

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ORDER PAPER**

**FOR THE 59<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION**

**(1998-2000) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD**

**AT 2.00 P.M.**

**ON MONDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2000**

**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN**

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**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, ETC.-**

By the **Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance:**

- (i) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) (No. 3) Order  
2000 (No. 33 of 2000).

(Circulated)

- (ii) Financial Paper No. 5/2000 - Supplementary Estimates (Current  
and Capital) totalling \$915,064,485, for the period ended 24<sup>th</sup>  
November, 2000 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Circulated)

**QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS-**

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS-**

**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-**

**SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 46(2) AND (3)**

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 46(2) and (3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2000, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Ethnic Relations Commission Tribunal Bill 2000 - Bill No. 15 of 2000.

(Notice Paper No. 99 (M54 Govt48) published 2000-12-05)

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**(1) CONSTITUTION(AMENDMENT)(No.4) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 14/2000**

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

A BILL Intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution in accordance with articles 66 and 164.

**(2) ETHNIC RELATIONS COMMISSION TRIBUNAL BILL 2000 - Bill No, 15/2000**

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

A BILL Intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of the Ethnic Relations Commission Tribunal and for matters Connected therewith and incidental thereto.

3.

**(3) LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2000-  
Bill No. 16/2000**

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

A BILL Intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of councillors of local democratic organs.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

**1. NOMINATIONS BY ENTITIES OF MEMBERS TO ETHNIC RELATIONS COMMISSION**

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

WHEREAS article 212A of the Constitution has established an Ethnic Relations Commission;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with article 212B(1) of the Constitution, the Ethnic Relations Commission shall consist of –

- (a) not less than five nor more than fifteen members nominated by entities, by a consensual mechanism determined by the National Assembly, including entities, representative of religious bodies, the labour movement, the private business sector, youth and women, after the entities are determined by the votes of not less than two-thirds of all elected members of the National Assembly;
- (b) a member who shall be a nominee, without the right to vote, chosen by and from each of the following commissions to be established under this Constitution, Indigenous People's Commission, Women and Gender Equality Commission, Commission for the Rights of the Child and Human Rights Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly determines the entities to nominate members of the Ethnic Relations Commission, in accordance with article 212B (1)(a) of the Constitution, to be as set out in the First Schedule attached;

## AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the number of nominees for each group of entities be as follows:-

<u>Group of Entities</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>
Christian Religion	One Member
Hindu Religion	One Member
Muslim Religion	One Member
Trade Unions	One Member
Private Sector Organisations	One Member
Youth Organisations	One Member
Women Organisations	One Member

## AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the consensual mechanism for the nomination of the members by the entities be as set out in the Second Schedule attached.

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FIRST SCHEDULE

**Groups and Entities within each Group to Nominate Members of the Ethnic Relations Commission :**

**Religious Bodies:**

**Islamic Bodies**

The Central Islamic Organisation of Guyana

Guyana Islamic Trust

Guyana United Sadr Islamic Anjuman

Anjuman Hifazatul Islam

Hijatul Ulamaa

**Hindu Bodies**

Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha

Guyana Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha

Guyana Pandits Council

Guyana Maha Kali

Guyana Central Arya Samaj

Guyana Arya Pratinidhi Sabha

**Christian Bodies**

Members of The Guyana Council Of Churches

The Alleluias Church

African Methodist Episcopalian

African Methodist Episcopalian (Zion)

The Anglican Church of Guyana

The Church Of God

Ethiopian Orthodox Church

Guyana Congregation Union

Guyana Presbyterian Church

The Lutheran Church of Guyana

The Methodist Church in Guyana

Moravians

Outreach Ministry

Roman Catholics

**Salvation Army**  
**Guyana Missionary Baptists**  
**Non-Members Of The Guyana Council Of Churches**  
**The Wesleyan Church**  
**New Testament Church Of God**  
**Assemblies Of God In Guyana**  
**Christian Brethren Mission**  
**Guyana Conference Of Seven Day Adventists**  
**District Centre Church Of the Nazarene**  
**Full Gospel Ministries**  
**National Spiritual Assembly Of The Bahais Of Guyana**

#### **The Labour Movement Bodies**

**Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union (AT&GWU)**  
**Guyana Teachers Union (GTU)**  
**Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU)**  
**Guyana Labour Union (GLU)**  
**Printing Industry Allied Workers Union (PIAWU)**  
**National Association Of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE )**  
**General Workers Union (GWU)**  
**Guyana Local Government Officers' Union (GLGOU)**  
**Guyana Mining, Metal and General Workers Union (GMMGWU)**  
**Guyana Postal and Telecommunications Workers Union (GP&TWU)**  
**Association of Masters and Mistresses (AMM)**  
**National Union Of Public Service Employees (NUPSE)**  
**Clerical and Commercial Workers Union (CCWU)**  
**University of Guyana Workers Union (UGWU)**  
**Guyana Bauxite and General Workers Union (GBSU)**  
**Guyana Agricultural and General Workers Union (GAWU)**  
**Union Of Agricultural and Allied Workers (UAAW)**  
**National Mining and General Workers Union (NM&GWU)**  
**University Of Guyana Senior Staff Association (UGSSA)**

#### **Private Business Sector Bodies**

**Guyana Private Sector Commission**  
**Guyana Manufacturers Association**  
**Guyana Forest Products Association**  
**Guyana Gold And Diamond Miners Association**  
**Association Of Non-Traditional Exporters**  
**Guyana Rice Millers and Exporters Development Association**  
**Aircraft Owners Association Of Guyana**  
**Shipping Association Of Guyana**  
**The Tourism And Hospitality Association Of Guyana**  
**Georgetown Chamber Of Commerce and Industry**  
**Berbice Chamber Of Commerce And Development Association**  
**Linden Chamber Of Industry And Commerce**  
**Consultative Association Of Guyanese Industry**

#### **Youth Bodies**

**Dharmic Naujawan (Dharmic Youth)**  
**National Youth Commission**  
**Georgetown Youth Leaders Council**  
**Progressive Youth Organisation**  
**Guyana Youth And Student Movement**  
**The United Force Youth Arm**  
**Working People's Alliance Youth Organisation**  
**Volunteer Youth Corps**  
**Guyana Scouts Association**  
**Young Men's Christian Association**  
**Trades Union Council Youth Movement**  
**University Of Guyana Student Society**  
**Seventh Day Adventist Pathfinders**  
**Muslim Youth Organisation**

Guyana Congregational Young People's Union  
 Full Gospel Youth Fellowship  
 Girl Guides Association  
 Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association Under 20's Club  
 Moravian Youth Club  
 Young Women's Christian Association  
 Church Of Christ Youth Group  
 Roman Catholic Youth Office  
 Youth Ambassadors First Assembly of God  
 Ghandi Organisation  
 Central Baptist Youth Fellowship  
 Youth Achievers  
 Guyana Junior Chamber  
 Methodist Youth Club

#### **Women Bodies**

National Commission On Women  
 Red Thread Women's Development Project  
 Young Women's Christian Association Of Guyana  
 Women's Progressive Organisation  
 National Congress Of Women  
 Church Women United  
 Methodist Women League  
 TUC Women's Advisory Council  
 Anglican Mother's Union  
 Women Across Differences  
 Central Islamic Organisation Of Guyana (Women)  
 The United Force Women's Auxiliary  
 Salvation Army Home League  
 Congregational Women's Union  
 Lutheran Church Women  
 Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha's Mahila Mandale  
 Federation Of AME Women  
 Police Wives Association  
 Guyana Federation Of Women's Institutes

### SECOND SCHEDULE

Consensual Mechanism for the Nomination by Entities of Members of the Ethnic Relations Commission

All the Entities in each Group should be written to by the Clerk of the National Assembly inviting them to meet, on a day/date, time and place to be agreed by them, to determine their Nominee (and one Substitute who would replace the Nominee on the Ethnic Relations Commission in the event that the Nominee is no longer able to function) for Membership of the Ethnic Relations Commission. Where there is a recognised "umbrella organisation" for the Group, the Clerk should write to that organisation and copy his letter to each of the "constituent entities" within the Group.

The Nominee and Substitute chosen by the Group must be persons who are competent to contribute positively to the work of the Commission and who are committed to ensuring that it discharges all of its functions. They should have earned public respect and be of unquestioned and unblemished honesty and integrity.

The "process/procedure" used must be demonstrated to be unbiased and transparent. It is important that the Nominee and Substitute obtain the unquestioned support and acceptance of the Entity nominating them as well as the Entities within the Group.

7.

A deadline should be set by which time the Clerk of the National Assembly would be formally notified of: the names and other requested particulars of the Nominee; the “process/procedure” used for the selection of the Nominee; the number of Entities within the Group which were “properly” represented when the Nominee was selected; and a “statement” to the effect that the Nominee is supported and accepted by the majority of Entities within the Group.

*(Notice Paper No. 98 (M53 Govt37) published 2000-11-23)*

**BILL - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading**

**2. ETHNIC RELATIONS COMMISSION TRIBUNAL BILL 2000 - Bill No. 15/2000**

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL Intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of the Ethnic Relations Commission Tribunal and for matters Connected therewith and incidental thereto.

**\*3. ENERGY SECTOR (HARMONISATION OF LAWS) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 13/2000 published 2000-11-20**

The Prime Minister to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to harmonise laws governing regulatory functions in the restructured electricity and energy sector.

(Read a first time on 2000-11-23)

**MOTION**

**\*4. VENEZUELA'S CLAIM TO THE TERRITORY OF ESSEQUIBO**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS on February 2, 1987, the governments of Britain and Venezuela signed a treaty in Washington, in which they agreed to establish an Arbitral Tribunal for the purpose of determining the boundary between the former Colony of British Guiana, now the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the United States of Venezuela;

/...8

\*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

8.

AND WHEREAS on October 3, 1899, the Arbitral Tribunal handed down a unanimous decision which in accordance with Article XIII of the abovementioned 1897 Treaty of Washington, the contending parties accepted as being a full, perfect and final settlement of all the questions referred to the Arbitrators;

AND WHEREAS the boundary, which was demarcated in accordance with the Arbitral Award and the report of the findings of a Venezuelan/British Mixed Boundary Commission between the years 1901 and 1905, had been accepted and recognised by both sides as well as the international community for six decades following the demarcation, and is still so accepted and respected by Guyana and the international community;

AND WHEREAS from 1962, and in breach of the Treaty of Washington, the untenable contention by successive Venezuelan Governments that the Arbitral Award is null and void, had been accompanied by numerous attempts to deny Guyana the right to develop its territory within secure boundaries free from threats and other forms of intimidation;

AND WHEREAS the aforesaid acts constitute a real and continuing threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS Guyana became a party to the Geneva Agreement of 1966 between Venezuela and the United Kingdom which established a Guyana/Venezuela Mixed Commission charged with "the task of seeking satisfactory solutions for the practical settlement of the controversy between Venezuela and the United Kingdom which has arisen as a result of the Venezuelan contention that the Arbitral Award about the frontiers between British Guiana and Venezuela is null and void" and that the Good Offices of the United Nations Secretary General has been sought to facilitate this process within the context of Article IV (2) of the Geneva Agreement;

AND WHEREAS October 3, 1999 marked 100 years since the international Arbitral Award was handed down;

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly:

- (i) affirm its continuing resolve to be in rejecting Venezuela's claim and to maintain the existing internationally recognised border between Guyana and Venezuela;
- (ii) condemn any and all acts of aggression against Guyana;
- (iii) reaffirm the continued commitment of Guyana to the Good Offices process of the United Nations Secretary General;
- (iv) direct the Government of Guyana, to pursue a continuous and coordinated programme of diplomatic and other initiatives to secure the territorial integrity of Guyana and its rights to develop its territory, within the context of good neighbourliness, free from threats and intimidation;
- (v) further direct the Government of Guyana to take whatever measures are necessary to maintain the continued involvement and support of all parliamentary and other political parties, social partners and other socio-economic groupings throughout the length and breadth of Guyana in their national rejection of Venezuela's claim to Guyana territory.

(Notice Paper No. 71 (M30 Govt 26) published 6.12.99)



**BILLS - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading**

**\*5. SUMMARY JURISDICTION (LAY MAGISTRATES) BILL 1999 - Bill No. 5/1999 published 6.2.99**

The Assembly to proceed upon the further stages of the following Bill, after the Select Committee has reported thereon:

A BILL intituled AN ACT for the constitution of lay magistrates' courts; for the appointment of lay magistrates; for the regulation of their jurisdiction, practice and procedure and for other like purposes.

(Read a first time on 3.2.99)

(Read a second time and committed to a Select Committee on 18.3.99)

**\*6. TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL 1999 - Bill No. 3/1999 published 23.1.99**

The Minister of Education to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the promotion of technical and vocational education and training, and for purposes connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 3.2.99)

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**F. A. NARAIN**  
**Clerk of the National Assembly**

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,**  
**Public Buildings,**  
**Georgetown**  
**5<sup>th</sup> December, 2000**

\*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting