

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 23RD 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, 10TH MAY, 2007

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

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-

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

- (i) Amended 2nd Minutes of the Committee of Selection held on Tuesday, 23rd January, 2007.

(To be Circulated)

2.

- (ii) The Ethnic Relations Commission Report on the MSF National Conversation held on 15th and 16th November, 2006.

(To be Circulated)

- (2) By the Minister of Home Affairs:

The Minor Offences (Penalties) (Amendment) Order 2007 – Order No. 5 of 2007.

(To be Circulated)

- (3) By Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments:

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

(Circulated)

- (ii) First Report of the Committee on Appointments in relation to the Appointment of Members of the Judicial Service Commission.

(Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Oral Replies

1. **CARICOM CHARTER OF CIVIL RIGHTS**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs

- (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)

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

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs

- (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)

3. **HEAD OF A DIPLOMATIC MISSION**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs

- (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)

4. **UNSATISFACTORY WORK DONE BY CONTRACTORS IN THE REGIONS**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Finance

Could the Hon. Minister of Finance inform this National Assembly:-

- (i) *Whether he is aware that for several years the people in the various Regions of Guyana have complained of the unsatisfactory work done by contractors retained by the Government?
- (ii) *How many contractors were fined for unsatisfactory work and how many have paid the fines imposed?
- (iii) *Whether any contractor has been blacklisted by his Ministry due to:
 - (a) substandard work;
 - (b) breach of specifications;
 - (c) supply of substandard materials; or
 - (d) failure to complete projects within the specified time?

(Notice Paper No. 103 (Q 79 Opp 79) published on 2007-01-31)

5. **INCREASING EVIDENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

Member Asking: Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

* Recently the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its Fourth Assessment Report "Climate Change 2007" which shows increasing evidence of changes in the global climate due to human activities. It also points to the vulnerability of low-lying states from possible sea level rise and other consequences of global climate change. In the aftermath of the 2005 floods, and the increasing evidence of climate change and its potential impacts, can the Honourable Minister say what policies, plans, and activities are being put in place by the Government of Guyana to prepare us to face this challenge?

(Notice Paper No. 117 (Q92 PPP/C Private Member No.1) published on 2007-02-09)

6. **DEPLORABLE STATE OF FOREST ROADS AND BRIDGES IN REGION NO.10**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics

- (i) *Could the Hon. Minister acknowledge that the forest roads and bridges within Region No. 10 are in a deplorable state?
- (ii) *Could the Hon. Minister acknowledge that the above situation has been brought on by poor road alignment, sub-standard road and bridge construction and a lack of maintenance?

6.

- (iii) *Could the Hon. Minister accept that the prevailing situation is a potential disaster in waiting especially to the environment through soil erosion and water/stream contamination?
- (iv) *What action is being taken to prevent the potential for loss of life and limb and to ensure the safety of members of the public who traverse these roads daily?
- (v) *What mitigation measures are being taken to stem the current state of environmental degradation along the roads and water ways?

(Notice Paper No. 121 (Q93 Opp92) published on 2007-02-28)

7. **DIVERSIFIED DEVELOPMENT OF REGION NO. 10**

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

Minister Answering: The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communication

- (i) *Could the Prime Minister acknowledge that the diversified development of Region No. 10 will depend largely on the forestry and agriculture sectors in this Region and the necessity for developing the road network/system?
- (ii) *Could the Hon. Prime Minister indicate what is the government's plan and target dates to complete the rehabilitation and ensure the maintenance of the road system that links the agriculture and forestry communities of Ituni, Kwakwani, the Intermaediate Savannah and the Amerindian and mixed communities of the Upper Berbice with Linden, the seat of Regional Administration of Region No. 10?

(Notice Paper No. 122 (Q94 Opp93) published on 2007-02-28)

8. **APPOINTMENT OF BERNARD KERIK AS ADVISOR**

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

Minister Answering: The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communication

- (i) *Could the Hon. Prime Minister state the date that the services of Bernard Kerik were contracted to serve the Government of Guyana, and in what capacity?
- (ii) *Could the Hon. Prime Minister state the terms and conditions of the contract between the Government of Guyana and Bernard Kerik or his company and associates including the scope of work to be carried out, the contract sum and the duration of the contract?
- (iii) *Would Mr. Bernard Kerik, or his associates be given any privileges, immunities or powers in the execution of their duties whilst in Guyana?

(Notice Paper No. 123 (Q95 Opp94) published on 2007-02-28)

9. **REPORTED INCIDENTS OF TYPHOID IN GEORGETOWN**

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 the reported incidents of Typhoid in Georgetown and its environs.

(Notice Paper No. 136 (Q106 Opp105) published on 2007-03-13)

For Written Replies

10. **EXERCISE BOOKS**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Could the Hon. Minister of Education inform this National Assembly:-

- (i) The total quantity of exercise books obtained by his Ministry?
- (ii) The total quantity of exercise books which were distributed to Primary Schools throughout Guyana?
- (iii) How many exercise books were given to each primary school child?
(Notice Paper No. 101(Q77 Opp 77) published on 2007-01-31)

11. **TEXTBOOKS FOR THE 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Could the Hon. Minister of Education inform this National Assembly:-

- (i) How many textbooks his Ministry plans to distribute to each Secondary School child for the 2006-2007 school year?
- (ii) Has this plan been achieved?
- (iii) Which schools in Regions Nos. 4 and 6 were given their full quotas of textbooks for the 2006-2007 school year?
(Notice Paper No. 102 (Q78 Opp 78) published on 2007-01-31)

12. **REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES FOR PRISONERS**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs inform this House-

- (i) What rehabilitation programmes are in place for prisoners?
- (ii) How many social workers are on staff?
- (iii) How many professionals were/are to be recruited by the Prison Administration to provide rehabilitation programmes and what programmes are taught?

(Notice Paper No. 130 (Q102 Opp101) published on 2007-02-28)

13. **ABUSE OF PRISONERS**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs inform this House-

- (i) How many reports of abuse have been received against staff members of the Prison Service?
- (ii) How many staff members have been disciplined as a result of these reports?

(Notice Paper No. 131 (Q103 Opp102) published on 2007-02-28)

14. **LAND GIVEN/SOLD TO MR. BUDDY SHIVRAJ**

Member Asking: Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

Could the Honourable Minister of Agriculture tell this National Assembly-

- (i) How much land was taken out of the Diamond Sugar Estate Cultivation at Providence, East Bank Demerara and given/sold to Mr. Buddy Shivraj to construct an international hotel?
- (ii) If the land was given to Mr. Shivraj, could the Honourable Minister tell this Honourable House what is the market value of this land?
- (iii) If the land was sold to Mr. Buddy Shivraj, could the Honourable Minister tell this Honourable House what was the sale price?
- (iv) Could the Honourable Minister tell this Honourable House how much additional land is to be given or sold to Mr. Buddy Shivraj for a golf course?

(Notice Paper No. 124 (Q96 Opp95) published on 2007-02-28)

15. **USE OF WEEDICIDE (GLYPOSATE) UP STREAM OF THE MAHAICA RIVER**

Member Asking: Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

Could the Honourable Minister of Agriculture tell us why is the chemical weedicide Glyposate being used to spray the Mahaica river up stream of farmers who use the river water for domestic purposes and to irrigate their crops?

(Notice Paper No. 125 (Q97 Opp96) published on 2007-02-28)

16. **SUGAR PRODUCTION 2000-2006**

Member Asking: Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

- (i) Could the Minister of Agriculture tell us how many tons of sugar production was lost in years 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, as a result of the kiln to mill period of 48 hours not being met with any consistency by the estates?
- (ii) Could the Minister also inform this Honourable House why the estates are unable to meet this important commitment to grind the canes on time?

(Notice Paper No. 126 (Q98 Opp97) published on 2007-02-28)

17. **WATER LEVEL IN THE LAMA CONSERVANCY**

Member Asking: Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

- (i) Could the Honourable Minister tell this National Assembly why the Lama Conservancy level is 556 GD?
- (ii) Is the Minister aware that the present low level of the Lama Conservancy is likely to negatively affect the upcoming rice and sugar crops?
- (iii) Is the Minister also aware that the present low level of the Lama Conservancy is likely to negatively impact on the supply of potable water to Georgetown?

12.

- (iv) Can the Honourable Minister tell this National Assembly how he expects to replenish the low level of water level in the Lama Conservancy if there is no excessive rainfall?

(Notice Paper No. 127 (Q99 Opp98) published on 2007-02-28)

18. **SUGAR INDUSTRY – STRIKE FOR YEARS 2000 – 2006**

Member Asking: Mr. Anthony Vieira, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Labour

Could the Minister of Labour give this National Assembly-

- (i) The Total man days lost to the sugar industry due to strikes for the years, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006?
- (ii) The economic loss to Guyana in the form of lost sugar production due to strikes for the years, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006?

(Notice Paper No. 128 (Q100 Opp 99) published on 2007-02-28)

19. **TRAFFICKING AMONG YOUNG AMERINDIAN GIRLS**

Member Asking: Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Can the Hon. Minister state:

- (i) Whether there has been an increase in the tide of trafficking of young Amerindian girls?
- (ii) If so, what new measures have been put in place to stem the increasing tide of trafficking?

(Notice Paper No. 135 (Q105 Opp104) published on 2007-03-13)

20. **DEATHS OF OSLYN VANDENBURG AND GENEVA LETLOW BY ELECTROCUTION**

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

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

Will the Honourable Prime Minister say what are the findings and recommendations of the report of the Inter-American Bank consultant relative to the deaths of Oslin Vandenburg and Geneva Letlow by electrocution at Kwakwani, Berbice River on Wednesday, 7th February, 2007?

(Notice Paper No. 137 (Q107 Opp106) published on 2007-03-13)

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 Readings

1. **THE FIREARMS (AMENDMENT) BILL – Bill No. 14/2007**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Firearms Act.

2. **JUVENILE OFFENDERS (AMEMDMENT) BILL – Bill No. 15/2007**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Juvenile Offenders Act.

3. **SUMMARY JURISDICTION (OFFENCES) (AMENDMENT) BILL – Bill No. 16/2007**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences) Act.

4. **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL – Bill No. 17/2007**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications, on behalf of the Government, to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to alter the Constitution in accordance with Articles 66 and 164.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

Speaker's consent obtained in accordance with Standing Order No. 28(2) for the following motion to be proceeded with at this sitting:

1. **NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO THE ETHNIC RELATIONS COMMISSION**

Hon. Samuel A.A. Hinds, M.P., Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works & Communications, to move the following motion:

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

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

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

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

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

And there will be an alternate nominee named for each group.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

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

(Notice Paper No.146 (M36 Govt 23) published on 2007-05-03)

FIRST SCHEDULE

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

Religious Bodies:-

Islamic Bodies

The Central Islamic Organisation of Guyana
Guyana Islamic Trust
Guyana United Sadr Islamic Anjuman
Anjuman Hifazutul Islam
Hijatul Ulamaa
Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat

Hindu Bodies

Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha
Guyana Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha
Guyana Pandits Council
Guyana Maha Kali
Guyana Central Arya Samaj
Guyana Arya Pratinidhi Sabha
Hare Krishna Movement

Christian Bodies

Members of the Guyana Council of Churches

The Alleluias Church
African Methodist Episcopalian
African Methodist Episcopalian (Zion)
The Anglican Church of Guyana
The Church of God
District of the Nazarene Church of Guyana
Ethiopian Orthodox Church
Guyana Congregation Union
Guyana Presbyterian Church
The Lutheran Church of Guyana
The Methodist Church in Guyana
The Moravian Church

Outreach Ministry
 Presbytery of Guyana
 Roman Catholic Church
 The Salvation Army
 Guyana Missionary Baptists

Other Religious Bodies

Inter-Religious Organization

The Guyana Evangelical Fellowship- 8 members listed below
 The Wesleyan Church
 Christian Brethren Church
 Assemblies of God in Guyana
 New Testament Church of God
 Full Gospel Fellowship
 The Christian Mission
 Faith Miracle Ministries
 Elim Pentecostal Church

Ambassadors for Christ
 Church of Christ
 Guyana Conference of Seven Day Adventists
 Lifespring Ministries
 Love and Faith Ministry
 National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahais of Guyana
 New Amsterdam Christian Fellowship
 Sri Sathya Sai Baba Organisation of Guyana
 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
 The Guyana Rastafari Council
 The Guyana United Apostolic Mystical Council
 The Jewish Orthodox Church (Apostolic Faith)

The Labour Movement Bodies

Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union (AT&GWU)
 Association of Masters and Mistresses (AMM)
 Clerical & Commercial Workers Union (CCWU)
 Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana
 General Workers Union (GWU)
 Guyana Agricultural & General Workers' Union (GAWU)

Guyana Bauxite and General Workers Union (GBSU)
 Guyana Labour Union (GLU)
 Guyana Local Government Officers' Union (GLGOU)
 Guyana Mining, Metal and General Workers Union (GMMGWU)
 Guyana Postal and Telecommunications Workers Union (GP&TWU)
 Guyana Public Service Union (GPSU)
 Guyana Public Service Senior Staff Association (GPSSA)
 Guyana Teachers Union (GTU)
 Guyana Trade Unions Congress (GTUC)
 National Association of Agricultural, Commercial and Industrial Employees (NAACIE)
 National Mining and General Workers Union (NM&GWU)
 National Union of Public Service Employees (NUPSE)
 Printing Industry Allied Workers Union (PIAWU)
 Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers (UAAW)
 University of Guyana Workers Union (UGWU)
 University of Guyana Senior Staff Association (UGSSA)

Private Business Sector Bodies

Bankers' Association of Guyana
 Consultative Association of Guyanese Industry
 Guyana Private Sector Commission
 Guyana Manufacturers Association
 Guyana Forest Products Association
 Guyana Gold & Diamond Miners Association
 Association of Non-Traditional Exporters
 Guyana Rice Millers and Exporters Development Association
 Guyana Rice Producers Association
 Guyana Trawlers and Seafood Processors Association
 Private Aircraft Owners Association of Guyana
 Shipping Association of Guyana
 The Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana
 Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 Bartica Chamber of Commerce
 Berbice Chamber of Commerce and Development Association
 Essequibo Chamber of Commerce
 Linden Chamber of Industry and Commerce
 Rupununi Chamber of Commerce

Youth Bodies

AFC Youth Arm
 Central Baptist Youth Fellowship
 Church of Christ Youth Group
 Dharmic Naujawan (Dharmic Youth)
 Full Gospel Youth Fellowship
 Gandhi Youth Organisation
 Girl Guides Association
 Guyana Congregational Young People's Union
 Guyana Junior Chamber (Jaycees)
 Guyana Network of Schools Health Clubs
 Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association Under 20's Club
 Guyana Scouts Association
 Guyana Youth and Student Movement
 Guyana Youth Development Association
 Leo Association of Guyana
 Methodist Youth Club
 Moravian Youth Club
 Muslim Youth League
 Muslim Youth Organisation
 National Youth Commission
 Progressive Youth Organisation
 Rights of the Child
 Roman Catholic Youth Office
 Rotaract Clubs of Guyana
 St. Francis Community Developers (SFCD)
 Seventh Day Adventist Pathfinders
 Trades Union Council Youth Movement
 The United Force Youth Arm
 University of Guyana Student Society
 Volunteer Youth Corps
 Working People's Alliance Youth Organisation
 Youth Achievers
 Youth Ambassadors First Assembly of God
 Young Men's Christian Association

Women's Bodies

Anglican Mothers' Union
 Central Islamic Organisation of Guyana (Women's arm)
 Church Women United

Congregational Women's Union
 Federation of AME Women
 Guyana Association of Women's Artists
 Guyana Association of Women's Lawyers
 Guyana Federation of Women's Institutes
 Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha's Mahila Mandale
 Guyana Nurses Association
 Guyanese Women in Development (GUYWID)
 Lutheran Church Women
 Methodist Women's League
 National Commission on Women
 National Congress of Women
 Police Wives' Association
 Red Thread Women's Development Project
 Rural Women's Development Network
 Salvation Army Home League
 TUC Women's Advisory Council
 The United Force Women's Auxiliary
 Women Across Differences
 Women's Progressive Organisation
 Young Women's Christian Association of Guyana (YWCA)

SECOND SCHEDULE

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

All the Entities in each Group, immediately on the passage of this motion, should be written to by the Clerk of the National Assembly inviting them to send a representative on an appointed day/date, time to appear before the Parliamentary Standing Committee to Appoint Members of Commissions at the Parliament Buildings to present the name of their nominee and to participate with other entities in that group to come to a determination on the Nominee (and one substitute who would replace the Nominee in the event that the Nominee is no longer able to function) for Membership on the Ethnic Relations Commission.

Where there is a recognized "umbrella organisation" in the list of entities for that Group, the Clerk should write to that organization and copy his letter to each of the "constituent entities" within the Group.

A deadline should be set by the Clerk of the National Assembly on advice by the Standing Committee by which time it would be formally notified of: the name and other requested particulars of the Nominee; the “process/procedure” used for the selection of the Nominee by the entity; a “statement” to the effect that the Nominee is supported and accepted by that entity.

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

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

Where the entities in that Group are unable to reach agreement, the nominees of that Group would be submitted to the Standing Committee which will make the final determination.

BILL – Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

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

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

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)

(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2007-01-11)

(ii) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and first Reading

***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

3. **INTRODUCTION OF THE VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT)**

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., to move the following motion:

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;

/...24

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

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)

4. **AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 10**

Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., to move the following motion:

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)

5. **AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE AND SLAVERY**

Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the 25th day of March, 2007 marked the bicentenary of the abolition of the Slave Trade Act between Africa and the British Empire;

AND WHEREAS scholars estimate that between 50 and 100 million Africans were either killed or abducted during the existence of European slavery and the slave trade;

AND WHEREAS it is universally accepted that slavery and the transatlantic slave trade were the most inhumane tragedies in the history of mankind;

AND WHEREAS our African fore parents, first as slaves and then as free men and women built the infrastructure of modern Guyana and made unparalleled contributions to the development of Guyana,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly unequivocally acknowledges the immense debt that all Guyanese owe to our African ancestors and recognizes the outstanding contribution they have made to the development of Guyana;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That an African Land Commission be established, similar in status to the Rights Commissions established under Article 212G of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, to determine the issue of ancestral land rights of African Guyanese;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly urges the British Government to enact measures to effect reparation to the descendants of the victims of the African Slave Trade and slavery.

(Notice Paper No.141 (M32 Opp 10) published on 2007-04-17)

6. **CRICKET WORLD CUP**

Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Guyana played host to Cricket World Cup Super Eight matches in March and April, 2007, and the overall hosting of the event can be categorized as successful;

AND WHEREAS notwithstanding the overall success of the event, there are the issues of the future viability of the National Stadium including the means of recovering the financial outlay, and the servicing of the loan agreements and other facilities which were entered into to ensure the construction of the National Stadium and appurtenant facilities such as bridges, roads and car parks;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly expresses its appreciation and extends congratulations to all the organizations and persons which were instrumental in making preparations for the successful hosting of the event including the Local Organising Committee, the Disciplined Forces and Private Security firms, the Private Sector, the Georgetown Municipality and other Local Government Organs, the Guyana Scouts Association, volunteers, and others; and

That this National Assembly directs the Economic Services Committee to conduct a review of all processes and aspects of the preparation and hosting of the games and to make recommendations thereafter for future events and for the viability of the stadium.

(Notice Paper No.143 (M33 Opp 11) published on 2007-04-25)

***7. THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

Ms Chantelle Smith, M.P., to move the following motion:

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;

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.”;

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***Not to be proceeded with at this sitting**

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**MOTIONS****8. REPORTS OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF GUYANA - EIGHTH PARLIAMENT**

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, to move the following motion:

WHEREAS in accordance with Standing Order No. 76(1) of the previous Standing Orders of the National Assembly every Committee was required before the end of the session in which it was appointed to make a report to the Assembly upon matters referred to it;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee, which was a Sessional Select Committee, of the National Assembly of the Second Session of the Eighth Parliament, was unable owing to the dissolution of the Eighth Parliament on 2nd May, 2006, to report on its examination of the Reports of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana and the Accounts of the Ministries, Departments, and Regions for the fiscal years ended 31st December, 2002, 31st December, 2003 and 31st December, 2004, referred to it in the Second Session of the Eighth Parliament,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly of the Ninth Parliament takes into account –

- (1) the above-mentioned Reports of the Auditor General;
- (2) the evidence and Minutes in respect of the examination of these reports; and
- (3) make reports to the National Assembly on the examination of these reports.

(Notice Paper No.139 (M31 Opp 9) published on 2007-04-05)

9. **ADOPTION OF THE FIRST REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS IN RELATION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION**

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments, to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopt the First Report of the Standing Committee to address matters relating to the appointment of Members of the Commissions established under the Constitution, and signify to the President that the following persons:

Mr. Brynmor Thornton Innis Pollard, C.C. H., S.C.

and

Mr. Prem Persaud, C.C.H., Retired Justice of Appeal,

have been nominated in accordance with Article 198(2)(b) of the Constitution to be appointed Members of the Judicial Service Commission.

(Notice Paper No.144 (M34 PPP/C Private Member No. 1) published on 2007-05-03)

10. **ADOPTION OF THE SECOND REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS IN RELATION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments, to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

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

Mr. Carvil Duncan
and
Mr. Cecil Seepersaud,

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.145 (M35 PPP/C Private Member No. 2) published on 2007-05-03)


.....
S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

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

4th May, 2007.