

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 28TH 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, 26TH JULY, 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 (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):
Minutes of Proceedings of the 4th Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on
Wednesday, 20th June, 2007.

(To be Circulated)

2.

(2) By the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development:

The Annual Report of the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development for the year 2006.

(To be Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-****QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-****For Oral Replies****1. STAFF OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS****Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.****Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs**

*Can the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly what measures are being taken to improve the morale and functioning of the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?
(Notice Paper No. 73 (Q55 Opp55) published on 2007-01-23)

2. COMPROMISING OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**Member Asking: Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.****Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs**

*Can the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly what measures have been taken to address the problem of the compromising of the effectiveness of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a result of the establishment of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation as stated in the April, 2003 Report of the United Nations Advisory to Guyana on the restructuring and reorganization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?
(Notice Paper No. 74 (Q56 Opp56) published on 2007-01-23)

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3.

3. **RECRUITMENT OF THE REQUIRED SPECIALISTS BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs

*Could the Hon. Minister tell this National Assembly if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is recruiting the required specialists that are needed to deal with issues that are emerging in International Relations?

(Notice Paper No. 75 (Q57 Opp57) published on 2007-01-23)

4. **CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD FROM PARAMAKATOI TO KARISPARU**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

(i) *What is the status of the contract awarded in 2005 for the construction of a road from Paramakatoï to Karisparu in Region No. 8?

(ii) *If the contract is still valid, what is the expected completion date?

(Notice Paper No. 153 (Q 115 Opp 114) published on 2007-06-18)

4.

5. GLOBE TRUST**Member Asking: Mr. Overall Franklin, M.P.****Minister Answering: The Minister of Finance**

Will the Hon. Minister state:

1. *If a strategic investor has been found for the restructuring of Globe Trust?
2. *If so, when could the hundreds of depositors expect to be in a position to access their savings?

(Notice Paper No. 169 (Q 130 Opp 129) published on 2007-07-03)**6. CONSTRUCTION OF ALL WEATHER ROAD – REDLOCK AND MAINSTAY
IN REGION NO. 2****Member Asking: Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.****Minister Answering: The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and
Communications.**

*Could the Hon. Prime Minister, in his capacity as the Minister of Public Works and Communications, inform this National Assembly when the Government propose to honour its promise to build a mile of all weather road every year for the people of Redlock and Mainstay in Region No. 2?

(Notice Paper No. 164 (Q 125 Opp 124) published on 2007-06-27)

5.

7. **KOKER DOOR AT MAINSTAY**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

*Could the Hon. Minister of Agriculture inform this National Assembly when the wire will be attached to the koker door at Mainstay, having regard to the fact that several reports were made to the RDC and the D&I authorities of Region No. 2, as well as through the Ministry of Agriculture Hotline?

(Notice Paper No. 165 (Q 126 Opp 125) published on 2007-06-27)

8. **THE NEW OPPORTUNITY CORP**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Could the Hon. Minister of Human Services and Social Security inform this National Assembly:-

- (i) *Whether persons who have served time at the New Opportunity Corp are monitored after they are released from that institution?
- (ii) *The number of persons who, having served time at the New Opportunity Corp, repeatedly returned to the custody of the New Opportunity Corp for the last three (3) years?
- (iii) *The number of persons who, having served time at the New Opportunity Corp continued to commit offences against the law for the last three (3) years?
- (i) * The number of persons who, having served time at the New Opportunity Corp, went on to lead criminal life styles for the last three (3) years?

6.

- (ii) * Whether there are any programs in place to assist those persons who have served time at the New Opportunity Corp to, on their release, find meaningful employment and/or enroll in a suitable educational institution?

(Notice Paper No. 171 (Q 131 Opp 130) published on 2007-07-03)

For Written Replies

9. **ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIVATE RADIO STATIONS**

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

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

- (j) Could the Honourable Prime Minister please tell this House if licenses will be issued for the establishment of private radio stations in Guyana in 2007?

- (iii) If the answer is no, could the Honourable Prime Minister state:
 - (a) Why no licenses will be issued in 2007?
 - (b) When will such licenses be issued?

(Notice Paper No. 167 (Q 128 Opp 127) published on 2007-06-27)

10. **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Could the Honourable Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport please inform this National Assembly when the Government plans to Table Copyright Legislation to promote and protect the intellectual property of local artistes?

(Notice Paper No. 168 (Q 129 Opp 128) published on 2007-06-27)

7.

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-

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

- 1. **GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION BILL 2007 – Bill No. 20/2007 published on 2007-06-21**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to repeal and replace the Guyana Forestry Commission Act 1979, re-establish the Guyana Forestry Commission, and provide for incidental matters.

(Read a first time on 2007-06-28)

8.

*2. **HIGH COURT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2007 – Bill No. 19/2007 published on 2007-06-14**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the High Court Act.
(Read a first time on 2007-06-28)

MOTION

3. **CONCLUSION OF THE CONSIDERATION OF THE 2004 REPORT OF THE DISCIPLINED FORCES COMMISSION**

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

WHEREAS Article 197 A(5) of the Constitution provides that the Disciplined Forces Commission may be constituted by the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS on the 16th May, 2003, the National Assembly passed Resolution No. 21 approving the establishment and terms of reference of a Disciplined Forces Commission – that is the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Defence Force, the Guyana Prison Service and the Guyana Fire Services, and all their branches, departments and units, focusing on making recommendations for this reform, sustained professional development and structure;

AND WHEREAS the Disciplined Forces Commission was constituted and conducted frequent and extensive hearings;

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

AND WHEREAS the Disciplined Forces Commission submitted its Interim Report on the Guyana Police Force in the National Assembly on the 11th December, 2003;

AND WHEREAS the Final Report of the Commission was delivered to the Honourable Speaker on 6th May, 2004 and was presented to the National Assembly on 17th May, 2004;

AND WHEREAS by Resolution No. 48 passed on 8th July, 2004, the National Assembly referred the Report of the Disciplined Forces Commission "to a Special Select Committee for review within a period of four months, and thereafter to report to the National Assembly as to the manner in which such of the recommendations which are accepted ought to be implemented including which committee of the National Assembly will monitor such implementation";

AND WHEREAS the Special Select Committee was established on 4th November, 2004 and commenced its deliberations on the Report by inviting the Heads of the Disciplined Forces to share their views on the recommendations pertaining to their agency;

AND WHEREAS the Special Select Committee first examined the recommendations pertaining to the Guyana Police Force and completed a draft preliminary Report in April, 2006, but was unable, owing to the dissolution of the Eighth Parliament on the 2nd May, 2006, to present that interim report;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approve of a Special Select Committee being established to conclude the examination of the Report and recommendations of the Disciplined Forces Commission and report to the National Assembly;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the newly established Special Select Committee of the Ninth Parliament take cognizance of the work done by the Special Select Committee of the Eighth Parliament that considered the Report and its recommendations.

(Notice Paper No. 173 (M 41 Govt 24) published on 2007-07-13)

BILLS – Second Readings

- *4. **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL – Bill No. 17/2007 published on 2007-05-04**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications to move the second reading of the following Bill:

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

(Read a first time on 2007-05-10)

BILLS – Second Readings, Committee and Third Readings

- *5. **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)

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

***6. ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM BILL 2007 – Bill No. 18/2007 published on 2007-06-04**

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 establishment and management of a Financial Intelligence Unit; to provide for unlawful proceeds of all serious offences to be identified, traced, frozen, seized and eventually forfeited; to provide for comprehensive powers for the prosecution of money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes; and the forfeiture of the proceeds of crime and terrorist property; to require reporting entities to take preventive measures to help combat money laundering and terrorist financing; to provide for civil forfeiture of assets and for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2007-06-07)

(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2007-06-07)

MOTION

***7. AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 54**

The Assembly to resume the debate on the following Motion, after the Standing Orders Committee has reported thereon:

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 54 provides that an interval of not less than seven (7) days must elapse between the first and second reading of a Bill;

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

AND WHEREAS a sitting of the National Assembly is generally held on a Thursday;

AND WHEREAS the stipulation of seven (7) days does not allow for the second reading of the Bill on the following Thursday;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that Standing Order 54 be amended to allow for a Bill, read a first time on a Thursday to be read a second time on the following Thursday;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Standing Order 110 this National Assembly refers this motion to amend Standing Order No. 54 to the Standing Orders Committee for further consideration with a view to effect the desired amendment.

(Notice Paper No. 57(M15 Govt 11) published on 2007-01-18)

(Referred to Standing Orders Committee on 2007-01-31 in accordance with Standing Orders No. 110 (3))

(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.

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS**MOTIONS****8. 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)

9. **NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Everall Franklin, M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS all national stakeholders including, the Government, and Opposition parties, have all expressed a desire to work together to address the threats and challenges of crime and security in Guyana;

AND WHEREAS various studies and reports including the Border/National Security Committee Report; the Disciplined Forces Commission Report and the CARICOM Task Force on Crime and Security Report have all recommended the establishment of a Standing Parliamentary Committee on National Security to provide an oversight function to review all aspects of security and national security including, but not limited to, review of policies and reforms, budgetary allocations and expenditures and a national security strategy and doctrine,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The National Assembly agrees to the establishment of a Standing Committee on National Security to review all aspects of national security including, but not limited to, the review of policies and reforms, budgetary allocations and expenditures and the implementation of a national security strategy and doctrine;

15.

- 2. The Standing Committee on National Security deliver to the National Assembly bi-annual reports of its work including progress made in the implementation of policies and reforms;
- 3. The Members of the National Assembly identified to be Members of the National Security Committee be subject to and be bound by the provisions of the Official Secrets Act.

(Notice Paper No.170 (M39 Opp12) published on 2007-07-03)

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

The Assembly to resume the debate on the following Motion, after the Standing Orders Committee has reported thereon:

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,

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

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)

(Referred to Standing Orders Committee on 2007-05-24 in accordance with Standing Order No. 110 (3))

(iii) COMMITTEE BUSINESS

MOTION

11. NOMINATION OF FOUR MEMBERS TO THE POLICE SERVICE

COMMISSION

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

WHEREAS the Standing Committee, to address matters relating to the appointment of members of Commissions established under the Constitution appointed by the Committee of Selection on 14th December, 2006 and pursuant to article 119C of the Constitution, met on eleven (11) consecutive occasions for the purpose of identifying such bodies, as appear to it to "represent the majority of the members of the Police Force and any other such body it deems fit" for consultation in the nominations of four Members to the Police Service Commission to be appointed in accordance with article 210 (1) (c) of the Constitution;

AND WHEREAS the majority of the members of the Committee of Appointments, comprising of the PPP/C and AFC members, are of the view that the National Commission on Law and Order and the National Executive of the Community Policing Groups appear as bodies it deems fit to submit nominees for consideration on the Police Service Commission by the Standing Committee of Appointments of Members of Commissions;

AND WHEREAS the People's National Congress Reform-One Guyana does not accept that the Terms of Reference of the National Commission of Law and Order allow for their inclusion in the consultative process nor does it agree to the inclusion of the National Executive of the Community Policing Groups;

AND WHEREAS the Committee in its Special Report to the National Assembly has reported on the differences of views on the matter of the inclusion of these two bodies in addition to the Police Association and the Association of Former Police Officers in the consultation process to submit nominees for the consideration of the Committee of Appointments to the Police Service Commission;

AND WHEREAS the Committee has referred the matter for consideration and guidance to include the National Commission of Law and Order and the National Executive of the Community Policing Groups to the National Assembly,

18.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly determines whether the National Commission on Law and Order and the National Executive of the Community Policing Groups are among the bodies that appear as bodies it deems fit to submit nominees to the Police Service Commission.

(Notice Paper No. 172 (M 40 PPP/C Private Member No.3) published on 2007-07-05)


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S.E ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

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

20th July, 2007.