

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 51ST 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 THURSDAY, 27TH 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-

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Reply

WATER SECTOR IN GUYANA

Member Asking: **Mr. Moses Nagamootoo, M.P.**

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Housing and Water**

Could the Hon. Minister state:

- (i) What are the milestones achieved by the Guyana Water Incorporated since the People's Progressive Party/Civic has assumed office?
- (ii) Can you say how many persons in each Region have access to potable water?
- (iii) What are some of the future plans for the advancement of the water sector in Guyana?
- (iv) What has been Government's investment in the water sector so far?

(Notice Paper No. 230(Q162 PPP/C Private Member No.4) published on 2008-03-06)

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;
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.

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;

6.

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,

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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)

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)

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)

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

*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)

(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.

BILLS – Second Reading

7. **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

8. **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:

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)

*9. **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:

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

12.

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)


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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.

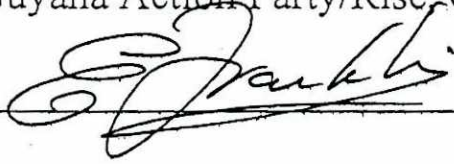
Government of Guyana:



Alliance For Change (AFC)



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



People's National Congress Reform One Guyana (PNCRI/G)

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/IG)

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