing PPP/C, four (4) members for the opposition APNU and one (1) member for the opposition AFC;

AND WHEREAS the allocation of a nine (9) member Committee of Selection was by way of an amendment by the combined APNU/AFC opposition to the motion tabled by the Leader of the House for a ten (10) member Committee with five (5) for PPP/C, four (4) APNU and one (1) AFC;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 94(1) provides for “each Select Committee being so constituted to ensure that, as far as possible, the balance of parties in the National Assembly be reflected in the Committee”;

AND WHEREAS the existing balance of the parties in the 10th Parliament is as follows:

PPP/C:	32 seats
APNU:	26 seats
AFC:	7 seats

AND WHEREAS the balance of the parties in the existing Committee of Selection does not conform to Standing Order No. 94(1),

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the decision of the House on the composition of the Parliamentary Committee of Selection be declared inconsistent with Standing Order 94(1);

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED:

That the House takes immediate steps to ensure that the composition of the Parliamentary Committee of Selection is brought into conformity with Standing Order No. 94(1); and

7.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the currently constituted Committee of Selection be prevented from discharging its functions under Standing Order No. 81.

(Notice Paper No. 24 (M7 Govt 4) published on 2012-03-07)

BILLS – Second Reading

***7. PROCUREMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 17/2013 published on 2013-11-07**

In accordance with Standing Order 57(2), the Minister of Finance to move the second reading of the following Bill within six months:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Procurement Act.

(Read a first time on 2013-11-07)

BILLS – Committee and Third Readings

***8. TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL 2012 – Bill No. 18/2012 published on 2012-08-09**

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 of the Telecommunications Agency and for a regular, coordinated, open and competitive telecommunications sector and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2012-08-09)

(Read a second time and referred to a Special Select Committee on 2013-11-07)

/...8

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

8.

*9. **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 17/2012 published on 2012-08-09**

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 Public Utilities Commission Act.

(Read a first time on 2012-08-09)

(Read a second time and referred to a Special Select Committee on 2013-11-07)

*10. **ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 22/2013 published on 2013-12-10**

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 Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Act.

(Read a first time on 2013-12-12)

(Read a second time and referred to a Special Select Committee on 2013-12-19)

(i) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

*11. **THE MARRIED PERSONS (PROPERTY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 9 of 2013 published on 2013-06-14**

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., on behalf of Mrs. Deborah Backer (former Member), to move the second reading of the following Bill:

/...9

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

A Bill intituled AN ACT to amend the Married Persons (Property) Act.

(Read a first time on 2013-06-13)

*12. **BROADCASTING (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 19/2014 published on 2014-02-28**

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P., to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Broadcasting Act.

(Read a first time on 2014-02-28)

MOTIONS

*13. **BERBICE RIVER BRIDGE**

Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P. to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Berbice Bridge was built with significant investment by the Government of Guyana on behalf of the People of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS the Berbice Bridge is owned and operated by the Berbice Bridge Company Inc (BBCI), a company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act No. 29 of 1991 of the Laws of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana through National Industrial & Commercial Investments Ltd (NICIL) is a preferential shareholder and a member of the Board of Directors of the Berbice Bridge Company Inc.;

/...10

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

AND WHEREAS since it's commissioning in December, 2008 the Berbice Bridge has facilitated crossing of over 650,000 vehicles (of the Berbice River) resulting in an annual revenue of over \$1,500,000,000 (one billion five hundred million dollars) for the Berbice Bridge Company Inc.;

AND WHEREAS the toll for vehicles crossing the Berbice Bridge presently is:

Category	Present Rates
Motor Cars	\$2200
Mini Buses	\$2200
Motor Cycles	\$200
Four-wheel drive/ SUVs/Pick-ups	\$4000
SUVs and pick-ups pulling a boat for recreational activities	\$4000
Four-wheel drives, SUVs and pick-ups pulling horse buggies	\$4000
Four-wheel drives/ SUVs / pick-ups transporting BBQ Grills, coolers	\$4000
50-seater bus	\$12,800
30-seater bus	\$7,200
Large Trucks	\$13,600

AND WHEREAS the toll for crossing the Berbice River is exceedingly high when compared to a similar crossing of the Demerara River by the Demerara Harbour Bridge and represents a significant devolution of wealth from the people of Berbice in particular to the benefit of a private company;

AND WHEREAS in recognition that the toll was too high the Berbice Bridge Company Inc. for a specific period over August 1, 2013 to August 12, 2013 reduced the toll for the crossing of the Berbice Bridge to the following rates:

Category	Current toll charges/freight charges	Reduced toll charges for the month of August/no freight charge
Four-wheel drive/SUVs/Pick-ups	G\$4000	G\$3000
SUVs/Pick-ups pulling a boat for recreational activities	G\$4000	G\$3000 and no freight charge for tourism and pleasure activity
Four-wheel drive/SUVs/Pick-ups pulling horse buggies	G\$4000	G\$3000 and no freight charge
Four-wheel drive/SUVs/Pick-ups transporting BBQ grills, coolers	G\$4000	G\$3000 and no freight charge for tourism and pleasure activity
50-seater buses	G\$12,800	G\$9,000
30-seater buses	G\$7,200	G\$6,000
Large trucks	G\$13,600	G\$10,000

AND WHEREAS section 3 and section 4 of the Berbice River Bridge Act 2006 - No. 3 of 2006 provides for the Minister responsible for public works to make “Toll Orders”,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls on the Government of Guyana to instruct its representative on the Board of Directors of the Berbice Bridge Company Inc. to demand an immediate reduction in tolls charged by the Berbice Bridge Company Inc. for crossing the Berbice River; and

12.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls upon the Minister responsible for Public Works to make the following Toll Order:

Category	Present Rates	Proposed Rates
Motor Cars	\$2,200	\$1,000
Mini Buses	\$2,200	\$1,000
Motor Cycles	\$200	Free
Four-wheel drive/ SUVs/Pick-ups	\$4,000	\$3,000
SUVs and pick-ups pulling a boat for recreational activities	\$4,000	\$3,000
Four-wheel drives, SUVs and pick-ups pulling horse buggies	\$4,000	\$3,000
Four-wheel drives/ SUVs / pick-ups transporting BBQ Grills, coolers	\$4,000	\$3,000
50-seater bus	\$12,800	\$9,000
30-seater bus	\$7,200	\$6,000
Large Trucks	\$13,600	\$10,000

(Notice Paper No. 272 (M 93 Opp 56) published on 2013-12-10)

*14. **APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THE TORTURE OF PERSONS BY THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE BETWEEN 2006 AND 2013**

Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition, to move the following motion:

/...13

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

13.

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana prescribes, at Article 141, that “No person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading punishment or other treatment;”

AND WHEREAS it has been widely reported that persons were tortured by members of the Guyana Police Force between the years 2006 and 2013, inclusive;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03, “The President may issue a commission appointing one or more commissioners and authorising such commissioner or commissioners to inquire into any matter in which an inquiry would, in the opinion of the President, be for the public welfare;”

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly expresses its sympathy with the victims of torture;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls upon the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03, to appoint a commission of inquiry to inquire into the torture of persons by members of the Guyana Police Force and to make recommendations to prevent a recurrence of such torture.

(Notice Paper No. 281 (M 97 Opp 57) published on 2014-02-05)

*15. **APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THE SHOOTING OF CITIZENS BY THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2011 IN GEORGETOWN**

Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition, to move the following motion:

/...14

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

14.

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana prescribes, at Article 141, that “No person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading punishment or other treatment;”

AND WHEREAS it has been widely reported that several persons were shot with pellets by members of the Guyana Police Force at about 10.55 hrs. on 6th December, 2011 in or near Hadfield Street in the city of Georgetown;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03, “The President may issue a commission appointing one or more commissioners and authorising such commissioner or commissioners to inquire into any matter in which an inquiry would, in the opinion of the President, be for the public welfare;”

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly expresses its sympathy with the victims of the shooting which occurred on 6th December, 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls upon the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03, to appoint a commission of inquiry to inquire into injury of persons by shooting and to make recommendations to prevent a recurrence of such shooting.

(Notice Paper No. 282 (M 98 Opp 58) published on 2014-02-07)

*16. **THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENCE OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE FROM 2004 TO 2010 IN GUYANA**

Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition, to move the following motion:

WHEREAS, Article 138(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Guyana prescribes that no person shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of the sentence of a court in respect of an offence under the Laws of Guyana of which he has been convicted;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03, "The President may issue a commission appointing one or more commissioners and authorizing such commissioner or commissioners to inquire into any matter in which an inquiry would, in the opinion of the President, be for the public welfare";

AND WHEREAS this country has witnessed a pattern of unlawful killing of undetermined numbers of persons – including assassinations; executions; murders; extra-judicial killings by members of the Guyana Police Force Target Special Squad and other forms of criminal violence in Guyana during a period of 'troubles' on the East Coast and East Bank of Demerara and elsewhere – which were harmful to the public welfare;

AND WHEREAS several of these killings have been of a deliberate and systematic nature – particularly those which occurred at Agricola; Bartica; Buxton; Eccles; Lindo Creek; Lusignan and Bel Air, Bourda and Kitty in Georgetown – which can be classified as massacres and have engendered alarm and despondency among the population;

/...16

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

AND WHEREAS some killings involved members of the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Defence Force and unidentified criminal gangs in which gangsters were equipped with a variety of electronic 'eavesdropping' equipment, weapons and vehicles that were provided with assistance and support by members of the Guyana Police Force;

AND WHEREAS commissions of inquiry and coroners' inquests have not been conducted into some unnatural deaths and criminal investigation reports by the Guyana Police Force, with regard to the most egregious of these crimes, have often been inconclusive;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly is the supreme legislative forum of our Republic wherein the people's elected representatives discuss and determine matters of national interest and which is obliged to consider the grave threats to the public welfare and public security which prevailed during the aforesaid period of the 'troubles' and which remain substantially uninvestigated,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly condemns the killing of citizens of Guyana which occurred during the period of the 'troubles' and expresses its concern that commissions of inquiry have not been convened to investigate the unlawful killings, including the assassination of a Minister of the Government in April, 2006, on the East Coast of Demerara;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls upon the President of Guyana, in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03, to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to inquire into the unlawful killing of citizens during the years 2004 to 2010.

(Notice Paper No. 112 (M47 Opp 29) published on 2012-12-12)

*17. **PREVENTING HONOURABLE CLEMENT ROHEE, M.P., MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS FROM SPEAKING IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

The Assembly to resume the debate on the following motion after the Committee of Privileges has reported thereon:

WHEREAS Article 171(1) of the Constitution provides that subject to the provisions of this Constitution and of the rules of procedure of the National Assembly, any member of the Assembly may introduce any Bill or propose any motion for debate in, or may present any Petition to the Assembly and the same shall be debated and disposed of according to the rules of the procedure of the Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Article 165(1) of the Constitution provides that, subject to the provisions of this Constitution the National Assembly may regulate its own procedure and may make rules for that purpose;

AND WHEREAS on the 25th day of July, 2012, Brig. (Ret.'d) David Granger moved a motion in the National Assembly of No Confidence in the Hon. Clement Rohee, M.P., as Minister of Home Affairs and called for his immediate removal, and dismissal from office;

AND WHEREAS on the 30th day of July, 2012, Resolution No. 18 of 2012, was passed by the National Assembly in accordance with the said motion;

AND WHEREAS the Hon. Clement Rohee, M.P., is a member of the Cabinet of Guyana with the portfolio of the Minister of Home Affairs;

/...18

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

18.

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 47 Rule 10 of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly provides that “Nothing in this Standing Order shall be taken to deprive the Assembly of the power of proceeding against any Member according to any Resolution of the Assembly”;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order No. 113 of the said Standing Orders of the National Assembly provides that “In any matter not herein provided for, resort shall be had to the usage and practice of the House of Commons Assembly of Parliament of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which shall be followed as far as the same, may be applicable to the Assembly, and not inconsistent with these Standing Orders or with the practice of the Assembly”;

AND WHEREAS the practice and convention in the House of Commons of England is that a Minister who loses a no confidence motion, resigns as Minister,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That since the National Assembly, by National Assembly Resolution No. 18 of 2012, has expressed no confidence in the performance of the Honourable Clement Rohee, M.P. as Minister of Home Affairs, that he be prevented from speaking in the National Assembly so long as he is purporting to carry out the functions of Minister of Home Affairs as published in the Official Gazette.

(Notice Paper No. 104 (M45 Opp 27) published on 2012-11-22)

(Referred to Committee of Privileges on 2012-11-22 in accordance with Standing Order No. 91)

*18. **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – No. 15/2012**

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., to move the following motion:

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

19.

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 Public Utilities Commission (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Bill No. 15/2012 –

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Public Utilities Commission Act.
(Notice Paper No. 96 (M38 Opp 22) published on 2012-08-02)

If leave is granted, the Clerk shall read aloud the title of the Bill.

*19. **TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL 2012 – Bill No. 16/2012**

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, 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 Telecommunications Bill 2012 – Bill No. 16/2012 –

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of the Telecommunication Agency and for a regular, coordinated, open and competitive telecommunications sector and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

(Notice Paper No. 97 (M39 Opp 23) published on 2012-08-02)

If leave is granted, the Clerk shall read aloud the title of the Bill.

/...20

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

BILL – Committee and Third Reading

***20. OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL 2012 – No. 8/2012 published on 2012-08-10**

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 set out the responsibilities and authority of the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of Guyana and to provide for the establishment and administration of an independent Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly.

(Read a first time on 2012-08-09)

(Read a second time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2012-12-17)

(iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS

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

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

25th March, 2014.

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

