

PARLIAMENTARY AGENDA
FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, 12th MAY, 2014 - FRIDAY, 16th MAY, 2014

Monday, 12th May, 2014

Sitting of the National Assembly

NIL

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees

3rd Sub-Committee Meeting of the Public Accounts Committee

TIME: 1.00 p.m.

VENUE: Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Brickdam, Georgetown.

BUSINESS: To continue to review/amend the Evaluation Factors for nominating the Members of the Public Procurement Commission.

Any other Business

Tuesday, 13th May, 2014

Sitting of the National Assembly

NIL

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees

NIL

Wednesday, 14th May, 2014

Sitting of the National Assembly

NIL

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees

***SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – BILL NO. 17/2012 AND THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL 2012 – BILL NO. 18/2012**

TIME: 6.00 p.m.

VENUE: Committee Room No. 1, Committees Division, Public
Buildings, Brickdam, Georgetown

***Not open to the public**

- BUSINESS:**
- (i) Correction and confirmation of Minutes of the 15th and 16th Meetings held on May 7 and May 8, 2014, respectively;
 - (ii) Matters arising; and
 - (iii) To continue consideration of the Public Utilities Commission (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Bill No. 18/2012.

ANY OTHER BUSSINESS

Thursday, 15th May, 2014

Sitting of the National Assembly

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

- (1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):

Minutes of Proceedings of the 15th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on Wednesday, 30th April, 2014.

(To be Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Labour:

Annual Report of the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee for the year 2012.

(To be Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

- (1) By Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services):

Sixth Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services for the period 16th March, 2012 to 14th March, 2014.

(Circulated)

- (2) By Dr. George Norton, M.P. (Chairman of the Committee on Appointments):

Second Report of the Committee on Appointments in relation to the Appointment of Members of the Public Service Commission.

(Circulated)

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIBRARY AT THE MADHIA SCHOOL DORMITORIES

Member Asking: Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Whereas the Madhia School Dormitories do not have a library, hence, students living in these facilities are denied the opportunity of reading for relaxation and enjoyment and for the expansion of their consciousness;

And whereas it is the duty of the State to create a good study environment for these students.

Could the Hon. Minister say if her Ministry has any plans of setting up a library in the Madhia School Dormitories anytime soon and, if so, how soon would that be?

2. **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 2014-02-1

3. HIRING OF A STEEL BAND TUNER

Member Asking: **Mr. Christopher Jones, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport**

Could the Hon. Minister inform this House why a steel band tuner was contracted/hired by the Culture Department to tune up the state owned steel pan instruments?

- (i) How much was this individual paid and what are the other costs attached, if any, for travel and accommodations?
- (ii) Are there no tuners attached to the Ministry's Culture Department?

(Notice Paper No. 309 (Q 209 Opp. 206) published on 2014-04-02)

4. REPAIRS TO THE NURSING SCHOOL AT EAST STREET AND THE ANNEX TO KINGSTON NURSING HOME

Member Asking: **Ms Annette Ferguson, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Health**

Could the Hon. Minister kindly indicate -

- (i) Whether works have been completed on the Nursing School at East Street and the Annex to Kingston Nursing Home? If yes, the nature of works completed to date?

- (ii) If no, why and what is the timeline to complete works in both areas?
- (iii) Provide a breakdown and costing of works completed and the nature of works to be completed at both locations?

(Notice Paper No. 310 (Q 210 Opp. 207) published on 2014-04-02)

5. CENSOR BOARD

Member Asking:

Ms Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering:

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Could the Hon. Minister explain:-

- (i) Whether the Censor Board is still in place?
- (ii) If yes, how effective is the system as it relates to the monitoring of music?
- (iii) If no, what has caused the delay in putting this body in place?
- (iv) Assuming that the censor body is not in place, when citizens need to ventilate an issue regarding local lyrics, to whom and where can they refer their complaints?

(Notice Paper No. 311 (Q 211 Opp. 208) published on 2014-04-02)

6. THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO WALTER RODNEY ASSASSINATION

Member Asking: Ms Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister in the Ministry of Finance

In view of the provision of \$48 million dollars approved by the National Assembly, with respect to the Commission of Inquiry into Walter Rodney Assassination; could the Hon. Minister state:-

- (i) What constitutes other under Account Code 6294?
- (ii) Give a breakdown what the \$31,400,000.00 was utilised for under Account Code 6249?
- (iii) The percentage of work completed as of to date for the designated area (Supreme Court) to facilitate the Commission of Inquiry into Walter Rodney assassination?
- (iv) Provide a breakdown of the nature of works completed and its costing?

(Notice Paper No. 312 (Q 212 Opp. 209) published on 2014-04-02)

7. BITUMEN PLANT OPERATIONS – TRANSPORT AND HARBOURS DEPARTMENT

Member Asking:

Ms Annette Ferguson, M.P.

Minister Answering:

The Minister of Public Works

Could the Hon. Minister state:-

- (i) For what purpose(s) did the Transport and Harbours Department purchase Bitumen at a cost of \$65,616,830.00?
- (ii) Does the T&HD still operates the Bitumen Plant?
- (iii) If no, what has led to the cessation of the operation of the Bitumen Plant by T&HD?
- (iv) When did the cessation of the operation of the Bitumen Plant operation take place?
- (v) Under whose responsibility the Bitumen Plant falls?

(Notice Paper No. 313 (Q 213 Opp. 210) published on 2014-04-02)

**8. CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR ENGINEERING DESIGNS
AND SUPERVISION OF WORKS FOR THE PARIKA TO
GOSHEN ROAD**

Member Asking:

**Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon,
M.S.M., M.P.**

Minister Answering:

**The Minister of Natural Resources
and the Environment**

On the 30th March, 2014, the following notice was published in the Guyana Chronicle Newspaper –

“Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) requests for proposals: Consultancy services for engineering designs and supervision of works for the Parika to Goshen Road; Lot 1, Parika to Aliko, Lot 2”, Aliko to Itaka, Lot 3, Itaka to Goshen.”

Could the Hon. Minister state –

- (i) On what basis was it determined that GGMC should be the executing Agency for this proposed road (Parika to Goshen)?
- (ii) On what basis was this project determined to be a mining road, thus qualifying it for GGMC funding?
- (iii) What consultations, if any, have taken place with stakeholders in the mining sector to determine that this is a priority mining sector project, worthy of GGMC funding?
- (iv) What role, if any, has the Ministry of Public Works played in developing the technical scope of works for this project?
- (v) Has the Cabinet formally approved this project and its execution through the GGMC?

(Notice Paper No. 314 (Q 214 Opp. 211) published on 2014-04-02)

9. **OVERSEAS TRIPS MADE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT AND DELEGATIONS**

Member Asking: Mr. Desmond Trotman, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Prime Minister and Minister of
Parliamentary Affairs

Would the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs tell this House:-

The number of official overseas trips made by the President and delegations since taking office in 2011?

- (i) The total dollar cost of each trip made by the President and delegations individually (destination, accommodation, transportation) since taking office in 2011?

(Notice Paper No. 315 (Q 215 Opp. 212) published on 2014-04-07)

10. **BENEFITS GUYANA STANDS TO GAIN FROM OVERSEAS TRIPS**

UNDERTAKEN BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT AND DELEGATIONS

Member Asking: Mr. Desmond Trotman, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Prime Minister and Minister of
Parliamentary Affairs

Would the Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs tell this House:-

- (i) The immediate and medium term benefits to Guyana associated with each of the trips undertaken by the President and delegations since taking office in 2011 to February, 2014?
- (ii) What benefits Guyana stands to gain in 2014 from each of the overseas trips undertaken by the President and his Delegations in 2012?
- (iii) What benefits Guyana stands to gain in 2016 from each of the overseas visits made by the President and his Delegations in 2012 and 2013?

(Notice Paper No. 316 (Q 216 Opp. 213) published on 2014-04-07)

11. **BENEFITS FOR THE FORMER PRESIDENT, DR. BHARRAT JAGDEO**

Member Asking:

Mr. Desmond Trotman, M.P.

Minister Answering:

The Minister of Finance

Would the Minister of Finance tell this House:-

What is the electricity charge paid under the Act for former President, Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, for each month since he demitted office in 2011 up to the end of February, 2014?

- (i) What is the total health expenses/claims met under the Act for former President, Bharrat Jagdeo and/or his dependents for each month since he demitted office in 2011 to 28th February, 2014?
- (ii) What is the cost of providing transportation (local and overseas) inclusive of cars and drivers, including air cost and road under the Act for former President, Bharrat Jagdeo and/or his dependents for each month since he demitted office in 2011 to 28th February, 2014?
- (iii) What is the monthly cost of providing security for personal and property(s) under the Act for former President, Bharrat Jagdeo since he demitted office in 2011 until 28th February, 2014?

(Notice Paper No. 317 (Q 217 Opp. 214) published on 2014-04-07)

12. LEVELS OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN GUYANA

Member Asking:

Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

Minister Answering:

The Minister of Finance

- (i) Can the Hon. Minister say whether his Government or any of its Agencies compiles data on levels of unemployment in Guyana?
- (ii) Can the Hon. Minister provide the National Assembly with data showing the levels of unemployment in Guyana for each of the last ten years?
- (iii) Can the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly whether his Government's economic policies are aimed at reducing the levels of unemployment in Guyana, and if so, what data is used to assess the impact of those policies on the level of unemployment?

(Notice Paper No. 318 (Q 218 Opp. 215) published on 2014-04-07)

13. 2012 NATIONAL CENSUS

Member Asking:

Mrs. Catherine Hughes, M.P.

Minister Answering:

The Minister of Finance

- (i) Can the Hon. Minister say when the results of the 2012 National Census will be released?

- (ii) Can the Hon. Minister also say whether or not his Ministry or any of its officers has been given access to any of the data from the 2012 National Census?

(Notice Paper No. 319 (Q 219 Opp. 216) published on 2014-04-07)

14. **ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REPARATIONS COMMITTEE OF GUYANA**

Member Asking: Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly when was the Reparations Committee of Guyana formed?
- (ii) What criteria were used to select the Members of the Guyana Reparations Committee?
- (iii) Could the Hon. Minister inform this House who are the Members of Guyana's Reparation Committee?
- (iv) Could the Hon. Minister tell this House what are the Terms of Reference/Role of the Reparations Committee of Guyana?

- (v) Could the Hon. Minister say what representations have been made to the Caricom Reparations Commission with respect to claims for Africans and Amerindians in Guyana?

(Notice Paper No. 320 (Q 220 Opp. 217) published on 2014-04-14)

For Oral Reply

15. **LINDEN ENTERPRISE NETWORK (LEN) BOARD**

Member Asking: Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Finance

* (i) What criteria were used to select the Members of the Linden Enterprise Network (LEN) Board?

* (ii) Who were the persons responsible for this selection?

(Notice Paper No. 321 (Q 221 Opp. 218) published on 2014-04-14)

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) **GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS**

BILLS – Second Readings

1. **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:

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

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

2. **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.

3. Private Member's Business Bills- Second Reading

**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:

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

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

4. BROADCASTING (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 19/2013 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

5. 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.;

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	G\$4000	G\$3000 and no freight charge

pulling horse buggies		
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

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)

6. 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:

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)

7. **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:

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)

(iii) **Committees Business**

MOTIONS

8. **ADOPTION OF THE SIXTH PERIODIC REPORT OF THE
PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL SERVICES**

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services), to move the following motion

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Sixth Periodic Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 323 (M 101 Committees 7) published on 2014-04-28

9. **ADOPTION OF THE SECOND REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON**

**APPOINTMENTS IN RELATION TO THE APPOINTMENT
OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Dr. George Norton, M.P. (Chairman of the Committee on Appointments), to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Second Report of the Standing Committee to address matters relating to the Appointment of Members of Commissions established under the Constitution, and signifies to the President that the following persons:

- (i) Mr. Patrick M. Yarde; and
- (ii) Ms Patricia Went

have been nominated in accordance with Article 200 (1)(b) of the Constitution, to be appointed Members of the Public Service Commission.

Notice Paper No. 324 (M 102 Committees 8) published on 2014-05-09)

Friday, 16th May, 2014

Sitting of the National Assembly

NIL

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees

Sub- Committee Meeting of the Public Account Committee

TIME: 1.00 p.m

VENUE: Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Brickdam, Georgetown.

BUSINESS: to continue to review/ amend the Evaluation Factors for nominating the Members of the Public Procurement Commission.

**Parliament Office,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.**

13th May, 2014.