

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ORDER PAPER**

**FOR THE 68<sup>th</sup> 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 MONDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER , 2008**

**IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN**

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**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-**

**By the Speaker of the National Assembly (Chairman of the Committee of Selection):**

Minutes of Proceedings of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Selection of the National Assembly held on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2008.

(To be Circulated)

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

**For Written Replies**

**1. CORONER'S INQUEST**

**Member Asking: Mr. Raphael G. C. Trotman, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs**

Can the Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs state the current number of Coroner's Inquest pending in Guyana?

**(Notice Paper No. 295 (Q211 Opp 206) published on 2008-10-27)**

**2. NUMBER OF PERSONS DETAINED FOR 72 HOURS OR MORE**

**Member Asking: Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: Minister of Home Affairs**

Could the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs provide this National Assembly with a list of the number of persons detained for the year 2007, at each Police Station listed below, for 72 hours or more, who were subsequently released without any charges being preferred against them:-

- (i) Sparendam Police Station
- (ii) Beterverwagting Police Station
- (iii) Vigilance Police Station
- (iv) Cove and John Police Station
- (v) Brickdam Police Station
- (vi) Providence Police Station

**(Notice Paper No. 309 (Q225 Opp 220) published on 2008-11-05)**

3. **ENTITLEMENTS OF FORMER PRESIDENTS**

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

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

What benefits are former Presidents of the Republic of Guyana entitled to?

(Notice Paper No. 311 (Q227 Opp222) published on 2008-11-20)

4. **BENEFITS RECEIVED BY WIDOW OF MR. HUGH DESMOND HOYTE**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Raphael G.C. Trotman, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communications

What benefits has the widow of the third President of the Republic of Guyana, Mr. Hugh Desmond Hoyte, received since his death in December, 2002?

(Notice Paper No. 312 (Q228 Opp223) published on 2008-11-20)

5. **CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW NURSERY SCHOOL AT NUMBER 79 VILLAGE, CORENTYNE**

**Member Asking:** Dr. John Austin, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Education

- (a) Would the Honourable Minister of Education explain to this National Assembly why a new Nursery School is being constructed in Number 79 Village, Corentyne where there is an existing Nursery School rather than in Scottsburg Village, Corentyne or Number 77 New Scheme, Corentyne, where there are no Nursery Schools?

- (b) Could the Honourable Minister of Education tell this National Assembly what will the existing building be used for after the new Nursery School building is completed?

**(Notice Paper No. 319 (Q 235 Opp 230) published on 2008-11-20)**

6. **COMMISSION OF THE ELDERLY**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Would the Honourable Minister of Human Services and Social Security inform this Honourable House whether:

- (a) The commission of the Elderly is in force.
- (b) If yes, who is the chairperson and who are the commissioners?
- (c) How many meetings did the commission hold for the period January 2008 to August 2008?
- (d) Is there a program of activities for 2008?
- (i) If yes, what are some of the activities completed and what other activities are on the agenda for 2008?

**(Notice Paper No. 326 (Q241 Opp231) published on 2008-11-28)**

7. **SALARIES AND BENEFITS PAID TO PUBLIC SERVANTS**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Finance

Would the Honourable Minister of Finance inform this Honourable House:

- (a) How many public servants have benefited from the \$4,000 cost of living allowance?

- (b) How many government workers are receiving a salary of less than \$50,000 monthly?
- (c) What provision has this Government made to assist those government workers receiving a salary below \$50,000 monthly with the increase in the cost of living?
- (d) If provision has been made, could the Honourable Minister indicate under which line item the provision has been made and what is the amount allocated?  
(Notice Paper No. 327 (Q242 Opp232) published on 2008-11-28)

8. **CARIFESTA X**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Could the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport inform this Honourable House:

- (a) How many tickets were printed for the various activities during CARIFESTA X?
- (b) What was the cost incurred for the printing of these tickets?
- (c) What was the budgeted revenue to be garnered from the sale of these tickets?
- (d) What percentage of the expenditure for CARIFESTA X was the revenue garnered from ticket sales budgeted to cover?
- (e) How was the shortfall met?

(Notice Paper No. 328 (Q243 Opp233) published on 2008-11-28)

9. **NATIONAL PROCUREMENT COMMISSION**

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

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

Could the Honourable Prime Minister tell this Honourable House when his Government will honour its commitment made to the National Stakeholders and the Guyanese people to provide their nominees for the National Procurement Commission?

(Notice Paper No. 329 (Q244 Opp234) published on 2008-11-28)

**For Oral Replies**

10. **SUGAR SOLD BY GUYSUCO**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Agriculture

\*Will the Minister say at what price/prices has GuySuCo sold sugar to Trinidad and Tobago over the last three years?

(Notice Paper No. 279 (Q 197 Opp192) published on 2008-10-21)

11. **ELECTRICITY TO THE RESIDENTS OF MADHIA AND ITS ENVIRONS**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Latchmin Budhan-Punalall, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Prime Minister and Minister of Public Works and Communication

\*Does the Government have early plans to provide electricity to the residents of Madhia and its environs?

(Notice Paper No. 280 (Q 198 Opp 193) published on 2008-10-21)

12. **POTABLE WATER IN MADHIA-REGION #8**

**Member Asking:** Mrs. Latchmin Budhan-Punalall, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister responsible for Housing and Water

\*When will the residents in Madhia-Region #8 including Campbelltown receive potable water through their taps?

(Notice Paper No. 281 (Q 199 Opp 194) published on 2008-10-21)

13. **PUBLIC SERVICE APPELLATE TRIBUNAL**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Public Service

\*Can the Honourable Minister of the Public Service Ministry tell this National Assembly when the Public Service Appellate Tribunal will be reconstituted?

(Notice Paper No. 313 (Q229 Opp224) published on 2008-11-20)

14. **EMPLOYMENT OF CONTRACTED EMPLOYEES**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Public Service

\*Can the Honourable Minister of the Public Service Ministry tell this National Assembly which Ministry or Government Department has responsibility for the employment of contracted employees?

(Notice Paper No. 314 (Q230 Opp225) published on 2008-11-20)

15. **RESTORATION OF ANNUAL SUBVENTION TO THE GUYANA TRADES UNION CONGRESS**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Labour

\*Can the Honourable Minister of Labour say when will the Government restore the annual subvention to the Guyana Trades Union Congress?

(Notice Paper No. 315 (Q231 Opp226) published on 2008-11-20)

16. **LABELLING OF PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLIES**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Health

- (i) \*Could the Honourable Minister of Health tell this National Assembly if there is still in place a government policy which requires that pharmaceutical supplies imported into Guyana and dispensed in Guyana be labelled in the English Language?
- (ii) \*Is the Honourable Minister of Health aware that pharmaceutical supplies purchased by the National Insurance Scheme for distribution to claimants are labelled in languages other than the English Language?
- (iii) \*What does the Honourable Minister of Health propose to do to remedy the situation of the National Insurance Scheme procuring and dispensing pharmaceutical supplies which are labelled in languages other than the English language, and how soon does the Minister propose to address this matter?

(Notice Paper No. 318 (Q 234 Opp 229) published on 2008-11-20)



17. **ACQUISITION OF LAND IN JONESTOWN BY THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE**

**Member Asking:** Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

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

\*Would the Prime Minister inform this National Assembly as to the grounds on which the Guyanese authorities granted permission to the Rev. Jim Jones and the People's Temple to acquire land in the Northwest, known as Jonestown, and,

- (i) How much land was given?
- (ii) Whether it was leased and or given by some other means? And
- (iii) For what period of time?

(Notice Paper No. 321 (Q236 PPP/C No. 5) published on 2008-11-28)

18. **DETAILS OF REVEREND JIM JONES AND HIS FOLLOWERS'S PRESENCE IN GUYANA**

**Member Asking:** Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Home Affairs

\*Would the Minister of Home Affairs inform this National Assembly about the details of Reverend Jim Jones and his followers' presence in Guyana in the 1977-1978 period, specifically:

- (i) What was the basis of his congregation's immigration to Guyana and how and who approved their visas and stay in Guyana?

- (ii) Were the People's Temple's members in Guyana both at Jonestown and elsewhere granted licenses to bear arms, which agency granted these gun licenses and how many were granted?
- (iii) Was an investigation held by the Guyanese authorities after the Massacre and what were the results?

**(Notice Paper No. 322 (Q237 PPP/C No. 6) published on 2008-11-28)**

19. **NUMBER OF CHILDREN KILLED IN JONESTOWN AND NUMBER OF PERSONS PERISHED IN THE JONESTOWN MASSACRE**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Norman Whittaker, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Health

- (i) \*Would the Minister of Health inform this National Assembly if there are any records to show how many Guyanese children were killed at Jonestown and if their bodies were ever returned to Guyana and handed over to their families?
- (ii) \*Does the Ministry of Health have any records of the names, age, gender, ethnicity and nationalities of all 909 persons who perished at Jonestown prior to or after the removal of their bodies by American officials after the massacre?

**(Notice Paper No. 323 (Q238 PPP/C No. 7) published on 2008-11-28)**

**20. REPORTS OF STRANGE ACTIVITIES IN JONESTOWN**

**Member Asking: Mr. Norman Whittaker, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs**

\*Would the Minister of Home Affairs inform this National Assembly if the Ministry of Home Affairs or the Guyana Police Force in the 1977-78 period were receiving reports from residents in the North West region about strange activities in Jonestown including

- (i) The presence of armed persons guarding the entrance and the parameters of the Jonestown settlement and their refusal to allow Amerindians to walk through the Jonestown property to hunt and fish as they had done for centuries?
- (ii) Amerindian children being taken into Jonestown and parents being disallowed subsequently from seeing them and or removing them from Jonestown?

**(Notice Paper No. 324 (Q239 PPP/C No. 8) published on 2008-11-28)**

**21. PUBLIC ACCOUNTS REPORTS 1965-1992**

**Member Asking: Mrs. Indra Chandarpal, M.P.**

**Minister Answering: The Minister of Finance**

\*Would the Minister of Finance inform this National Assembly which years were the Public Accounts reports not prepared and laid by the Auditor General in the National Assembly from 1965-1992? And what were the explanations, if any, provided by the Auditor General and or the Ministry of Finance and or the Office of the President for the non-submission of the Public Accounts for any of those years?

**(Notice Paper No. 325 (Q240 PPP/C No. 9) published on 2008-11-28)**

22. **ASSET OF PROPERTY FROM JONESTOWN**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M. P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Finance

\*Would the Minister of Finance inform this National Assembly if there is any record of money amounting to several suitcases containing US\$500,000.00 or any other asset or property from Jonestown handed over to the government?

(Notice Paper No. 330 (Q245 PPP/C No. 10) published on 2008-11-28)

23. **QUESTIONS ON THE JONESTOWN MASSACRE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Harripersaud Nokta, M.P.

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

\*Could the Prime Minister inform this National Assembly if there were any questions to the Government of the day, before and after the massacre, by the then Opposition, and if these were put on the Order Paper and answered, and if not why not?

(Notice Paper No. 331(Q246 PPP/C No. 11) published on 2008-11-28)

24. **BARBARA STOEN'S APPEAL**

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

**Minister Answering:** The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

\*Would the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs inform this National Assembly on what grounds the Guyanese judiciary denied Barbara Stoen's appeal to gain custody of her child and remove the child from Jonestown?

(Notice Paper No. 332(Q247 PPP/C No. 12) published on 2008-11-28)

**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 Readings**

1. **LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 – Bill No. 24/2008**

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development, on behalf of the Government, to present 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.

2. **TRADE UNION RECOGNITION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 – Bill No. 25/2008**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Trade Union Recognition Act 1997.

3. **THE CHILDCARE AND PROTECTION AGENCY BILL 2008 – Bill NO. 26/2008**

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of a Childcare and Protection Agency the duties of which are to implement the policy and decisions in relation to the laws governing children.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS -**

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Readings, Committee and Third Readings**

\*1. **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

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

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)*

\*2. **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)*

\*3. **COURT OF APPEAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 2008 – Bill No. 12 of 2008 published on 2008-07-11**

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 amend the Court of Appeal Act to provide for appeals by the Director of Public Prosecutions to the Court of Appeal and the Caribbean Court of Justice and for connected matters.

*(Read a first time on 2008-07-17)*

*(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2008-07-25)*

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

\*4. **MONEY TRANSFER AGENCIES (LICENSING) BILL 2008 – No. 15 of 2008**  
**published on 2008-07-23**

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 persons carrying on the business of money transfer agencies; to make provision for the registering of money transfer agents and for connected purposes.

(Read a first time on 2008-07-24)

*(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2008-08-07)*

(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.

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



**MOTION**

5. **LIVE AND UNEDITED BROADCAST OF THE SITTINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana enshrines the protection of Freedom of Expression in Article 146 (1) and guarantees the Guyanese citizen the “freedom to receive ideas and information without interference, freedom to communicate ideas and information without interference ....”;

AND WHEREAS the people of Guyana are entitled to hear and/or see the presentations and representations made on their behalf in the National Assembly and be able to assess the contributions of all and make their own judgment;

AND WHEREAS the National Communication Network (NCN) is owned by the People of Guyana and has the widest coverage and is in a position to broadcast live and uninterrupted the proceedings of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Opposition Members of Parliament are entitled to have their views heard in an unedited way by the people of Guyana;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly agrees that the sittings of the National Assembly be broadcast live and unedited to the people of Guyana by the National Communication Network and that the cost of the broadcast be borne by the State;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to allocate a broadcast frequency for a parliamentary channel as happens in most democratic countries;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government to begin the live and unedited broadcast of the sittings of the National Assembly no later than one month after the adoption of this Motion.

(Notice Paper No. 320 (M82 Opp23) published on 2008-11-27)

(iii) **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

  
.....  
**S.E. ISAACS**  
**Clerk of the National Assembly**

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

**18<sup>th</sup> December, 2008**