

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 5TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION

(2006) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 14TH DECEMBER, 2006

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-

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Oral Reply

1. **GOVERNMENT'S POLICY WITH RESPECT TO THE USE OF STATE PROPERTY**

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

Minister Answering : The Hon. Prime Minister

*Will the Hon. Prime Minister state what is the policy of the Government of Guyana in relation to the use of state property by the governing political party for election campaigns and other political activities?

(Notice Paper No. 7 (Q6 Opp6) published on 2006-10-20)

For Written Replies

2. **LEGISLATION TO REGULATE COMMUNITY POLICING**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Can the Minister say whether the Government is prepared to introduce legislation to define and regulate the concept of community policing?

(Notice Paper No. 17 (Q15 Opp15) published on 2006-11-13)

3. **CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PRISON OUT OF GEORGETOWN**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Could the Minister state:

What if any, are the plans to construct a new prison away from the centre of the City of Georgetown?

(Notice Paper No. 18 (Q16 Opp16) published on 2006-11-13)

4. **REPLACEMENT OF THE COMMON ENTRANCE EXAMINATION**

Member Asking: Ms Chantalle Smith, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Will the Hon. Minister say what safeguards the Ministry has put in place to authenticate the marks provided by individual schools, in the new system of assessment that has replaced the Common Entrance?

(Notice Paper No. 19 (Q17 Opp17) published on 2006-11-22)

5. **RETENTION OF SERVICES OF TRAINED TEACHERS**

Member Asking: Ms Chantalle Smith, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Will the Hon. Minister say if the Ministry of Education is willing to institute a requirement that trained teachers who have received government funding for their education be required to remain in Guyana for a minimum of five years after completing their training? In addition, can the government reach an agreement with donor countries that they do not hire these teachers during this period?

(Notice Paper No. 20 (Q18 Opp18) published on 2006-11-22)

6. **ST. AGNES PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Member Asking: Ms Chantalle Smith, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Will the Hon. Minister say whether he is aware that the Fire Department has deemed St. Agnes Primary School to be in contravention of the fire department's regulations because:

- The school presently houses over 900 students, approximately 400 more than it should according to the fire regulations;
- The school has no fire exits;
- The building is under repair and therefore should not be occupied.

If not, will the Minister say whether he is willing to investigate this matter further and take appropriate action if necessary?

(Notice Paper No. 21 (Q19 Opp19) published on 2006-11-22)

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

MOTIONS

1. **CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 3/2006**

Assembly to resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance to signify the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 3/2006 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$1,694,288,004 for the period 2006-04-13 to 2006-11-17.

(Notice Paper No. 27 (M 8 Govt 7) published on 2006-12-07)

(Paper presented on 2006-12-07)

2. **CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 4/2006**

Assembly to resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance to signify the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and to move the following motion:

6.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 4/2006 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totaling \$4,781,247,499 for the period ending 2006-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 28 (M 9 Govt 8) published on 2006-12-07)

(Paper presented on 2006-12-07)

MOTIONS

3. **CONFIRMATION OF THE VALUE-ADDED TAX ORDER 2006 – NO. 23/2006**

Member Giving Notice: The Minister of Finance

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 98 of the Value-Added Tax Act 2005, confirm the Value-Added Tax Order 2006, under section 98 of the Value-Added Tax Act 2005 and published in an Extraordinary Copy of the Official Gazette dated 5th December, 2006.

(Notice Paper No. 23 (M4 Govt 3) published on 2006-12-06)

4. **CONFIRMATION OF THE VALUE-ADDED TAX (TRANSITIONAL) REGULATIONS 2006 – NO. 12/2006**

Member Giving Notice: The Minister of Finance

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 95 of the Value-Added Tax Act 2005, confirm the Value-Added Tax (Transitional) Regulations 2006, under section 95 of the Value-Added Tax Act 2005 and published in an Extraordinary Copy of the Official Gazette dated 5th December, 2006.

(Notice Paper No. 24 (M 5 Govt 4) published on 2006-12-06)

5. **CONFIRMATION OF THE VALUE-ADDED TAX (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2006 – NO. 13/2006**

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 95 of the Value-Added Tax Act 2005, confirm the Value-Added Tax (Amendment) Regulations 2006, under section 95 of the Value-Added Tax Act 2005 and published in an Extraordinary Copy of the Official Gazette dated 5th December, 2006.

(Notice Paper No. 25 (M 6 Govt 5) published on 2006-12-06)

6. **CONFIRMATION OF THE EXCISE TAX (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2006 – NO. 14/2006**

Member Giving Notice: The Minister of Finance

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with section 15 of the Excise Tax Act 2005, confirm the Excise Tax (Amendment) Regulations 2006, under section 15 of the Excise Tax Act 2005 and published in an Extraordinary Copy of the Official Gazette dated 5th December, 2006.

(Notice Paper No. 26 (M 7 Govt 6) published on 2006-12-06)

BILLS – Second Readings

- *7. **LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 – Bill No. 24/2006 published on 2006-11-28**

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of councilors of local democratic organs.

(Read a first time on 2006-12-07)

- *8. **CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2006 – Bill No. 25/2006 published on 2006-12-01**

The Minister of Finance, to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Customs Act

(Read a first time on 2006-12-07)

(ii) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and first Reading

1. **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****9. THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY****Member Giving Notice: Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P.**

WHEREAS over 150 members of Guyanese civil society of various walks of life and from fields of endeavour have put forward a National Development Strategy that details a series of bold economic initiatives and exciting programmes geared towards the transformation and diversification of the economy;

AND WHEREAS among the stated objectives of the National Development Strategy are attainment of the highest possible rates of economic growth, the alleviation of poverty, the equitable geographic distribution of economic activities and benefits and the diversification of economy;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana agreed with the Civil Society to table that National Development Strategy document in the National Assembly for its examination and adoption;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly of the Eighth Parliament unanimously passed a Resolution on 15th December, 2005 for an update of the National Development Strategy at the earliest practicable date,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly accepts the National Development Strategy and the measures and policies therein as an overarching strategy for pursuing the economic and social transformation of Guyana;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly directs that the National Development Strategy be placed before a Special Select Parliamentary Committee to commence consultations immediately with the private sector, wider civil society and other stakeholders to establish a Representative Cross Sectional Group, supported by a suitably resourced secretariat with access to research expertise, to update the National Development Strategy at the earliest practicable date;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly directs that the Representative Cross Sectional Group reports periodically to the Special Select Parliamentary Committee and that the finally updated National Development Strategy be submitted to the Special Select Parliamentary Committee to make recommendations to the National Assembly for the consideration and adoption of the said updated National Development Strategy;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That subsequent to the adoption of the updated National Development Strategy this National Assembly authorizes its Sectoral Committee on Economic Services to monitor the policies and the implementation of the National Development Strategy by the Executive.

(Notice Paper No. 8 (M2 Opp1) published on 2006-11-13)

***10. 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;

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”;

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

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.**

8th December, 2006