

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ORDER PAPER**

**FOR THE 7<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION**

**(2006 - 2007) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD**

**AT 2.00 P.M.**

**ON THURSDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2007**

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

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**BUSINESS FOR SITTING**

**PRAYERS**

**OATH OF A NEW MEMBER-**

**MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT-**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-**

**PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS-**

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-**

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

**For Written Replies**

**1. CONSULTANT/ADVISER ON LAW ENFORCEMENT IN GUYANA**

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

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

- (i) Has Mr. Bernard Kerik and/or his company been hired or contracted in any capacity as a consultant, or otherwise to advise, or be involved in law enforcement in Guyana?
- (ii) If Mr. Kerik has been, or is likely to be retained, what is the remuneration and benefits to be offered to him and his associates by the Government of Guyana?

**(Notice Paper No. 30 (Q20 Opp20) published on 2006-12-12)**

**2. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS IMPRISONED IN GUYANA**

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

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

- (i) Can the Minister of Home Affairs say what is the total number of persons imprisoned in Guyana as of December 1, 2006?
- (ii) Can the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the categories and numbers of each offence for which persons are incarcerated?

**(Notice Paper No. 31 (Q21 Opp 21) published on 2006-12-12)**

3. **MARIJUANA (CANNABIS SATIVA) RELATED OFFENCES FOR THE PERIOD  
2005 – 2006**

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

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

- (i) What is the total number of persons arrested for offences related to marijuana (cannabis sativa) for the period 2005 – 2006?
- (ii) What is the total number of persons successfully prosecuted for being in possession of marijuana (cannabis sativa) during the period 2005 – 2006?
- (iii) What is the average cost to prosecute each such case?
- (iv) What is the current number of persons on remand, or serving sentences, for being in possession of marijuana (cannabis sativa)?
- (v) How many of these persons are females and males?

**(Notice Paper No. 32 (Q22 Opp 22) published on 2006-12-12)**

4. **ESTABLISHMENT OF A REHABILITATION CENTRE OR CENTRES**

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

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

Does the Government of Guyana have any immediate plans to establish a Rehabilitation Centre or Centres as provided for in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 1988?

**(Notice Paper No. 33 (Q23 Opp 23) published on 2006-12-12)**

5. **WORLD CUP CRICKET**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Agriculture

With the emphasis Government is placing on hosting World Cup Cricket, can the Honourable Minister say if he intends to take steps to remove livestock from the country's main thoroughfares given the anticipated influx of visitors. If so, what steps does he intends to take?

**(Notice Paper No. 34 (Q 24 Opp24) published on 2006-12-14)**

6. **REMOVAL OF SIGNS AND BILLBOARDS ON THE TIMEHRI TO GEORGETOWN HIGHWAY**

**Member Asking:** Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

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

(i) Can the Hon. Minister of Transport and Hydraulics say what notice was provided to the private sector before the removal of signs and billboards legally erected on the Timehri to Georgetown Highway?

(ii) Has the private sector been afforded the opportunity to reclaim signs and billboards that were dismantled?

**(Notice Paper No. N. 38 (Q26 Opp26) published on 2006-12-21)**

5.

7. **TRAVEL AGENCIES**

**Member Asking:** Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

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

- (i) What is the Government's selection policy for travel agencies providing services for government officials airline travel?
- (ii) Does the Government have any intentions of obtaining competitive tenders for the provision of these services in the near future?

**(Notice Paper No. 39 (Q27 Opp27) published on 2006-12-21)**

8. **COST OF VEHICLES – GUYANA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY**

**Member Asking:** Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

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

Can the Hon. Prime Minister say at what cost vehicles were purchased this year for Managers and Directors of GPL?

**(Notice Paper No. 40 (Q28 Opp28) published on 2006-12-21)**

9. **FREE BULBS/LAMPS DONATED BY CUBA**

**Member Asking:** Mr. David Patterson, M.P.

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

- (i) Can the Hon. Prime Minister give an update and account for the free bulbs/lamps donated by Cuba to Guyana for consumers?
- (ii) Can the Hon. Prime Minister say if the exercise is completed?

**(Notice Paper No. 41 (Q 29 Opp29) published on 2006-12-21)**

**For Oral Reply**

10. **SPECIAL ROOMS FOR SEXUAL AND PHYSICAL ABUSED WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

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

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

- (i) \*Will the Hon. Minister state whether his Ministry has plans for the establishment of 'special rooms' at police stations across the country to handle reports of sexually and physically abused women and children?
- (ii) \* If so, whether provision is being made for the hiring of social workers at the various police stations to compliment the police officers assigned to the 'special rooms'?
- (iii) \*Will the Hon. Minister further state if efforts are being made to have predominantly female officers and/or social workers 'man' these 'special rooms'?

**(Notice Paper No. 37 (Q25 Opp25) published on 2006-12-21)**

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-**

**PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS-**

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-**

**Presentation and First Reading**

**GAMBLING PREVENTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 – Bill No. 30/2006 published on 2006-12-28**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Gambling Prevention Act.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

1. **OLD METAL DEALERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 – Bill No. 27/2006 published on 2006-12-21**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Old Metal Dealers Act  
(Chapter 91:08).

**(Read a first time on 2006-12-21)**

2. **RICE FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 – Bill No. 28/2006 published on 2006-12-21**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Rice Factories Act 1998 and  
repeal the Rice (Regulation of Manufacturing and Marketing) Act 1985.

**(Read a first time on 2006-12-21)**

8.

3. **HEALTH FACILITIES LICENSING BILL 2006 – Bill No. 29/2006 published on 2006-12-21**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the licensing of Health Facilities and for related matters.

(Read a first time on 2006-12-21)

(ii) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**

**Presentation and first Reading**

\*2. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL 2006 – Bill No. 26/2006**

Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., is to seek leave to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to give access to information to members of the public.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

4. **CASINO GAMBLING**

**Member Giving Notice: Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.**

WHEREAS the preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of Guyana proclaims that Guyanese should forge a system of governance that promotes concerted effort and broad-based participation in national decision-making in order to develop a viable economy and a harmonious community;

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\*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting



AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana has declared its intention of introducing casino gambling as a possible boost to the country's tourism and hospitality industry with the proviso that the proposed casino gaming legislation will preclude Guyanese from participating in casino gambling in Guyana;

AND WHEREAS some sections of the religious community have expressed opposition to the introduction of casino gambling,

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the National Assembly call on Government to retain expertise within the University of Guyana to conduct a study, within the time frame of three months, to advise if casino gambling would add to Guyana's tourism product given the profile of visitors coming into Guyana, or whether it would exaggerate the current crime situation;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the National Assembly direct Government to enlist the University of Guyana to provide advice on the practicality of Government's proposed intention to exclude Guyanese from engaging in casino gambling in Guyana in the context of administrative, budgetary and policing measures that would be required;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the National Assembly call on Government to retain the services of academics at the University of Guyana to advise under what conditions, if any, revenues from the gaming industry would positively impact economic development in Guyana and mitigate the negatives associated with the gaming industry.

**(Notice Paper No. 35 (M 10 Opp 3) published on 2006-12-14)**

5. **THE GUYANA FIDUCIARY OVERSIGHT PROJECT**

**Member Giving Notice: Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P.**

WHEREAS The Guyana Fiduciary Oversight Project Final Framework and Guidelines Report, Volume 2, has recommended at component 6 of its recommendation that, 'Parliament should employ its own staff, and the Speaker should appoint the Clerk of the House after consultation with all parties';

AND WHEREAS the same recommendation is contained in the Sir Michael Davies Report, Commonwealth Senior Parliamentary Staff Advisor, entitled 'Needs Assessment Of The Guyana National Assembly';

AND WHEREAS the Government signaled its acceptance of these recommendations in the 2005 Draft Poverty Reduction Report released on the 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2005;

AND WHEREAS the basis of these recommendations is the need for Parliament to be fully independent of the Executive; that the Clerk has no concerns for his employment position, and in turn the Clerk should become the employer of Staff in the Parliamentary precincts and ensure that they are free of political influence;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

That a Special Select Committee be appointed to examine this recommendation with a view to advising the National Assembly on the steps to be undertaken by the Government to enable the Clerk to become the employing authority of the Staff of the Parliament Office;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Committee examine the present constitutional arrangement for the appointment of the Clerk and advise the National Assembly whether there is need for a change and what change that should be;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Special Select Committee submit its final report three months after its appointment.

**(Notice Paper No. 36 (M11 Opp4) published on 2006-12-21)**

\*6. **THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

**Member Giving Notice: Ms Chantalle Smith, M.P.**

WHEREAS in 1991 Guyana signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

AND WHEREAS Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that "Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child";

AND WHEREAS the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child has consistently proposed the abolition of corporal punishment when the reporting process under the convention has revealed the continued existence of school corporal punishment;

/...12

\*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana's report to the Committee of the Convention of the Rights of the Child of July 29, 2002 states: "Enhanced legislation is an integral element in this country's efforts to give tangible effect to the provisions of the Constitution Reform Commission.";

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana's report to the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child of July 29, 2002 further states "The Constitutional Reform Commission acknowledged that the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child should inform constitutional provisions to protect children's rights. The Oversight Select Committee of the Revised Guyana Constitution subsequently accepted the above recommendations and in 2001 these rights were accorded the status of fundamental and human rights in the amended Constitution",

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly declares the continued use of corporal punishment in schools in Guyana a violation of Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly declares the continued use of corporal punishment in schools in Guyana a violation of the Constitution;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly recommends the abolition of corporal punishment under the new Education Act.

**(Notice Paper No. 22 ( M3 Opp2) published on 2006-11-22)**

(iii) **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**



S.E. ISAACS

**Clerk of the National Assembly**

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> January, 2007.**