

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 52ND 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, 8TH MAY, 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 Speaker of the National Assembly:**

- (i) **The Ethnic Relations Commission Annual Report for the year 2007.**

(To be Circulated)

- (ii) **The Ethnic Relations Commission Report on Public Consultation on the perceived needs of the African Guyanese Community from 13th – 16th November, 2007.**

(To be Circulated)

(2) **By the Minister of Finance:**

The Value-Added Tax (No. 2) Order 2008 – Order No. 29 of 2008.

(To be Circulated)

(3) **By the Minister of Labour:**

(i) **The Minimum Wages (Employees in Dry Goods Stores) (Amendment) Order 2008 – Order No. 12 of 2008.**

(To be Circulated)

(ii) **The Minimum Wages (Employees in Drug Stores) (Amendment) Order 2008 – Order No. 13 of 2008.**

(To be Circulated)

(iii) **The Minimum Wages (Employees in Hardware Stores) (Amendment) Order 2008 – Order No. 14 of 2008.**

(To be Circulated)

(iv) **The Minimum Wages (Employees in Groceries) (Amendment) Order 2008 – Order No. 15 of 2008.**

(To be Circulated)

(v) **The Labour (Conditions of Employment of Certain Workers) (Minimum Rate of Wages) (Amendment) Order 2008 – Order No. 16 of 2008.**

(To be Circulated)

(vi) **The Minimum Wages (Mechanical Transport Employees) (Amendment) Order 2008 – Order No. 17 of 2008.**

(To be Circulated)

3.

- (vii) **The Minimum Wages (Security Guards) (Amendment) Order 2008 – Order No. 18 of 2008.**

(To be Circulated)

- (viii) **The Minimum Wages (Employees at Petrol Filling Stations) (Amendment) Order 2008 – Order No. 19 of 2008.**

(To be Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

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

The Interim Report of the Committee on Appointments.

(To be Circulated)

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. **EFFORTS TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SECURITY IN THE INTERIOR REGIONS**

Member Asking: Mr. Albert Atkinson, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

Could the Minister of Agriculture state what efforts are being made to assist agricultural production and improve food security in the interior regions?

(Notice Paper No. 233(Q163 PPP/C Private Member No.5) published on 2008-03-27)

2. **KOKER DOOR AT THE MONTROSE PUMPING STATION**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

Could the Honourable Minister of Agriculture inform this National Assembly when GUYSUCO will fix the koker door at the Montrose Pumping Station, on the lower East Coast Demerara, to enable all five pumps located there to work at full capacity during all tides?

(Notice Paper No. 234 (Q164 Opp 159) published on 2008-04-07)

3. **GUYANA POWER AND LIGHT INC. (GPL)**

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

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

Can the Honourable Prime Minister inform this National Assembly:

- (i) Whether the present restructuring of the Guyana Power and Light Inc. (GPL), including the severing the employment of over 200 employees, will result in better efficiency at GPL?
- (ii) Whether the restructuring of GPL will result in a corresponding decrease in the cost of electricity to consumers?
- (iii) What percentage of Line Losses is due to technical faults and what percentage is due to the theft of electricity?
- (iv) Whether the Government has plans to sell its shares in GPL to private investors?

(Notice Paper No. 235 (Q165 Opp 160) published on 2008-04-07)

For Oral Reply

4. 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)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS-

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON
DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-**

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Presentation and First Reading

HIJACKING AND PIRACY BILL 2008 – Bill No. 4/2008 published on 2008-04-07

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make special provisions for punishment for the offences of armed robbery, hijacking and piracy and for matters connected therewith.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

1. **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)

2. **IMPACT OF GLOBAL FOOD PRICE INCREASES**

The Minister of Agriculture to move the following motion:

WHEREAS globally there is an increase in food prices caused mainly by four factors, namely; increase in the price of fossil fuels, effects of Climate Change, increase in production of bio-fuels, and growing demand for food in large emerging economies;

AND WHEREAS that the increase of food prices, amounting to over 80% over the past year and a half, is having a devastating effect on the supply and affordability of food for populations in both developing and developed nations;

AND WHEREAS that various multilateral and regional institutions, including the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Bank, the World Food Programme and CARICOM, have already called for urgent action and heightened collaboration to tackle this global crisis;

AND WHEREAS Guyana, having recognised this crisis and its impact within the CARICOM region, is working with its sister CARICOM partners to transform Guyana into a major player in the development of Food security in the region;

AND WHEREAS the Government has established an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Food Prices tasked with monitoring this emerging situation on a constant basis and to make recommendations on action that may be needed to be taken to cushion the impact on the Guyanese population, especially the poor and vulnerable,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly takes note of the impact of Global rising food prices on the cost of living in Guyana and supports the interventions taken by the Government to cushion the impact of these global price increases on our population, especially for the vulnerable groups;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly undertakes to follow the implementation of these governmental interventions that include increasing the disposable income of ordinary Guyanese; subsidizing the cost of accessing utility services, implementing the Ministry of Agriculture's GROW MORE campaign and its concomitant budgetary interventions; zero-rating of all essential food items, diesel and agricultural inputs; monitoring exports of some essential agricultural commodities to ensure adequate local supply and monitoring of prices and supply of various food commodities; and assistance to single-headed households;

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly be provided with the deliberations of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Food Prices on a quarterly basis, set up by Cabinet to review the impact of rising food prices on Guyanese and make recommendations intended to cushion the impact;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly recognizes that the situation requires national action, and sustained efforts and engagement with critical sectors and groups to confront this challenge locally and regionally.

(Notice Paper 237 (M69 Govt 41) published on 2008-04-29)

BILLS – Second Readings, Committee and Third Readings

*3. **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;

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

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)

*4. **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)

(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

MOTIONS**5. 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)

6. **BRUTAL AND HORRIFIC KILLING OF ELEVEN GUYANESE CITIZENS**

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

WHEREAS eleven Guyanese citizens, including five children, all from the village of Lusignan, East Coast Demerara, were brutally and horrifically killed by gunmen in their homes in the wee hours of the morning of Saturday, 26th January, 2008;

AND WHEREAS these brutal and horrific killings have caused untold pain, grief, anger and despair to the surviving family members, fellow villagers and the entire Guyanese community;

AND WHEREAS these brutal and horrific killings have evoked unequivocal condemnation from all political parties, religious organizations, business organizations, civic organizations and all Guyanese living in Guyana and in the Diaspora;

AND WHEREAS CARICOM and the Diplomatic Community have also unequivocally condemned these brutal and horrific killings;

AND WHEREAS these brutal and horrific killings have forcefully reminded all Guyanese how tenuous the security situation in Guyana continues to be;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly condemns the brutal and horrific killings of eleven of our citizens;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly extends deepest and sincerest sympathy to the families of our eleven citizens and the corporal of the Guyana Defence Force who were murdered;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government of Guyana to implement a definite plan of action to arrest the downward spiraling of our country's security.

(Notice Paper No. 231 (M66 Opp19) published on 2008-03-17)

(i) COMMITTEE BUSINESS

MOTIONS

7. 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)

8. **ADOPTION OF THE INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS**

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the contents of this Interim Report of the Committee on Appointments be noted, and the Report adopted.

(Notice Paper 236 (M68 PPC/Private Member No. 6) published on 2008-04-24)


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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

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

30th April, 2008.