

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ORDER PAPER**

**FOR THE '98<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION**

**(2006 - 2009) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD**

**AT 2.00 P.M.**

**ON THURSDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2009**

**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-**

By the Minister of Finance:

Reports of the Directors of the Dependants' Pension Fund for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003.

(To be Circulated)

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-**

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

**For Written Reply**

**MAINTENANCE OF ROAD FROM STANLEYTOWN TO MARA**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Robert H. O. Corbin, M.P., Leader of the Opposition

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

Since millions of dollars are expended annually for the maintenance of the East Bank Berbice Road, from Stanleytown to Mara, and the said road is constantly in a deplorable state, causing severe difficulties and inconvenience to residents and road-users, forcing them to regularly engage in protest activity over their neglected conditions, could the Honourable Minister provide answers to the following:

- (a) How much money has been spent annually for the past ten years, i.e. 1998 to 2008, for the maintenance of the East Bank Berbice road?
- (b) Could the Minister identify the specifics of the allocated expenditure by the respective year, indicating the amounts that were spent; the sections of the road maintained with the approved expenditure; the name/s of the contractor/s involved; and, whether there were satisfactory completion certificates issued at the end of each job and by whom were they signed?
- (c) Whether it would not make economic sense and reflect more prudent use of our financial resources if, instead of the piecemeal maintenance approach to the East Bank Berbice Road, a comprehensive road building project is implemented even if such a project is phased over a few years?

3.

- (d) How soon does the government plan to address the immediate problem of the present deplorable state of the road as emphasized by residents in their recent demonstrations?

(Notice Paper No. 401 (Q289 Opp 274 ) published on 2009-09-18 )

**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. FUGITIVE OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 34/2009**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Fugitive Offenders Act 1988.

4.

2. **RICE FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 35/2009**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Rice Factories Act 1998.

3. **MARITIME ZONES BILL 2009 – Bill No. 36/2009**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to repeal and replace the Maritime Boundaries Act 1977, to incorporate certain provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage 2001, to provide for marine scientific research, maritime cultural area, eco-tourism, marine parks and reserves and mariculture, the protection and preservation of the marine environment and for related matters.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS -**

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

1. **GUYANA'S RATIFICATION OF THE CONSTITUTIVE TREATY OF THE UNION OF SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONS (UNASUR)**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS this Treaty is the constitutive legal instrument of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) which was founded by Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela, and signed by the said Nations on May 23, 2008 in Brasilia, Brazil;

5.

AND WHEREAS this Treaty is designed to strengthen political and economic cooperation and dialogue between/among member states, and to advance continental integration;

AND WHEREAS Guyana is desirous of ratifying this Treaty.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves Guyana's ratification of the Constitutive Treaty of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR).

**(Notice Paper No. 402 (M107 Govt65) published on 2009-10-07)**

2. **DEPLOYMENT OF GUYANA DEFENCE FORCE PERSONNEL TO TRINIDAD FOR COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING**

The Minister of Home Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting from 21<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2009;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana joined with the CARICOM countries to offer security support to the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana has pledged the deployment of Guyana Defence Force military personnel on a security support mission;

AND WHEREAS the management and operation of troops deployed by the Government of Guyana shall be in accordance with the Visiting Forces Act 2007 of Guyana, the Visiting Forces Act of Trinidad and Tobago and the Treaty of Security Assistance among CARICOM Member States.

6.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly honours the pledge of the Government of Guyana and approves the deployment of such personnel to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the purpose and period stated.

**(Notice Paper No. 403 (M108 Govt66) published on 2009-10-07)**

**The Speaker's consent was given in accordance with Standing Orders No. 28(2) to move the following motion:**

3. **GUYANA'S ACCESSION TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE DIVERSITY OF CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS this Convention was adopted by the 33<sup>rd</sup> General Conference of UNESCO in October, 2005 and entered into force on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2007;

AND WHEREAS the Convention addresses the need to recognize that cultural goods and services convey identity, values and meaning and consequently cannot be considered mere goods. And the need for States to take appropriate measures to protect and promote diversity of cultural expression while allowing the free flow of ideas and works;

AND WHEREAS Guyana is desirous of acceding to this Convention.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves Guyana's accession to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.

**(Notice Paper No. 404 (M109 Govt67) published on 2009-10-08)**

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**BILLS – Second Reading**

- \*4. **LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (BENEFITS AND OTHER FACILITIES) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 16/2009 published on 2009-04-30**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for benefits and other facilities to the Leader of the Opposition.

**(Read a first time on 2009-04-30)**

**BILLS – Committee and Third Reading**

- \*5. **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:

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

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)**

**(Read a second time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2008-07-24)**

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

- \*6. **ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS BILL 2009 – Bill No. 15/2009 published on 2009-04-30**

The Assembly to proceed upon the further stages of the following Bill, after the Special Select Committee has reported thereon:

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

8.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for registration of members of allied health professions supplementary to the medical profession, regulation of practice of allied health professions and allied health services, to provide for maintenance of professional standards for allied health professions and health services and to make provisions for training of members of those professions and services and for related purposes.

**(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-04-30)**

**\*7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 23/2009 published 2009-06-03**

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 Local Government Act.

**(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-06-04)**

**\*8. FISCAL TRANSFERS BILL 2009 - Bill No. 25/2009 published on 2009-06-11**

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 provide for the formulation and implementation of objective criteria for the purpose of the allocation of resources to and the garnering of resources by local democratic organs and for matters connected therewith.

**(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-06-11)**

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



\*9. **MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 26/2009 published on 2009-06-11**

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 Municipal and District Councils Act.

**(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-06-11)**

\*10. **CUSTODY, CONTACT, GUARDIANSHIP AND MAINTENANCE BILL 2009 – Bill No. 29/2009 published on 2009-06-25**

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 granting of custody, contact, guardianship and maintenance rights with respect to children and for connected purposes.

**(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-06-25)**

\*11. **THE SEXUAL OFFENCES BILL 2009 – Bill No. 30/2009 published on 2009-07-08**

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 reform and consolidate the laws relating to sexual offences and to provide for related matters.

**(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-07-09)**

\*12. **CHILDCARE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BILL 2009 – Bill No. 31/2009**  
**published on 2009-07-08**

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 regulate childcare services and to provide for parameters for the granting of licences for childcare and development services and connected matters.

**(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-07-09)**

(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.

**MOTION**

13. **SUSPENSION OF SALE OF GOVERNMENT SHARES IN G.T.&T. INC.**

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

WHEREAS the wholly owned State Corporation, Guyana Telecommunications Corporation, (G.T.C.), was privatized by the Guyana Government on specific terms, which included, the retention by the Government of Guyana of 20% (twenty percent) shareholding in the new privatized Company, Guyana Telephone and Telegraph Company (G.T.&T. Inc);

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

AND WHEREAS the said terms of privatization included provisions for the Government of Guyana to appoint at least one member on the Board of Management of the Company to ensure that the interest of the people of Guyana could be represented and safeguarded;

AND WHEREAS Guyana has benefited from the operations of the new Company to the tune of millions of dollars in taxes and dividends from the Company, reported in 2008 to be as high as \$1.5B in taxes and \$265M in dividends and approximately \$US1M to US\$4M annually;

AND WHEREAS it is the workers of GT&T who have made that company into an effective and efficient organization;

AND WHEREAS the 20% ownership in GT&T did not in any way inhibit or prevent the Guyana Government from permitting other telecommunications and internet operators from doing business in Guyana as is evident from the continued operation of DIGICEL, for several years now in Guyana;

AND WHEREAS the retention of Government's 20% shareholding in GT&T has facilitated a significant stream of revenues in the form of dividends to the people of Guyana, notwithstanding the existence of other competing telecommunication operators in Guyana;

AND WHEREAS, notwithstanding this stream of revenue, the Government has announced plans of its intention to dispose of its 20% shares in the GT&T Company;

AND WHEREAS the retention of a 20% shareholding in GT&T cannot or should not affect the implementation of a government's policy of liberalizing the Telecommunications Sector;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government of Guyana to appoint an objective professional group to assess the Cost/benefit to the people of Guyana, of sale versus retention of the said shares;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:


That this National Assembly calls on the Government of Guyana to suspend the decision to dispose of its 20% shareholding in GT&T until the review is completed by the appointed professional group; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, should the review group recommend that the shares be disposed of, the first option for disposal of these shares should be to the workers of the Company, thereafter a transparent process, to publicly announced, should be followed for the disposal of the said shares or for such number of the shares not bought by the workers of the Company.

(Notice Paper No. 400 (M106 Opp30) published on 2009-08-04)

**COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

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

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

**9<sup>th</sup> October, 2009.**