

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 50TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION

(2006 - 2008) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH MARCH, 2008

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 Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications:
The Restriction of Rights (Mining Lands) Order 2007 – Order No. 31 of 2007.
(To be Circulated)
2. By the Minister of Finance:
The Guyana Revenue Authority Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 2006.
(To be Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. **FIRST LADIES AND FORMER FIRST LADIES**

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

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

Could the Hon. Prime Minister states:

What rights, privileges, and entitlements do first ladies and former first ladies enjoy by practice or convention?

(Notice Paper No. 214 (Q153 Opp150) published on 2008-02-01)

2. **CLEARING OF EAST COAST DEMERARA BACK LANDS**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

- (i) When will the Antilope grass field aback of Lusignan Pasture be mowed down as requested by the residents and survivors of January 26 slaughter of innocent men, women and children?
- (ii) Given that the East Coast Demerara back lands up to the Mahaica river is on average seven (7) miles deep, how many miles is proposed to be cleared in the current land clearing exercise and over what period?
- (iii) Through what process were persons and enterprises contracted to clear/bulldoze the East Coast Demerara back lands?

(Notice Paper No. 229 (Q161 Opp 158) published on 2008-02-29)

3. **REDUCTION OF SPEED LIMIT – AMELIA’S WARD**

Member Asking: Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs tell this National Assembly whether he is prepared to amend the necessary regulations to reduce the speed limit from 60 mph. to 30 mph., for Amelia’s Ward, between Millie’s Hideout and the Kara Kara Bridge, in Region # 10, given that this area is now well populated?

(Notice Paper No. 219 (Q157 Opp154) published on 2008-02-05)

4. **MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL CONSTABULARY OF THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE**

Member Asking: Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs tell this National Assembly:

Why, given that Section 78(1) of the Police Act provides that “Every member of the Special Constabulary, when called out for full time service..., shall be paid for his services as may be provided for by Parliament, at the same rate as a member of the Force of equivalent rank”.

(i) Some members of the Special Constabulary are not in receipt of their monies from the President’s Annual Award?

(ii) Some members of the Special Constabulary are not paid commuted overtime?

(Notice Paper No. 220 (Q158 Opp155) published on 2008-02-05)

5. **AVAILABILITY OF PATROL BOATS IN THE 'D' DIVISION OF THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE**

Member Asking: Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Would the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs tell this National Assembly whether 'D' Division of the Guyana Police Force has any patrol boats available to it to service its two subdivisions?

If yes, can the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:

- (a) Whether this/these boat/boats is/are available on a 24 hour basis?
- (b) Whether the Guyana Police Force has adequate human resources to man this/these boat/boats?
- (c) Where is/are this/these boat/boats moored when not in active use?
- (d) Is the Honourable Minister satisfied with the operational capacity of the Guyana Police Force to patrol the Demerara and Essequibo rivers?

If no, could the Honourable Minister inform this National Assembly:

- (a) Why 'D' Division of the Guyana Police Force is without any patrol boats to enable them to carry out their statutory duties in the Demerara and Essequibo rivers?
- (b) When will 'D' Division of the Guyana Police Force receive patrol boats for its Division?

(Notice Paper No. 221 (Q159 Opp156) published on 2008-02-05)

6. MANDATORY DRUG TESTING PROGRAMME

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly if:

- (i) A mandatory drug testing programme exists for Ranks within the Guyana Police Force and the Guyana Prison Service?
- (ii) If so, how often are Ranks tested?
- (iii) If not, why not?

(Notice Paper No. 226 (Q160 Opp 157) published on 2008-02-19)

For Oral Replies

7. THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs inform this National Assembly:-

- (i) *Whether Regulations have been drafted to give effect to the Domestic Violence Act?
- (ii) *When these Regulations would be laid in the National Assembly?

(Notice Paper No. 203 (Q149 Opp 146) published on 2008-02-06)

8. **INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF DR. WALTER RODNEY**

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

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

*It has been two and a half years since Resolution No. 69 was passed on the 29th June, 2005, in the Second Session of the Eighth Parliament of Guyana calling for a full and impartial investigation into the death of Dr. Walter Rodney, which received local, regional and international support. Why has this Resolution not been honoured to date? (Notice Paper No. 211 (Q151 Opp148) published on 2008-01-14)

9. **GUYSUCO'S TENDER DOCUMENT**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

*At the November 08, 2007 sitting of the National Assembly the Minister gave a commitment to supply the name(s) of the Company that won the GUYSUCO tender to supply seventy (70) Desktop computers and fifteen (15) Laptop computers even though no compliance certificates for NIS and PAYE were a requirement of the tender. What is the name of the company that won this Tender?

(Notice Paper No. 212 (Q152 Opp149) published on 2008-01-14)

10. **LINDEN TECHNICAL INSTITUTE**

Member Asking: Ms Anna Ally, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

- (i) *Could the Honourable Minister of Education explain to this National Assembly why no classes have been held at the Linden Technical Institute since the academic term began on the 7th January, 2008?

- (ii) *Could the Honourable Minister tell this National Assembly when will concerns regarding the appointment of teachers, who have been acting since 1996 at the Linden Technical Institute, be addressed?

(Notice Paper No. 216 (Q154 Opp151) published on 2008-02-05)

11. **THE CRITCHLOW LABOUR COLLEGE**

Member Asking: Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

*Could the Honourable Minister of Education tell this National Assembly what plans his Ministry intends to put in place to ensure that classes at the Critchlow Labour College resume forthwith?

(Notice Paper No. 217 (Q155 Opp152) published on 2008-02-05)

12. **CAMPBELLVILLE AND KITTY HEALTH CENTRES**

Member Asking: Ms Amna Ally, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Health

*Could the Minister of Health tell this National Assembly how soon the Campbellville Health Centre and the Kitty Health Centre will provide services to children who suffer punctured wounds, especially in the wake of the Minister's call for the utilization of medical facilities around the country, rather than over crowding the Georgetown Public Hospital?

(Notice Paper No. 218 (Q156 Opp153) published on 2008-02-05)

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. NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS**

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

WHEREAS President Bharrat Jagdeo met on February 19 and 20 with a broad cross-section of representatives from the religious community, business sector, the labour movement, women, Amerindian, and other civil society bodies to discuss the recent escalation of crime, and from that engagement a joint statement was issued which called for:

- “1. Commit their full and unqualified support of the joint services in confronting crime in our country and in securing the safety of our citizens under the law, and;
2. Work in collaboration with the Government and all of the parliamentary political parties to jointly review the national security plan for its urgent and comprehensive implementation with the ultimate goal of cementing inclusive democracy, peace and justice in our country;

/...9

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

3. **Initiate and support confidence building measures in the society at large and amongst communities and organizations, in order to continue to move the country forward;**
4. **Call on all political parties to seek in good faith a unified position on law and order and public safety.” (A copy attached at Appendix A);**

AND WHEREAS President Jagdeo also met on February 19 with the leaders of the five parliamentary political parties to discuss the current crime situation, and following that meeting a joint statement was issued calling for:

- “1. **Unequivocally condemn crime in all its forms especially the recent Lusignan and Bartica massacres;**
2. **Commit to work together in support of the Joint Services as they fight crime professionally and within the confines of the law;**
3. **Agree to work with major stakeholders in reviewing the national security plan and in accelerating its implementation;**
4. **Agree to approach the media in a more responsible manner and so promote greater social cohesion;**
5. **Support efforts by the administration in garnering assistance in the fight against crime from the international community;**

6. **And we call on the international community to respond positively and urgently to the requests for further assistance.” (A copy attached as Appendix B);**

AND WHEREAS President Jagdeo and the national stakeholders including the leaders of the five parliamentary political parties met again on February 27 to review, as agreed, the security sector plan and its implementation;

AND WHEREAS at that meeting reports were presented by government officials active in the security sector and stakeholders made recommendations about the security sector, the plan, its implementation and matters related to security; and, at its conclusion, a joint statement was issued which agreed:

- “1. To support the national security sector plan and its various components;**
- 2. To tabulate all the recommendations which were presented for consideration and agreed that another meeting would be held in two weeks time to examine these recommendations.” (A copy attached as Appendix C);**

AND WHEREAS the President met again with the national stakeholders on March 12 to examine those recommendations made and the meeting agreed to the following as outlined in the joint statement:

- “1. Establish as a matter of urgency a new Parliamentary Standing Committee on National Security with Ministerial representation;**
- 2. Expedite the appointment of the six Constitutional Commissions (Ethnic, Women, Children, Indigenous, Human Rights and the Public Procurement Commission) which are key features of the governance framework within 90 days;**

3. Convene and activate the Parliamentary Constitutional Reform Committee to address issues presently before it and to examine further areas for constitutional reform;
4. Ensure the meaningful and effective participation of civil society in these parliamentary processes;
5. Explore an agreed mechanism for the continuation of the National Stakeholders' Forum." (A copy attached as Appendix D);

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly takes note of those engagements and accepts the output as reflecting national consensus on the agreed upon actions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly in accepting that national consensus was arrived at during those meetings with the President and the Stakeholders undertakes to provide its fullest support and to assign its highest priority in implementing those commitments that called for action by Parliamentary bodies.

(Notice Paper No. 232 (M67 Govt 40) published on 2008-03-17)

***2. THE PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA MANUAL OF RULES AND PROCEDURE, PRACTICES AND CONVENTIONS OF THE BUSINESS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications to move the following motion:

WHEREAS on the 14th December, 2007 the Parliament of Guyana Manual of Rules of Procedure, Practices and Conventions of the business of the National Assembly was laid in the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the said Manual contains the rules, procedure, practices and conventions used by Parliamentarians in the conduct of the business of the National Assembly,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly accepts in general the rules, procedure, practices and conventions of the said Manual;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Manual of Rules, Procedure, Practices and Conventions of the business of the National Assembly be committed to the Special Select Committee on the Manual of Rules and Procedures and Operations of Committees to make recommendations to the National Assembly on the adoption of the said rules, procedure, practices and conventions.

(Notice Paper No. 206 (M54 Govt 34) published on 2007-12-24)

***3. RATIFICATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION AGAINST THE ILLICIT MANUFACTURING OF AND TRAFFICKING IN FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER RELATED MATERIALS**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials was signed on November 14, 1997 at the Twenty-Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States which was held in Washington D.C.;

AND WHEREAS Article 23 of the said Convention makes provision for the deposit of the Instruments of Ratification with the General Secretariat of the Organisation of the American States;

NOW THEREFORE the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana having considered the Convention hereby confirms and ratifies the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out all the stipulations therein;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly agrees to the General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States being informed of Guyana's intention to ratify the said Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials and for the Government of Guyana to formally ratify the said Convention by depositing the Instrument of Ratification.

(Notice Paper No. 223 (M61 Govt 37) published on 2008-02-14)

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

***4. RATIFICATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION ON MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN CRIMINAL MATTERS**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters was signed on February, 28, 2006 at the Organization of American States in Washington D.C.,

AND WHEREAS Article 33 of the said Convention makes provision for the deposit of the Instruments of Ratification with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States;

NOW THEREFORE the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana having considered the Convention hereby confirms and ratifies the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out all the stipulations therein;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly agrees to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States being informed of Guyana's intention to ratify the said Inter-American Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

(Notice Paper No. 227 (M64 Govt 39) published on 2008-02-22)

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

BILLS – Second Readings, Committee and Third Readings

*5. **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)

*6. **THE FORESTS BILL 2007 – Bill No. 21 of 2007 published on 2007-07-24**

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 consolidate and amend the law relating to forests.

(Read a first time on 2007-08-02)

(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2007-11-08)

/... 16

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

(i) **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.

MOTIONS

7. **GUYANA POWER AND LIGHT CO. INC.**

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

WHEREAS citizens continue to register dissatisfaction with the Guyana Power and Light Co.'s inefficient service and constant blackouts; the practice of estimating electricity bills at rates far above normal monthly billing amounts; back billing for suspected meter tampering and imposing pay-back arrangements that are burdensome to the consumer;

AND WHEREAS the Public Utilities Commission has had cause to enquire into the Guyana Power and Light's service, billing practices, disconnection practices and motives and procedures with respect to making arrangements for customers to repay amounts charged for back billing, but such enquiries have not led to a reduction of complaints and concerns pertaining to GPL's service;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That a Special Select Committee be established to enquire into and to investigate the services being provided by the Guyana Power and Light Co. and to make recommendations for its improvement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Special Select Committee be permitted to received evidence from Members of the public and organizations, including consumers, the Public Utilities Commission, Consumer Associations, the Private Sector and civil society organizations working with affected groups;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Special Select Committee report to this National Assembly within three months and the National Assembly communicates the findings and recommendations to the Guyana Power and Light Co. for their adoption.

(Notice Paper No. 196 (M50 Opp 13) published on 2007-12-06)

8. **THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LAW REFORM COMMISSION**

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

WHEREAS the British Guiana Legislature enacted hundreds of Acts of Parliament and subsidiary legislation many of which remain in force more than 100 years after there enactment;

AND WHEREAS, since Guyana attained its independence on the 26th day of May, 1966, the Parliament of Guyana also enacted hundreds of Acts of Parliament and subsidiary legislation;

AND WHEREAS an ongoing and systematic review of all of these Acts of Parliament, together with their subsidiary legislation, is required to ensure that they are updated, amended and, where necessary, repealed;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to have an ongoing and continuing process for the review, updating and modernization of the laws of Guyana, including the enactment of new legislation, which respond to and reflect the present and future needs and aspiration of the people of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS it is accepted, in many Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries, that the most efficient and institutional mechanism to systematically review and modernize the laws of their respective countries and plan for future legislation is a permanent Law Reform Commission;

AND WHEREAS many Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries have established permanent Law Reform Commissions,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly urges the Government to establish an independent permanent Law Reform Commission with the mandate, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. To keep under continuous review, all of the Laws of Guyana, with the view to their systematic development and reform, including: the modification of any branch of the law; the elimination of anomalies; the repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments; the reduction of the number of separate enactments; and generally, the modernization of the law;

19.

2. To receive and consider suggestions for the reform of the law which may be forwarded to it by Ministers of the Government; public officials; associations of lawyers and members of the public;
3. To obtain such information, in regard to the laws and legal systems of other countries, as in the opinion of the Commission, is likely to facilitate the effective performance of any of its functions;
4. To make recommendations to the Ministry of Legal Affairs for the modification, repeal and generally, for the modernization of the Law of Guyana.

(Notice Paper No. 207 (M55 Opp 15) published on 2007-12-24)

9. **LIMIT ON THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF DEBT OBLIGATIONS**

Mr. Winston Murray, C.C.H., M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act was assented to by His Excellency the President of Guyana on the 16th December, 2003;

AND WHEREAS the said Act is intended, *inter alia*, to improve accountability in fiscal management;

AND WHEREAS Section 81 of the said Act makes provision for the forgiveness, postponement or reduction of debts by the Minister of Finance;

AND WHEREAS Section 81(3) of the said Act provides that the National Assembly may set a limit on the aggregate amount of debt obligations that may be forgiven, postponed or reduced by the Minister of Finance without the approval of the National Assembly in any fiscal year;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly hereby sets a limit of \$10 million (ten million dollars) as the aggregate amount of debt obligations that may be forgiven, postponed or reduced without the approval of the National Assembly;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this limit takes effect from fiscal year 2007.

(Notice Paper No. 213 (M 58 Opp 16) published on 2008-01-18)

10. **ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE MADE AGAINST THE JOINT SERVICES OF GUYANA**

Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P. to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Guyana is a Party to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

AND WHEREAS the Convention against Torture prohibits the use of torture in any circumstance;

AND WHEREAS there have been allegations of torture made against the Joint Services in Guyana by Messrs. Patrick Sumner, Victor Jones, David Leander, Michael Dunn, Alvin Wilson and Sharth Robertson;

AND WHEREAS the Convention makes it mandatory that State Parties to the Convention “*take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture*”;

AND WHEREAS Article 12 of the Convention mandates State Parties to “*ensure that any individual who alleges he has been subjected to torture in any territory under its jurisdiction has the right to complain to and to have his case promptly and impartially examined by its competent authorities*”;

AND WHEREAS it is the responsibility of a State Party to the Convention to “*ensure that education and information regarding the prohibition against torture are fully included in the training of law enforcement personnel, civil or military, medical personnel, public officials and other persons who may be involved in the custody, interrogation or treatment of any individual subjected to any form of arrest, detention or imprisonment*”;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to honour its legal obligations under Article 12 of the Convention and establish an impartial and independent commission to examine and investigate the allegations of torture made against the Joint Services in Guyana;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to honour its legal obligations under Article 13 of the Convention by ensuring that steps “*be taken to ensure that the complainant and witnesses are protected against all ill-treatment or intimidation as a consequence of his complaint or any evidence given*”;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to honour its legal obligations under Article 4(2) of the Convention by enacting the necessary legislation to make torture an offence;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to honour its legal obligations under Article 14 of the Convention by ensuring that persons found to have been tortured are compensated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to honour its legal obligations under Article 10 of the Convention by ensuring that public officials are made aware that all forms of torture are prohibited.

(Notice Paper No. 215 (M 59 Opp 17) published on 2008-02-01)

BILLS – Second Reading

***11. GUYANA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ACT 1974 (AMENDMENT) BILL 2007 –
Bill No. 30/2007 published on 2008-01-12**

Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P., to move the second reading of the following Private Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Guyana Presbyterian Church Act 1974.

(Read a first time on 2008-02-14)

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

(ii) COMMITTEE BUSINESS

MOTIONS

***12. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF GUYANA FOR THE YEARS 2002 AND 2003**

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on its examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the years 2002 and 2003, respectively be adopted and refer the Report to the Government for consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 222 (M 60 Opp 18) published on 2008-02-05)

***13. ADOPTION OF THE SECOND AND THIRD PERIODIC REPORTS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SERVICES**

Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services) to move the following motion:

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Second and Third Periodic Reports of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 228 (M65 Private Member No. 5) published on 2008-02-21)


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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

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

19th March, 2008.

APPENDIX A

STATEMENT BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

In response to recent attacks on innocent civilians and the Joint Services which have undermined public safety, the representatives of Civil Society meeting in caucus with His Excellency, President Bharrat Jagdeo, on Tuesday February 19th and Wednesday February 20th, 2008 at the Office of the President agreed and pledged themselves to:

1. Commit their full and unqualified support of the Joint Services in confronting crime in our country and in securing the safety of our citizens under the law, and
2. Work in collaboration with the Government and all of the parliamentary political parties to jointly review the national security plan for its urgent and comprehensive implementation with the ultimate goal of cementing inclusive democracy, peace and justice in our country.
3. Initiate and support confidence building measures in the society at large, and amongst communities and organizations, in order to continue to move the country forward.
4. Call on all political parties to seek in good faith a unified position on law and order and public safety.

In conclusion, we are reminded at this time that February 23rd is the 38th Anniversary of our Republic. We therefore urge all Political Parties, in and out of Parliament, and, citizens, organized or not, to recommit to the principles of justice and peace in our society.

Feb 20. 2008

APPENDIX B

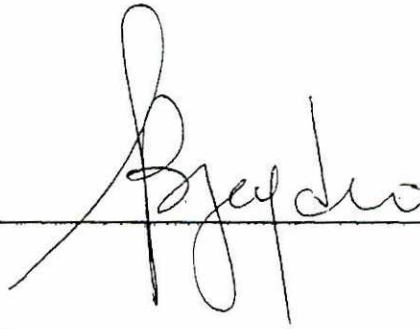
On this February 19, 2008, We the following parliamentary political parties PPP/C, PNCR/IG, TUF, AFC and GAP/ROAR met with His Excellency the President at Office of the President, and came to the following agreement:

Mindful of the recent attacks on innocent civilians and the Joint Services which have undermined public safety, and recognizing that there is need to further examine what may be the contributing factors to this recent escalation;

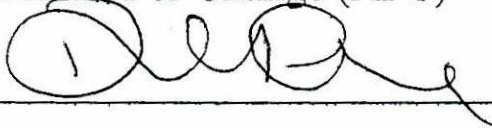
We, the political parties, desirous of collectively expressing our profound concern of these developments, individually and collectively:

1. Unequivocally condemn crime in all its forms especially the recent Lusignan and Bartica massacres.
2. Commit to work together in support of the Joint Services as they fight crime professionally and within the confines of the law.
3. Agree to work with major stakeholders in reviewing the national security plan and in accelerating its implementation.
4. Agree to approach the media in a more responsible manner and so promote greater social cohesion.
5. Support efforts by the administration in garnering assistance in the fight against crime from the international community.
6. And we call on the international community to respond positively and urgently to the requests for further assistance.

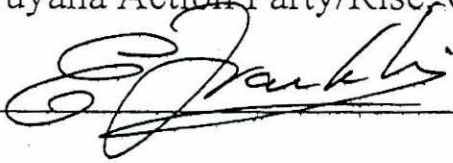
Government of Guyana:



Alliance For Change (AFC)



Guyana Action Party/Rise, Organise and Rebuild (GAP/ROAR)



People's National Congress Reform One Guyana (PNCR/IG)

People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C)



The United Force (TUF)



APPENDIX C

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

The national stakeholders representing the Government and the five parliamentary parties and a broad-cross section of civil society met on February 27th at the Office of the President to discuss the national security plan and to bring their considered views to address the serious escalation of crime.

The national stakeholders held a cordial and constructive meeting at which it was agreed

- (i) to support the national security sector plan and its various components.
- (ii) to tabulate all the recommendations which were presented for consideration and agreed that another meeting would be held in two weeks time to examine these recommendations.

The Government delegation was led by His Excellency the President.

The following Organisations were represented at the meeting:

People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C)

People's National Congress (PNC/RIG)

Alliance for Change (AFC)

Guyana Action Party/Rise Organise And Rebuild

The United Force TUF

Private Sector Commission

Private Sector Corporate Members

Association of Regional Chambers of Commerce (ARCC)

Aircraft Owners Association

Guyana Manufacturers and Services Association

Georgetown Chamber of Commerce

Small Business Association

Gold and Diamond Miners Association

Forest Products Association

Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana

Inter Religious Organisation

Guyana Council of Churches

Guyana Evangelical Fellowship

Georgetown Ministers Fellowship

Guyana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Baha'i Faith

Buxton Ministers Fellowship

Independent Pentecostal Churches

Gandhi Youth Organisation

Guyana Maha Kali All Religious Organisation

Guyana Central Arya Samaj

Cornelia Ida Hindu Temple

Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sahba

Central Islamic Organisation of Guyana

Guyana Islamic Trust

Essequibo Ahmadiyya Organisation

Muslim Youth League

Ahmadiyya Ishati Islam

Guyana Trade Unions Congress

Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana

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Red Thread

Rural Womens Network

Mothers in Black (Alicea Foundation)

Women's Affairs Bureau

GUYWID

National Commission on Women

TAAMOG

Guyana Human Rights Association

Guyana Bar Association

Guyana Association of Women Lawyers

Guyana Responsible Parenthood Association

Citizen's Initiative

Indian Arrival Committee

APPENDIX D

PRESS RELEASE

The National Stakeholders held their follow-up meeting as agreed at the Office of the President on March 12, 2008. The meeting considered a matrix of recommendations which were made at the February 27, 2008 consultation.

The meeting reiterated its support for the Joint Services' efforts to address the recent escalation of crime, and, agreed that the rule of law and the constitutional rights of all citizens be respected.

The National Stakeholders comprising representatives of the Government of Guyana, Members of the Joint Services, the Parliamentary Political Parties, the Private Sector, Labour, the Legal Profession, Women, Amerindian organizations, Citizens Initiative, GHRA, IRO, Christian, Hindu, Muslim bodies and IAC, agreed to the following:

- (1) Establish as a matter of urgency a new Parliamentary Standing Sectoral Committee on National Security with Ministerial representation;
- (2) Expedite the appointment of the six (6) Constitutional Commissions which are key features of the governance framework within 90 days;
- (3) Convene and activate the Parliamentary Constitutional Reform Committee to address issues presently before it and to examine further areas for constitutional reform;
- (4) Ensure the meaningful and effective participation of civil society in these parliamentary processes;
- (5) Explore an agreed mechanism for the continuation of the National Stakeholders' Forum.

March 12, 2008

The following organizations were represented and agreed to the above Press Release

Government of Guyana
People's Progressive Party/Civic
People's National Congress/Reform
The United Force
Alliance For Change
Guyana Action Party/Rise Organise and Rebuild
Guyana Council of Churches
Buxton Ministers' Fellowship
The Seventh Day Adventist
The Inter Religious Organisation
Essequibo Ahmadiyya Organisation
Central Islamic Organisation
Guyana Islamic Trust
Muslim Youth League of Guyana
Guyana Central Arya Samaj
Guyana Maha Kali All Religious Organisation
Guyana Maha Kali Madrasi
Guyana Dharmic Sabha
Guyana Trades Union Congress
Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana
Private Sector Commission
Private Sector Corporate Members
Association of Regional Chambers of Commerce (ARCC)
Aircraft Owners Association
Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association
Georgetown Chamber of Commerce
Small Business Association
Gold and Diamond Miners Association
Forest Products Association
Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana



Red Thread
Rural Women's Network
Mothers in Black
Women's Affairs Bureau
Guyana Women in Development (GUYWID)
Women's Progressive Organization
TAAMOG
Guyana Bar Association
Citizen's Initiative
Indian Arrival Committee
Guyana Human Rights Association