

Ref. #-1 of 2013

RULING ON THE ADMISSABILITY OF AMENDMENTS TO MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE HON. BRIG. (Ret'd) DAVID A. GRANGER, M.S.S., M.P.

1. Motions for debate are submitted by Members under the provisions of Standing Orders 26 and 27. (*Admissibility of Motions and Notice of Motions or Amendments respectively*)
2. The submission of a Motion does not guarantee that it will be placed on the Order Paper in its original form as there has to be a process to ensure that the Motion meets the established standards set out in Standing Order 26.
3. Following approval by the Speaker, a Motion is placed on the Order Paper by the Clerk for debate.
4. Amendments to Motions are expected to follow the same process for approval as the substantive Motion, and are expected to be submitted in sufficient time, before the date and hour of the debate of a substantive Motion, so that they can be examined to ensure that the Standing Orders have been complied with.<sup>1</sup>
5. On Thursday, January 10, 2013, after convening the sitting for the day, I observed a document placed before me entitled: “ **Amendments to Motion- The Appointment of a Commission Of Inquiry To Investigate The Incidence Of Criminal Violence From 2004-2010.**” On closer perusal, I determined that it was a list of extensive amendments in the name of the Hon. Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mohabir Anil Nandlall, M.P.
6. The proposed amendments contain, in my considered opinion, matter that offends the Standing Orders.
7. I refer in particular, to references to sitting and former Members of Parliament, and other former and current leaders and superior officers of political parties and disciplined forces, and their “linkages” to criminal gangs; these, in my considered opinion, offend Standing Orders 26 (b), (c) and (d).

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<sup>1</sup> See: Announcements by the Speaker (Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C.) On Amendments dated 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2006.

8. Apart from the fact that names of persons are inserted, and that some of them are not present to mount a defence of their characters, the amendments also make statements that appear to be “fact” and yet seek to have a Commission of Inquiry inquire into the very matters.
9. I consider the amendments in their present form to have gone far beyond the “paal” of what is expected, and acceptable, as coming from a Member of Parliament of the National Assembly for debate in this august House.
10. In the circumstances of the foregoing, the amendments in their original form are disallowed. Recommended changes to the amendments have been made.
11. The submitted amendments, not being approved, and contained in documentary form, are not to be considered as a document officially emanating from the National Assembly of Guyana.
12. The proposer of the amendments is invited to make the necessary changes, as recommended, or to withdraw the amendments entirely if he so chooses.<sup>2</sup>

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**Hon. Raphael G.C.Trotman, M.P.**  
**Speaker of the National Assembly**

January 11, 2013

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<sup>2</sup> See attached changes

**SPEAKER'S RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE HON. ATTORNEY-GENERAL and MINISTER OF LEGAL AFFAIRS MOHABIR ANIL NANDLALL, M.P., TO MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION THE HON. BRIG. (Ret'd) DAVID. A. GRANGER, M.S.S., M.P.**

1. On page two (2), third (3<sup>rd</sup>) and fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) paragraphs, to be **deleted** entirely and replaced with the following:

**“AND WHEREAS it was believed that there was a key and critical role and interference by many known figures and some media houses;”**

2. On page three (3), fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) paragraph, delete the paragraph entirely and replace with:

**“That the President considers including in the terms of reference of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission the following:**

- (i) **Was there any connection between media houses and the criminal gangs?; and**
- (ii) **Were there any linkages between public officials and the criminal gangs?”**

3. On page four (4) delete all references to persons named save and except the following:

**“Was there a cover-up of the assignation of the 1973 Ballot Box martyrs, Father Darke and Walter Rodney”?**

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Hon. Raphael G.C.Trotman, M.P.  
Speaker of the National Assembly

Dated this 11<sup>th</sup> Day of January, 2012

January 11, 2013

**Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs**

Clerk of the National Assembly  
Office of the Clerk  
Parliament Office  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown.

Dear Mr. Isaacs,

**Re: Amendments Submitted by the Hon. Attorney-General and Minister of Legal Affairs to Motion In the Name of Hon. Brig. (Ret'd) David A. Granger, M.S.S., M.P.**

Following the unfortunate course of events that transpired last evening with respect to the amendments submitted by the Hon. Attorney-General, I have since had an opportunity to review them thoroughly, and have rendered a ruling, and made changes accordingly.

Please make arrangements for the Hon. Attorney-General to be notified accordingly, and for a meeting to be held by you and I with him if he so desires.

I would also be grateful if the attached ruling can be replicated and distributed in the usual manner.

Sincerely,

Hon. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.  
Speaker of the National Assembly