

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST**  
**SESSION (2006-2007) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA HELD**  
**AT 2.00 P.M.**  
**ON TUESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2007**  
**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM**

**MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (71)**

**Speaker (1)**

The Hon. Hari. N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker of the National Assembly

**Members of the Government (42)**

(i) **People's Progressive Party/Civic (41)**

(ii) **The United Force (1)**

The Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice),  
Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

The Hon. Clement J. Rohee, M.P., Minister of Home Affairs

The Hon. Shaik K.Z. Baksh, M.P., Minister of Education

The Hon. Dr. Henry B. Jeffrey, M.P., Minister of Foreign Trade and International  
Cooperation (Absent)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),  
Minister of Health

The Hon. Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, M.P., (Region No. 9 – Upper Takutu/Upper Essequibo),  
Minister of Amerindian Affairs

\*The Hon. Dr. Ashni K. Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance

\*The Hon. S. Rudolph Insanally, O.R., C.C.H., M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs (Absent – on leave)

The Hon. Harry Narine Nawbatt, M.P., Minister of Housing and Water

**\*Non-elected Minister**

The Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne),  
Minister of Agriculture

The Hon. Dr. Jennifer R.A. Westford, M.P., (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni),  
Minister of Public Service

The Hon. Kellawan Lall, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

\*The Hon. Doodnauth Singh, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Hon. Dr. Frank C.S. Anthony, M.P., Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

The Hon. B.H. Robeson Benn, M.P., Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

\*\*The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Labour

The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice),  
Minister of Human Services and Social Security

The Hon. Dr. Desrey Fox, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Education

The Hon. Dr. Bheri S. Ramsaran, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Health

The Hon. Jennifer I. Webster, M.P., Minister in the Ministry of Finance

The Hon. Manniram Prashad, M.P., Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Chief Whip

Ms Bibi S. Shadick, M.P. (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara) (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Albert Atkinson, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 8 – Potaro/Siparuni)

**\*Non-Elected Minister**

**\*\*Elected Member from the United Force**

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.,  
(Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara) (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Bernard C. DeSantos, S.C., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Shirley V. Edwards, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica) (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Mohamed F. Khan, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam) (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, J.P., M.P.

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

\*\*\*Mr. Steve P. Ninvalle, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

Mr. Parmanand P. Persaud, J.P., M.P., (Region No. 2 – Pomeroon/Supernaam)

Mrs. Philomena Sahoye-Shury, C.C.H., J.P., M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

\*\*\*Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Norman A. Whittaker, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

### **Members of the Opposition (28)**

#### **(i) Members of People's National Congress Reform-One Guyana (22)**

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip (Absent – on leave)

Mrs. Deborah J. Backer, M.P.

Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

\*\*\*Non-elected Member

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.

Mrs. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Ms Anna Ally, M.P.

Mr. James McAllister, M.P.

Mr. Dave D. Danny, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P. (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. Ernest B. Elliot, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P., (Region No. 7 – Cuyuni/Mazaruni)

Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P., (Region No. 3 – Essequibo Island/West Demerara)

Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

Dr. John Austin, M.P., (Region No. 6 – East Berbice/Corentyne)

Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P., (Region No. 5 – Mahaica/Berbice)

Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P., (Region No. 10 – Upper Demerara/Upper Berbice)

Mr. Desmond Fernandes, M.P., (Region No. 1 – Barima/Waini)

**(ii) Alliance For Change (5)**

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Mrs. Sheila V.A. Holder, M.P.

Ms Chantalle L. Smith, M.P., (Region No. 4 – Demerara/Mahaica)

Mr. David Patterson, M.P. (Absent – on leave)

**(iii) Guyana Action Party/Rise Organize and Rebuild (1)**

Mr. Everall N. Franklin, M.P.

**OFFICERS**

Mr. Sherlock E. Isaacs, Clerk of the National Assembly

Mrs. Lilawattie Coonjah, Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

**COMMENCEMENT OF SITTING**

The sitting commenced at 2.15 p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**Thanks to Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly**

The Speaker extended thanks to Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly for performing the functions of Speaker of the National Assembly in his absence. He also thanked the Members for the cooperation and support given to Mrs. Riehl during the period she performed the functions of the Speaker of the National Assembly.

### **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

The Ethnic Relations Commission Annual Report for the year 2005.

(Circulated)

(2) The Prime Minister on behalf of the Minister of Labour presented the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee Annual Report for the year 2005.

(Circulated)

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

#### **For Written Replies**

1. **MAZARUNI PRISON BREAK**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Home Affairs

Will the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs state the circumstances surrounding the prison break at the Mazaruni Prison on Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2007, and which led to the escape of nine (9) prisoners?

(Notice Paper No. 60 (Q42 Opp42) published on 2007-01-23)

#### **Answer:**

According to investigations, two Prison Officers one of which was a supervisor were detailed to feed the fifty seven (57) prisoners in the Security Block with their evening meals at about 16.05 hours.

During this exercise, the prisoners were out of their respective cells receiving their ration. It was at this time, that three of them overpowered the supervisor who was in the building with them brandishing sharpened instruments, one believed to be an improvised cutlass. They then ran to the entrance door as other prisoners followed them forcing the officer on the outside to withdraw due to their menacing demeanour. They eventually ran into the prison yard behind the security block and

quickly scaled the western fence which is approximately thirty metres away. The unarmed officer in the Observation Post raised an alarm but he himself withdrew from his post as the charging and menacing prisoners threatened to kill him. The prisoners then made their way to the nearby forest.

The facility was immediately locked down and a head count of the prisoners revealed that nine (9) prisoners had escaped.

By 18.30hrs a comprehensive Joint Services Contingency plan was operationalized to recapture the nine (9) escaped prisoners. They were all recaptured by Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2007.

An analysis of the contributing factors of the escape revealed that the officers supervising the inmates fail to observe the facility procedural policies and by this apparent neglect, contributed significantly to the escape of these prisoners. It was recognized that even though the escape was spontaneous, it was planned to take place at the most opportune time.

A Board of Inquiry was established to investigate the circumstances of the escape and to make recommendations in terms of improving the security capability of that prison as well as determining culpability for the escape.

The Board of Inquiry has since completed its investigations handed over its report to the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs on 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2007.

## 2. **MEASURES TO PREVENT JAIL BREAKS**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Home Affairs

Will the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs state what measures have been put in place to address safety and security generally at all prisons in Guyana and to prevent jail breaks in particular?  
(Notice Paper No. 61 (Q43 Opp43) published on 2007-01-23)

**Answer:**

The following are measures taken to address safety and to prevent jail breaks in particular:

- Increase in surveillance and monitoring capabilities at prison locations in order to prevent and reduce the element of surprise by prisoners and support staff in maintaining the security integrity of those locations.
- Creating more opportunities for staff to develop core competences and skills, from strategic courses done in house, external institutions, Joint Services' training and overseas exposures.
- Review the staff establishment and increase staff strength to adequately supervise inmates.
- Fortifying existing structures to safely house inmates.
- Developing and maintaining Joint Services' operational response drills to emergencies occurring within the prison facilities in Guyana.
- To establish monitoring teams to audit/review the security and management of prison locations in terms of structural capabilities, compliance with security procedures and generally the efficiency of prison locations.
- Providing a comprehensive retaining regime that will provide prisoners with sense of hope and incentives to conduct themselves positively in the prison environment.

These measures will prevent, deter and reduce opportunities for prisoners to breach the security of prison locations and at the same ensure a positive penal environment is maintained which is supportive to prisoners behaving themselves in a disciplined manner.

### 3. **COMMISSIONS OF ENQUIRY INTO JAIL BREAKS**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Home Affairs

Can the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs state specifically what recommendations, if any, of past Commissions of Enquiry into jail breaks within the last ten (10) years have been implemented?

(Notice Paper No. 62 (Q44 Opp44) published on 2007-01-23)

Please see Appendix for the reply to this question.

4. **CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Home Affairs

In light of the recent jail break at the Mazaruni Prison, is the Minister of Home Affairs willing to seek a reconsideration of his government's decision not to construct a new maximum security prison?

(Notice Paper No. 63 (Q45 Opp45) published on 2007-01-23)

**Answer:**

Resources to construct a new maximum security prison were not allocated in the 2007 Budget of the Guyana Prison Service.

5. **DESTRUCTION OF DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION WORKS BY CATTLE**

**Member Asking:** Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Agriculture

Can the Hon. Minister say how his Ministry proposes to deal with cattle farmers whose cattle continue to roam and destroy Drainage and Irrigation works and rice crops in the area controlled by the MMA Agricultural Development Authority?

(Notice Paper No. 64 (Q46 Opp46) published on 2007-01-23)

**Answer:**

Section 35 of the Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary Agricultural Development Act, Chapter 69:11 states:

- (1) "Any person who, having the custody or control of cattle , permits such cattle to trespass upon any of the lands adjacent to any work, being lands vested in the Authority.... Shall be liable to a fine of three thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars....

- (2) Any cattle found trespassing upon any work or land specified in the preceding subsection may be seized and impounded by any member of the police force or of the rural constabulary, or by any person authorized in writing in that behalf by the Authority.
- (3) Any cattle impounded under this section shall be impounded in the nearest pound and the Pounds Act shall apply to that impounding”

**Section 36** states that a convicted offender is liable to pay expenses incurred by the Authority in repairing damage.

**Section 37** provides for prosecutions and proceedings for offenders to be instituted under the Summary Jurisdiction Act; and **Section 38** identifies persons authorized to prosecute on behalf of the Authority.

While it seems that the law provides comprehensively with the issue of cattle roaming and destroying drainage and irrigation works and rice crops, one also has to recognize the limitations under which the MMA Authority is functioning.

The MMA Authority can only take action to protect the infrastructure as is within its means to do, since its activities are dependent on the payments from the beneficiaries and users of the services it provides.

The Honourable Member asking the question is quite familiar with Yeoville, for instance. In that community, eleven members of a particular family, with lands totalling 345 acres, collectively owe as at December 31, 2006, the sum of \$6,341,371.00 (six million, three hundred and forty one thousand, three hundred and seventy one dollars).

Can the Authority be expected to function effectively with this level of delinquency taking place?

One expects with an increasingly participating nature of operations and maintenance of Drainage and Irrigation schemes that emphasis will now shift to self-regulation and cooperation by and between the residents of the communities where the problem is experienced. After all, some of these individuals who own the cattle cultivate the rice.

Generally, there are organizations to which the farmers belong. There is the Cattle Farmers Association and there is the Rice Producers Association. Many of them belong to both organizations and some are even dual office-bearers. It is expected therefore, that they will easier co-operate among themselves and treat with the issue. Government must studiously avoid doing what communities ought to, and can do for themselves.

In any event, proprietors and lessees are free to take necessary action within the laws to protect their crops and property.

I wish to conclude by repeating some of what I had stated in the presentation that I referred to earlier.

Government does view the damages done to crops and infrastructure very seriously. As a consequence, Cabinet at its meeting on December 11, 2006 agreed that the Attorney General's Chambers would draft changes to the relevant laws as part of a comprehensive plan.

As I said then, I am confident that these and other measures to be introduced by the Government, in a short while, will adequately address the concerns raised by the Honourable Member of the Opposition.

6. **INDISCRIMINATE DUMPING OF GARBAGE ON PARAPETS IN  
REGION NO. 5**

**Member Asking:** Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works & Communications

Could the Hon. Prime Minister inform this National Assembly what plans are in place to curb the indiscriminate dumping of garbage on parapets and in drainage systems in Region No. 5?

(Notice Paper No. 65 (Q47 Opp47) published on 2007-01-23)

12.

**Answer:**

There are laws against littering which can be imposed. There is no specific programme at the level of Central Government to curb indiscriminate dumping in Region 5. We look to the RDC, and NDCs to motivate community alertness and pressure against any dumping of garbage on parapets and in drainage systems in Region 5 and all across Guyana.

I understand that RDC's are working with the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development to identify appropriate locations to set up landfill sites to receive garbage so as to remove the excuse that there are no designated places to dispose of garbage.

**7. NEW AMSTERDAM HOSPITAL**

**Member Asking:** Dr. John Austin, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Health

Can the Hon. Minister of Health inform this National Assembly what plans his Government has for the former New Amsterdam Hospital which has been in disused since 2004?

**(Notice Paper No. 66 (Q48 Opp48) published on 2007-01-23)**

**Answer:**

The Regional Democratic Council of Region 6 under which the New Amsterdam Hospital falls vacated the old New Amsterdam Hospital building in 2005.

The Ministry of Health is working with cabinet to decide the future of this site.

One of the plans for the old building is to relocate the Nursing School presently located at Angoy's Avenue, New Amsterdam, to this site. Rehabilitation work has been on-going, creating lectures rooms and dormitory facilities.

The plan is to expand the facility to a Training Center and some parts, if not all, of programs outside Nursing, such as the Medex and Community Health Workers Training, could also be facilitated at the New Amsterdam Training Center.

The old Accident and Emergency Building has been converted to the New Amsterdam Family Health Center and has been a model facility that the Ministry of Health intends to emulate at other sites in the country.

A number of other proposals have been made. There are presently being discussed by Cabinet.

#### **8. TRANSPORTATION WOES OF BERBICE RIVER RESIDENTS**

**Member Asking:** Dr. John Austin, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

Can the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly when will the Government ease the transportation woes of the Berbice River residents by re-introducing the ferry service?

**(Notice Paper No. 85 (Q66 Opp66) published on 2007-01-23)**

**Answer:**

The Transport and Harbours Department formerly provided this service to the residents of this community, however with the increasing costs and low returns as well as problems associated with an aged vessel, the Service was terminated sometime in 1995.

This River Service commenced sometime during the period 1955 – 1965.

This Service was intended to be a stimulus for both community and economic development within the area, however the response was not what was anticipated. On many occasions the vessel would depart New Amsterdam/Stanleytown with a full load of passengers, cargo, etc., but on the return journey mostly agricultural produce, wallaba poles and staves were transported as cargo. This uneconomical situation remained so for many years until its termination in 1995.

The vessel M.V. Lukanani was sold to a private individual who continued to operate the service for sometime. However, he too encountered financial problems due to the service not being economical.

This service is still available for operation/reintroduction by private individuals/organizations since the Transport and Harbours Department is unable to serve this community at the moment.

9. **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BOOKS FOR 2007**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister of Human Services and Social Security inform this National Assembly when the Public Assistance books for 2007 will be distributed?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister say how many books will be distributed for 2007 and what will be the dollar amount?
- (iii) Could the Hon. Minister say how these Public Assistance Books will be distributed across the country and what criteria is being used to arrive at the amount for each Region?

**(Notice Paper 76 (Q58 Opp58) published on 2007-01-23)**

**Answers:**

- (i) Public Assistance books for the first half of 2007 have already been distributed. This process shall continue until all beneficiaries receive their books.
- (ii) One does not automatically qualify for public assistance. Applications for public assistance are reviewed by the Local Board of Guardians for the area which is comprised of residents of the area in which the applicant lives. That Board reviews the application and determines

same. One cannot therefore say how many books will be distributed in 2007. Each Public Assistant beneficiary shall receive \$2,470.00 per month.

- (iii) Public Assistance books are distributed by Social Workers. The criterion for qualification for Public Assistance is "need" duly determined by Local Board of Guardians. For this reason amount cannot be specified for any region.

#### 10. **STATUS OF WATER METERS**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Housing and Water

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly on the present status of the water meters which were installed around the country to monitor the usage of water by households and other entities?
- (ii) In particular can the Hon. Minister say how many meters were installed?
- (iii) Could the Hon. Minister say if the GWI still installing water meters?
- (iv) Could the Hon. Minister say what is the present status - how many are operational and how many are out of operation?
- (v) Could the Hon. Minister say what mechanism is being used to bill consumers whose meters are non-operational?

**(Notice Paper No. 77 (Q 59 Opp59) published on 2007-01-23)**

**Answers:**

- (i) Yes – the status follows
- (ii) According to Guyana Water Inc. records, 44,500 meters are installed.
- (iii) Yes
- (iv) At present 39,368 meters are operational. Approximately 5000 meters are “non-operational”. Meters may be “non-operational” for reasons of technical breakdown, blockages or disconnection for non-payments of water charges.
- (v) In cases where meters are non-operational, due to technical breakdown, and blockages, customers are billed on fixed charges tariffs.

11. **ADHERENCE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS BY MINING CAMPS**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly of the measures in place to ensure that mining camps adhere to the environmental laws?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister say how many mining camps/companies have been:
  - (a) warned of breaches;
  - (b) suspended for breaches; and
  - (c) had their licences revoked or suspended.

**(Notice Paper No. 78 (Q60 Opp60) Published on 2007-01-23)**

**Answers:**

- (i) Some of the measures in place to ensure that mining camps adhere to the environmental laws are:-
  - (a) Enforcement of the Environmental Regulations in relation to mining;
  - (b) Strict and constant monitoring of mining activities in the Mining Districts by the Community Mines Rangers, Mines Officers and District Mining Engineers;
  - (c) Education and Encouragement – demonstrations, workshops, etc. in relation to environmental awareness and requirements of the environmental regulations;
  - (d) Regular Aerial Inspection – surveillance to gather further information on the operational aspects of mining camps and to take remedial/corrective action where necessary.
- (ii)
  - (a) Warned of breaches – 37;
  - (b) Suspended for breaches – 12;
  - (c) had their licences revoked – None.

**12. FUNDS FROM THE GUYANA LOTTERIES COMPANY****Member Asking: Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.****Minister Answering: The Minister of Finance**

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister say when last was monies from the Guyana Lotteries Company deposited into the Consolidated Fund?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister say what was the last amount deposited?  
(Notice Paper No. 79 (Q61 Opp61) published on 2007-01-23)

**Answers:**

- (i) I am advised that monies were last paid into the Consolidated Fund on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2006.
- (ii) I am advised that the last amount deposited was \$11,870,989.00

13. **FLOOD RELATED DONATIONS TO THE GOVERNMENT**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Finance

- (i) January 14, 2007 marked two (2) years since the great flood experienced by Guyanese. Could the Hon. Minister of Finance inform this National Assembly of the number of organizations, governments and individuals who made flood related donations to the Government of Guyana for the people of Guyana?
- (ii) Could the Minister provide this National Assembly with a list of the contributors and the contributions made to assist the people of Guyana during the great flood?

**(Notice Paper No. 80 (Q62 Opp62) published on 2007-01-23)**

**Answers:**

(i) and (ii) please see below:

Donor	Amount Received	USD
US Government	50,000	
IDB	200,000	
CIDA	37,240	
France	62,500	
Peoples Representative of China	100,000	
Amumini Baxuite Co. Ltd	100,000	
OAS	15,000	
Guyanese Overseas	144,739	
Atlantic-Tele Network	150,000	
GBTI	15,000	
South American Mining	10,000	
Kriskor	3,000	
Others	50,650	
South Korea	30,000	
Deodat Singh	8,142	
Republic of Cyprus	30,000	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1,006,271</b>	

14. **CONTINUOUS ASSESSMENT AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL LEVEL**

**Member Asking:** Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Education

- (i) Can the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly what percentage of the overall 100% is allocated to each of the three levels – 2, 4 and 6 in relation to Continuous Assessment at the primary school level?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly what are the criteria being used and the weight placed on level 6 Continuous Assessment in his Ministry to place children in Secondary Schools?
- (iii) What steps are in place to make the selection process transparent and objective?  
(Notice Paper No. 81 (Q 63 Opp63) published on 2007-01-23)

**Answers:**

- (i)
 

Grade 2	5%
Grade 4	10%
Grade 6	85%
- (ii) Allocation of primary school children to secondary schools will be done using the results of the National Grade 2 Assessment, the National Grade 4 Assessment and the National Grade 6 Assessment.
- (iii) Performance at the various national examinations at the primary school level will be centrally computerized and allocation to schools will be determined by aggregated scores.

15. **BEAMS PROJECT**

**Member Asking:** Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Education

Could the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly how much overseas aid Guyana received in 2006 for the BEAMS Project?

(Notice Paper No. 82 (Q64 Opp64) published on 2007-01-23)

**Answer:**

The BEAMS Project received US\$5,592,752.00 in 2006 by way of a loan from the Inter-American Development Bank.

16. **STAFFING IN SCHOOLS**

**Member Asking:** Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Education

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly when staffing in schools will be regularized?
- (ii) Could the Hon. Minister further tell this National Assembly when will all schools in Guyana be allocated their full complement of staff mandated to conduct classes efficiently?

(Notice Paper 83 (Q65 Opp65) published on 2007-01-23)

**Answers:**

- (i) Staffing in schools at the various levels is based on the appropriate student-teacher ratios and is continuously being monitored and regularized.

- (ii) Each school year vacancies are advertised and efforts are made to fill existing vacancies based on the staffing complement of schools and the willingness and availability of teachers to teach in hinterland and remote areas.

**For Oral Replies**

**17. CARICOM CHARTER OF CIVIL RIGHTS**

**Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs**

At the request of the Prime Minister and with approval of the Assembly, the answers to the following questions were deferred:

- (i) \*Can the Hon. Minister say whether his Government has established "the mechanism at the national level to monitor the recommendations of the Caricom Charter of Civil Rights?
- (ii) \*If such a mechanism has been established can the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly what results have been obtained to date?
- (iii) \*If the mechanism has not been established can the Hon. Minister say when this mechanism will be established?

**(Notice Paper No. 67 (Q49 Opp49) published on 2007-01-23)**

**18. CONFERENCE/RETREAT OF HEADS OF OVERSEAS DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS**

**Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs**

At the request of the Prime Minister and with approval of the Assembly, the answers to the following questions were deferred:

- (i) \*Can the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly when last a Conference/Retreat of Heads of Overseas Diplomatic Mission was convened?
- (ii) \*Could the Hon. Minister say what is the date and venue for the next Heads of Overseas Diplomatic Missions Conference/Retreat?

**(Notice Paper No. 68 (Q50 Opp50) published on 2007-01-23)**

19. **HEAD OF A DIPLOMATIC MISSION**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Foreign Affairs

At the request of the Prime Minister and with approval of the Assembly, the answers to the following questions were deferred:

- (i) \*Could the Hon. Minister indicate if the disadvantages of having the Head of a Diplomatic Mission for more than five (5) years in one post outweighs the advantages?
- (ii) \*Is such an approach useful in the present international situation?  
(Notice Paper No. 69 (Q51 Opp51) published on 2007-01-23)

20. **INCIDENTS OF DIABETES IN HINDERLAND REGIONS**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Health

- \*Will the Hon. Minister state whether his Ministry has received reports of an increase in chronic incidents of diabetes in the Hinterland Regions of 7, 8 and 9 in particular?  
(Notice Paper No. 84 (Q66 Opp66) published on 2007-01-23)

Thereafter the Minister of Health replied.

21. **SCIENTIFIC METHOD OR EVALUATION – ZERO RATED GOODS**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Finance

- \*Will the Hon. Minister state whether any scientific method or evaluation was used to determine which foodstuff or goods were essential for health and hygiene of the general population when deciding which items were to be zero rated or exempt from Value-Added Tax (VAT)?  
(Notice Paper No. 85 (Q67 Opp67) published on 2007-01-23)

**Answer:**

It would appear that this question is premised on the assumption that the basis for determining which items would be zero-rated or exempted from the Value-Added Tax was the criterion of being essential for the health and hygiene of the general population. This was not the case. The determination of which items should be zero-rated or exempted was made primarily on the basis of consultations with and feedback from various stakeholder groups in addition to observed developments in the marketplace.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-****Presentation and First Readings**

1. **SECURITY ASSISTANCE (CARICOM MEMBER STATES) BILL 2007 – Bill No. 11/2007**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the implementation of the Treaty on Security Assistance among CARICOM Member States and for matters connected therewith.

2. **VISITING FORCES BILL 2007 – Bill No. 12/2007**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the armed forces of certain states visiting Guyana and for related purposes.

3. **STATUS OF VISITING POLICE OFFICERS BILL 2007 – Bill No. 13/2007**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, presented the following Bill which was read the first time:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the presence, activities, privileges and immunities of members of foreign police forces and civilian personnel during the period of CWC 2007 and for matters connected therewith.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS - Second Reading**

**ITEM 1 - PESTICIDES AND TOXIC CHEMICALS CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL**  
**2007 – Bill No. 4/2007 published on 2007-01-25**

The Minister of Agriculture moved the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Act 2000.

**(Read a first time on 2007-01-31)**

The following Members spoke to the motion:

Dr. George Norton

The Minister in the Ministry of Health

Mr. Everall Franklin

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan

Thereafter the Minister of Agriculture replied.

The Bill was read a second time.

The Assembly resolved itself into Committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

**In Committee**

**Clauses 1 to 12 were passed as printed.**

**Assembly resumed.**

On a motion by the Minister of Agriculture, the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control (Amendment) Bill 2007 was read a third time and passed as printed.

**MOTIONS**

**ITEM 2 - INTRODUCTION OF THE VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT)**

At the request of Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., and by leave of the Assembly the following motion was deferred:

WHEREAS the PNCR-1G had always supported in principle the introduction of (VAT) to replace a number of existing taxes with the objective of widening the tax base and bringing within the tax net persons and supplies which hitherto escaped payment of taxes;

AND WHEREAS the introduction of the tax was expected to reduce the burden of taxation on those categories of workers, such as teachers, policemen, nurses and public servants, who were captive targets of the tax system;

AND WHEREAS throughout all stages of the passage of the relevant Legislation the PNCR-1G suggested a reduction of the proposed rate, the zero rating of essential commodities, a phased implementation of the tax and a deferral of the date of implementation beyond January 1, 2007;

AND WHEREAS the Government is in possession of information which demonstrates that to achieve their stated objective of revenue neutrality the rate of the tax could be lowered;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of the (VAT) on January 1, 2007 has led to a dramatic rise in the cost of living that is decimating the working poor and their families, with the harshest effects being felt by the unemployed, pensioners, unwaged housewives and low waged workers, resulting in a deepening sense of desperation among citizens,

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

- (1) A special all-Party Parliamentary Committee be established immediately to make recommendations for the reduction on the rate of the tax, for widening the range of zero rated and exempt supplies and a phased implementation of the Value-Added Tax;
- (2) The Government immediately implement significant levels of salary increases for those categories of workers most adversely affected by the implementation of (VAT);
- (3) The Government promptly, but no later than six weeks of the passage of this Resolution, establish a National Commission on Tax Reform to review of the tax system and make recommendations for, inter alia, the raising of the income tax threshold and reduction of income and corporation taxes;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:**

The membership of the aforesaid Commission includes various stakeholders, including, the Guyana Trades Union Congress, the Private Sector Organisations, the Religious community, and other social sector organizations.

**(Notice Paper No. 87 (M18 Opp 6) published on 2007-01-23)**

**ITEM 3 - AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 10**

At the request of Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., and by leave of the Assembly the following motion was deferred:

WHEREAS the hours of Parliament are prescribed by Standing Order No. 10 of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly to be 2.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. with suspensions at 4.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. respectively;

AND WHEREAS Members of the National Assembly have expressed varying views on the times for sittings of the Assembly with some Members favouring the commencement of sessions at an earlier time whilst others appear to prefer the strict observance of the prescribed times;

AND WHEREAS it would be desirable for a compromise to be found so as to allow for the hours of sittings to be varied from time to time by the Parliamentary Management Committee depending on the business to be disposed of,

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the Standing Orders Committee examines the issue of the times at which the Assembly shall meet including, the right of the Speaker to suspend the Standing Orders to allow the time to be abridged or varied and to report to the National Assembly its finding and recommendations within three months.

(Notice Paper No.92 (M23 Opp 7) published on 2007-01-30)

**ITEM 4 - GUYANA'S PREPARATION FOR THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE**

Mr. James McAllister, M.P., moved the following motion:

WHEREAS, scientists have determined that climate change as a result of global warming is irreversible;

AND WHEREAS, climate change will result in significant transformations including sudden shifts in regional weather patterns, melting of glaciers, destruction of ecosystems and sea level rise;

AND WHEREAS, sea level rise coupled with an increase in destructive storms will threaten the existence of small island states and low lying coastal communities;

AND WHEREAS, over 90% of Guyana's population and a vast majority of its agricultural and economic activities are located on the coastal plain which is below current sea level;

AND WHEREAS, given its present demography and economic activities the effects of climate change will have significant impact on Guyana,

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly acknowledges that climate change will have significant impact on Guyana and urges the Government to establish a National Commission on Climate Change and National Mitigating Measures to make recommendations on and monitor actions which must be taken to address the situation;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly establishes a Special Select Committee to prepare the terms of reference for the aforementioned National Commission and to report to the National Assembly within three (3) months.

**(Notice Paper No. 118 (M25 Opp 8) published on 2007-02-14)**

The Minister of Agriculture spoke to the motion.

**SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 3.55 p.m., the sitting was suspended for refreshments.

**RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 4.46 p.m., the sitting was resumed.

The following Members also spoke to the motion:

Ms Africo Selman

Mr. Odinga Lumumba

Mr. Aubrey Norton

Mrs. Sheila Holder

The Minister of Health

Thereafter Mr. James McAllister replied.

### **SUSPENSION OF SITTING**

At 6.27 p.m., the sitting was suspended to allow the Government and Opposition parties to discuss the proposed amendment to the motion by the Minister of Agriculture.

### **RESUMPTION OF SITTING**

At 6.56 p.m. the sitting was resumed.

The following amendments moved by the Minister of Agriculture were put and carried:

“Delete in the First BE IT RESOLVED CLAUSE:

“and urges the Government to establish a National Commission on Climate Change and National Mitigating Measures”

Insert in the First BE IT RESOLVED CLAUSE:

“and notes the establishment and functioning of a broad-based National Climate Committee which terms of reference include”

Delete the entire Second BE IT RESOLVED CLAUSE.

Insert as the Second BE IT RESOLVED CLAUSE:

“The National Assembly will through the Natural Resources Sectoral Committee receive and review half-yearly reports from the National Climate Committee and examine the desirability of setting up a National Commission on Climate Change and submit its recommendations in one year.””

The motion as amended was then put and carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7.00 p.m., on a motion by the Prime Minister, the sitting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m., on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2007.



.....

**HON. HARI N. RAMKARRAN, S.C., M.P.,**

**Speaker of the National Assembly**

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

**13<sup>th</sup> March, 2007.**

**Notice Paper No 62**

**Question: Commissions of Enquiry Into Prison Breaks**

In the last ten years there were four Commissions of Enquiries as stated below:

- The Break out twenty eight (28) prisoners from the Lusignan Prison on November 21, 1996. **Commission of Enquiry chaired Mr. Derrick Thompson.**
- Escape of four (4) prisoners from the Georgetown Prison on August 29, 1999 **Commission of Enquiry chaired Mr. Peter Willems.**
- Escape of five (5) prisoners from the Georgetown Prison on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2002. **Commission of Enquiry chaired Mr. Cecil Kennard.**
- Escape of five (5) prisoners from the Mazaruni Prison on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005. **Commission of Enquiry chaired Mr. Peter Willems.**

**DERRICK THOMPSON'S ENQUIRY ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE THE  
ESCAPE OF TWENTY-EIGHT (28) PRISONERS FROM THE LUSIGNAN  
PRISON ON NOVEMBER 21, 1996.**

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**STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

There were twenty-eight (28) recommendations:

**Implemented were 18 as follows:**

**a,b,c,d,e,f,h,j,k,l,m,n,p,q,s,u,w, 2d,**

**Partially implemented one (1)**

**2a,**

## BOARD OF INQUIRY 1996 RECOMMENDATIONS

NO.	RECOMMENDATIONS	COMMENTS
01.	The Staff at the prison should be increased immediately by at least twenty (20) officers.	Implemented
02.	A vehicle should be made available at the prison to convey officers on and off duty from the Lusignan Public Road to the prison and from the prison and also for other duties	Implemented
03.	Additional training in custodial duties should be arranged for junior officers at the prison.	Implemented
04.	A human Dignity should be arranged for officers both at the junior and senior levels.	Implemented –GHRA conducts training programmes with recruits.
05.	Furnished quarters should be provided for a number of senior officers and additional barrack room facilities for junior officers who are stationed at the prison.	Partially implemented
06.	The officers quarters should be located outside the prison compound but in close proximity to the prison.	This will be implemented at the newly acquired land at the Golf Ground
07.	Remand and Convicted prisoners must be kept together	Implemented : remanded prisoners are kept at G/T prison
08.	That more recreational facilities be provided for prisoners and that they be permitted to participate fully in sports – football, cricket, volleyball and other sports discipline.	Implemented
09.	That the diet of prisoners be reviewed to provide them with a more balanced diet. The Carnegie School of Home Economic should be asked to prepare the diet sheet. The diet programme should be supported by farming activities which yield a wider variety of vegetables.	Implemented
10.	The kitchen should be expanded to provide better cooking and baking facilities. More emphasis should be placed on the preparation of the meals.	Implemented

**PETER WILLEMS' ENQUIRY ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE THE  
ESCAPE OF FOUR (4) PRISONERS FROM THE GEORGETOWN PRISON ON  
AUGUST 29, 1999.**

**STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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There were twenty-four (24) noted recommendations:

**Implemented were 23 as follows:**

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14, 15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,

**Partially implemented was one (1) as follows:**

24 Joint Services Coordinating Council (JSCC) to design plan to safely evacuate prisoners from the Georgetown Prison.

## BOARD OF INQUIRY 1999 RECOMMENDATIONS

NO.	RECOMMENDATIONS	COMMENTS
1.	Barbed wire on perimeter fence to be replaced with an "X" shaped structure of multicoil razor wire.	Implemented
2.	Iron spike at top of perimeter fence to be serviced and repaired to ensure rolling motion.	Implemented
3.	Two guard towers to be installed one in the north eastern corner and the other in the south eastern corner of the prison. Tower to be equipped with one million candle power searchlight and armed marksmen from GDF and GPF.	Implemented Manned by teamed specially trained prison officers
4.	A NO GO severe sanction zone to be created and clearly demarcated, extending at least 10 feet from the perimeter fence. A radio log or written confirmation between Guard Towers and Control Centre must be obtained Any person who enters this zone after being warned will be subject to severe sanction by the marksmen in the Guard Towers.	Implemented Implemented radio log recorded
5.	Installation and testing of flood lights on perimeter fence.	Implemented
6.	Installation and testing of camera system on perimeter fence.	Implemented
7.	Removal of Prison Communication Centre to a safer location on the upper floor of the Georgetown Prison.	Implemented
8.	Immediate inspection and audit of the arms and ammunitions.	Implemented
9.	Supply of : Sufficient riot helmets Sufficient riot shields Tear gas canisters Respirators	Shields were purchased and donated to reach a satisfactory requirement. Tear gas are kept by the police. We have respirators in stock.
10.	Training and retraining of all officers which should include the use of batons and self-defence.	Implemented however stymied by limited staffing levels.
11.	Catch net to be installed to catch objects thrown over the wall from	Implemented

	outside the prison.	
12	G.D.F should be given the required legal mandate to work with the G.P.F. and G.P.S to ensure that the perimeter fence and guard towers are manned efficiently.	The legal framework of using GDF personnel in the prison setting still to be reviewed.
13.	All prisoners including remands to wear some kind of uniform. Remand prisoners to wear bright tee-shirt or coloured armband. Civilians visitors must be given identification tags and be subject to challenge by prison officials. Self-Support System for remanded prisoner must be reviewed and change. D.O.P must recommend changes	Implemented but stymied by limited funds. To be fully implemented in 2007  Implemented  Implemented: Continuously reviewed
14.	A coordinating committee be established to determine modalities for immediate installation of sufficient overhead water tanks to satisfy the lavatory system and for the monitoring and cleaning of the prison sewerage system. There should be sufficient amount of toilet paper distributed to inmates to prevent blockage of the sewerage system by mattress stuffing, cloth etc.	Implemented : constantly reviewed  Implemented
15	Complete overhaul of the practical implementation of the Prison System Statutory Orders. Ratios of prison officers to prisoners and male officers to female officers to be revised if the tactical prison officers' deficiencies are to be corrected.	Recommendations made: Awaiting further consultation on them.  Ratios reviewed and but implementation stymied with the high attrition rate of male staff.
16.	Disciplinary actions against officers	Implementation were be determined at the Ministry level
17.	Shortage of staff and overcrowding will contribute to jailbreaks if not dealt with swiftly. Careful evaluation should be done of the Mazaruni Prison to see if more prisoners can be transferred from Georgetown to Mazaruni.	Implemented :Reviewed done: Mazaruni Prison is accommodating more prisoners but careful selection is made as who goes there consequent to the security vulnerabilities of the prison
18.	Ministry of Home Affairs to provide additional financial support for Georgetown Prison.	Government allocations has been increased for the GPS

19.	Joint Service Co-ordinating Committee should be requested to review the training programme of the Prison Service in order to provide assistance to upgrade the training of officers at all levels.	The Joint Services Training Committee considers special training for prison officers and offers place for personnel to attend many programmes.
20.	Prison Officers must not be deployed on duty without the relevant basic training.	Implemented as far as practicable.
21.	Gifts should not be accepted without the written permission of the D.O.P	Implemented
22.	Immediate Action Drill worked out between Col. Atherly, G.D.F/ DO1 member and D.O.P to be performed on a date to be set by Col. Atherly and D.O.P	Implemented
23.	Police or Ministry of Home Affairs arrange for immediate purchase of at least four (4) pump action shot guns	Implemented
24.	The Joint Service Coordinating Committee should immediately design a plan to evacuate prisoners in a controlled orderly manner to a safe place in case of fire or other natural or unnatural disaster.	JSCC Special committee examining a number of sites as best sited locations.

**CECIL KENNARD ENQUIRY ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE THE  
ESCAPE OF FIVE (5) PRISONERS FROM THE GEORGETOWN PRISON  
FEBRUARY 23, 2002.**

**STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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There were forty one (41) recommendations:

**Implemented were 35 as follows:**

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,  
35,36, 37,

## **BOARD OF INQUIRY 2002 RECOMMENDATIONS**

NO.	RECOMMENDATIONS	COMMENTS
1.	The vacancy for twenty-five (25) Prison Officers should be filled immediately, if not already filled.	This was implemented / facilitated immediately after directive was given.
2.	Person on duty at OP II should be provided with a communication set.	Implemented
3.	OP II should be re-sited and placed somewhere between the Brick Prison and the Reception Area in order to allow for a clear view of those blind areas north west of the Administration Buildings and the area housing the Strong Cells.	Implementing this decision was more detrimental from a security point of view. Mr. Gajraj, MP had agreed with the Prisons Directorate's argument against resisting the OP thus, the decision was not implemented.
4.	Ratio of female Officers working in the area between the main or front gate (No.1) and the No.2 gate should be revised as to allow for at least one male Officer to be on duty. (This is apart from the armed sentry who should be placed by the main gate).	This was implemented. A male supervisor not below the rank of a Principal Officer 11 is detail to manage all activities at the front gate. This is apart from the armed sentry
5.	An armed sentry (male) should be on duty daily in the area of the front gate for the period from the unlock to final lock down of the Prison.	Implemented.
	Better co-ordination among those who have to deal with self support prisoners. The system is in total chaos and should be reviewed and strictly enforced.	System reviewed and the self support operation is now managed / coordinated more effectively.
7.	The number of prisoners, including high profile prisoners, should be reduced by placing some at the Mazaruni Prison.	Most high profile prisoners are untried prisoners who cannot be readily removed from the Georgetown Prison. However, we enforce the policy to separate disruptive high profile prisoners at other secured locations. Georgetown Prison has a few convicted high profile inmates.
8.	All high profile prisoners should be readily identifiable by way of specific colour of their outer-most garment.	This is done as far as practicable. But is a great challenge as many of these prisoners report that their

		clothes are stolen/destroyed etc. The mixing of these prisoners with other prisoners in the high security blocks creates the opportunities for these reports. However, the intention to clothe all prisoners in prison uniform will eliminate this and allow for a strict enforcement of this decision
9.	A fair and impartial format for random search of Prison Officers should be developed.	Implemented
10.	There is a need for all Prison Officers to be appropriately trained before entering the Service and for there to be follow-up training to be done either on the job or in a formal setting in order to equip them with tools for the difficult tasks they are required to perform. Training is the key to effective custodial work and, therefore, there must be organized programme of training for all Prison Officers.	This was implemented. It currently takes approximately four (4) months for recruits to be trained due to our method of walk-in recruits.. While prior to this directive it took 12-18 months to train recruits..
11.	A Prison Officer who had received little or no training in the use of a firearm should never be issued with one (Matthew Thomas; case is an example).	This decision currently enforced.
12.	Two or more Officers must be on duty at all times in the Operations Room, and at least one should be a male.	This decision is currently enforced but it is difficult to find a male Officer to work there. However, there is male supervisor who supervise the operations of the Operation Room.
13.	All prisoners should be treated at the Prison Infirmary unless it is absolutely necessary to take them to the Georgetown Hospital. A Doctor should be required to visit the Prison on a daily basis, as this would alleviate the task of having to take them to the Georgetown Hospital and thus reduce the risk of an escape.	A doctor visits twice weekly at the Prison to examine and treat prisoners and reduced considerably the amount of prisoners referred to the hospital. Prisoners continue to attend specialist clinics.
14.	The procedure for the appointment of orderlies must be strictly enforced as this will ensure that the Officer-in-Charge would know who has been selected.	This decision is currently enforced as the Headquarters and Georgetown Prison have many forums for feedbacks by virtue of weekly meetings, daily situations reports, access to all radios communications, visit to the prisons among other mediums.

15.	There should be established an effective feed back system between the Georgetown Prison and Headquarters of the Guyana Prison Service to apprise the Director of Prisons of action taken on his instructions/directives.	The Headquarters and Georgetown Prison by virtue of weekly meetings, daily situation reports ready access to all radios communications from the Operation Room, visits to the Prison among other mediums.
16	The practice of utilizing money confiscated from prisoners or found in the cells for administrative and other purposes should cease immediately. This should be investigated, as there seems to be an absence of records as regards their use. All monies found on a prisoner or in the prison must be paid in to revenue.	This decision is currently enforced.
17.	The Police must be informed promptly whenever Narcotic is discovered at the Prison – whether in the prisoner's possession or in the cell. The practice of keeping the narcotic at the Prison is both unacceptable and unlawful. It must, therefore, be handed over to the Police and a report submitted to the Ministry for information.	This decision is currently enforced.
18.	The Prison Authorities should avoid placing obstacles in the areas to monitor from the Operations Room.	This decision is currently enforced.
19.	The Director of Prisons must be provided with an effective communication system so that he can be reached at short notice in case of an emergency arising, wherever he may be.	This decision is currently enforced.
20.	There should be an injection of new blood in the Prison Service. The possibility of recruiting members from the other disciplined services should be explored.	Option explored along with others to recruit the best quality of persons. Through advertisements a better quality of recruits are attracted to the Service.
21.	The present staff strength is totally inadequate to cater for the prison population. There is need for the ratio of Prison Officers to prisoners to be revised so as to permit the recruitment of additional staff. The Director of Prisons stated that the custodial staff at present is limited to approximately ten (10) per shift at a ratio of one Officer to seventy prisoners (1:70).	The Prison Service four (4) years staff development plan 2004 - 2008 has already witness government increasing the staff establishment by 50 additional ranks hoping to achieved 600 by the end of the developmental phase.
22.	All members of the Prison Service, who report for duty on special days must be in uniform when they are within the precincts of the Prison with the exception of the Officer-in-Charge, his Deputy and the	This decision is currently enforced.

	Medex.		
23.	A Prison Inspectorate Division should be formed comprising at least three experienced Ex-Prison Officers to investigate complaints and make scheduled and unscheduled visits to all Prison locations in order to inspect security measures in place, and equipment on hand.	This decision is outside the Prisons Directorate's mandate or scope of authority.	
24.	An entry should be made in the prisoner's penal record, and endorsed by all Senior Officers at the location, whenever a prisoner is to be placed in a special category. A special Establishment Order must be made to contain the signatures of every member of the staff of the location. This will prevent them disclaiming knowledge of it and at the same time enable them to identify special prisoners.	The act of informing rank(s) who is/are special category of prisoner is done/enforced. This recommendation made is burdensome and duplicative. List of special category prisoners is posted for Officers to be familiar with them. It is Officers professional responsibility to make themselves aware of such prisoners through the mediums provided by the administration.	
25.	Staffing will always be a problem in any system and must never be used as an excuse. Work plans should be revised whenever these situations arise and all available specialists within the system should be utilized to carry out routine duties.	Officers-in-Charge are advised to personally review weekly staff details to ensure that staff is optimize to satisfy the security of the facility.	
26.	Officers not on duty must not be permitted to go beyond the No.2 gate without the express permission of the Officer-in-Charge or his deputy. In any case he/she must be escorted to and fro by some one chosen by the Officer-in-Charge or his deputy.	This decision is currently enforced.	
27.	The opening in the gate of the Self Support Division must be sealed by placing a flap with a padlock to secure it.	This decision is currently enforced	
28.	A comprehensive disciplinary procedure should be introduced whereby Officers found to be corrupt can be dealt with in an expeditious manner.	This procedure is always enforced even prior to the Board of Enquiry.	
29.	An independent unit should be set up to conduct all internal investigations in the Prison.	The Director of Prisons had established audit /investigative teams comprising of selective Officers depending on the enquiry to be conducted within the Prison.	
30.	A reasonable criteria should be established for candidates seeking position in the Prison Service.	This decision is currently enforced.	

31.	Prison Officers, not in uniform should be required to have an identification tag on their outermost garment, while within the confines of the Prison.	This decision is currently enforced.
32.	Verifiable emergency drills should be conducted at least once every month.	These drills are done on a quarterly basis and the recently established Joint Services' contingency plans for fire, riots, and hostage taking has a more collaborative, coordinated and cooperative approach to respond to security threats occurring in the Prison. The plan provides excellent drills to be practiced which will be done.
33.	An incentive programme should be arranged which will encourage prisoners to report knowledge of criminal activities or security violation to the Prison Authority. In order to be successful such a programme will required a highly confidential network.	An incentive programme has being facilitated to encourage prisoners to provide critical information of a security nature.
34.	There should be a better communication network within the Prison.	This decision is currently enforced
35.	Steps should be taken to have Prison Officer Maurice Griffith remove from the Service.	This decision was implemented.

**PETER WILLEMS' ENQUIRY ESTABLISHED TO INVESTIGATE THE  
ESCAPE OF FIVE (5) PRISONERS FROM THE MAZARUNI PRISON ON  
NOVEMBER 23, 2005.**

**STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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There were twenty-five (25) recommendations:

**Implemented were 21 as follows:**

1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11,12,13,14, 17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,

**Partially implemented were (3) as follows:**

3 Supply of communication sets

15&16 To keep persons charged with serious offences out of the Sibley Hall Prison.

17 Installation of motion cameras

## BOARD OF INQUIRY 2005 RECOMMENDATIONS

NO.	RECOMMENDATIONS	COMMENTS
1.	<p><b>Electricity:-</b></p> <p>(a) Must be given priority at no time must the Prison be without power from 18:00 hours to 06:00 hours – See appendix – (i)</p> <p>(b) There is need for immediate repairs to the second generator which is presently unserviceable for the need of a fan and a three (03) way switch gear.</p> <p>(c) That an investigation be made into the likelihood of purchasing of fuel from Guy Oil tanker, since this fuel is presently purchased from Shell Bartica.</p>	<p>Implemented from December 2006</p> <p>Implemented: Need a new generator</p> <p>Was recommended by the oil company that this recommendation is not cost effective.</p>
2.	<p><b>Transportation:-</b></p> <p>(a) That a small vessel be always operational to access riverain communities to notify residents about the danger of escape prisoners, as well as to lend support to the existing launch.</p> <p>(b) There is immediate need for a 75H.P. Outboard Yamaha Engine.</p> <p>(c) One all terrain vehicle (ATV) 500 cc.</p>	<p>Implemented</p> <p>Implemented</p> <p>Implemented</p>
3.	<p><b>Communication:</b> there is need for a minimum of six (06) new Hand Held Sets with two batteries each and chargers including a Base Station for the Sibley Hall Prison to create an effective network and for the constant flow of information among ranks working in outdoor parties and in the prison. The entire communication system should be linked to the Bartica Police Station for quick response in the event of emergencies.</p>	<p>Partly implemented. Base station acquired to be installed</p> <p>Communication link with Bartica Police and GDF Makouria implemented</p>
4.	<p><b>Perimeter Fence:</b> - this fence needs to be replaced immediately and should be constructed with a concrete base and chain link material supported by double rows of razor wire at the top.</p>	<p>Works about ninety-five percent (95%) completed will be completed in 2007</p>
5.	<p><b>Dormitories:</b> there is the immediate need for one inch (1") steel rod to the upper four (04) feet of the dormitories and of expanding metal and square mesh on the inner and outer side.</p>	<p>Eighty percent (80%) completed will be completed in 2007</p>

6.	<b>Observation Towers:</b> - two (02) towers need to be constructed at the western and southern end of the dormitories, to observe the entire surrounding of the dormitories and prison compound.	Implemented
7.	<b>Sanitary Facility:</b> - this area needs to be improved with better lighting and operable toilets.	Implemented
8.	<b>Staffing:</b> - there is need for adequate staff in the custodial field, especially senior supervisors. These vacancies need to be filled <b>immediately</b> . See Appendix (ii)	Promotions granted 2006 twenty (20) additional staff sent to Mazaruni Prison
9.	<b>Visits:</b> - one (01) visit must be made between the hours of 23:00 hours to 01:00 hours and two (02) visits should be made during the morning period between the hours of 01:00 hours to 04:00 hours by a Senior Supervisor.	Effectuated to the level of availability of senior staff to rotate.
10.	<b>Accountability of tools:</b> - for better control of all tools used in the prison's yard	Implemented
11.	That the twelve (12) hours shift be <b>immediately</b> revised with the aim of returning to the normal eight (08) hours shift, since this shift seems to be very strenuous for officers.	Still in operation is currently been reviewed.
12.	<b>Torch Lights:</b> - (a) There is <b>immediate</b> need for three (03) cell water proof halogen torchlight suitable for night patrols (b) Three (03) halogen rechargeable spot lights one million candle power to man the Guard Hut and Towers.	Implemented  Implemented
13.	Motion Cameras should be installed in the dormitories and Monitors in the guard hut, to monitor the movement of prisoners in the dormitories.	Motion cameras installed in Dec. 2006 . will be activated with the supply of solar power to prison equipment in early 2007
14.	Four (04) grill doors are needed for the passage way and entrance of the Sibley Hall Prison.	Implemented
15.	A Letter of Censure must be issued to Superintendent of Prison Richard Bryan informing him that under his command there were seventeen (17) escapes recorded. Further he needs to improve on his Human Relation Skills.	Implemented
16.	A Warning Letter must be issued to Cadet Officer Kevin Browne for failing to visit on the night of the escape as was rostered.	Implemented

17	A Warning Letter must be issued to Principal Officer Alexander Hopkinson for failing to ensure that the 18:00 hours to 06:00 hours shift on 2005-11-10 was complimented with adequate staff (no less than three (03) staff).	Implemented
18	Prison Officer No. 1929 Colin Pratt must be disciplined by Warning Letter for failing to ensure that regular checks were made to the dormitories.	Implemented
19	That a member or members of the Ministerial Investigation Committee revisit the Sibley Hall Prison at intervals of six weeks to ensure the necessary progress are made reference recommendations made by the Ministerial Investigation Committee. This should be for approximately six (06) months.	Implemented- Mr. Willems visited
20	There is need for the immediate improvement in the supervision of prisoners going and coming from Bartica.	Implemented
21	There is immediate need for a Welfare Officer to visit Sibley Hall the minimum twice monthly	The District Probation visits the prison