

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 111TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION

(2006 - 2010) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY, 2010

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-

By Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., (Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee):

- (i) Report of the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the years 2004 and 2005.

(To be Circulated)

- (ii) Minutes of Proceedings of the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the years 2004 and 2005.

(To be Circulated)

2.

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Reply

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE (SICKNESS BENEFIT MEDICAL CARE) REGULATIONS

Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P., to ask the Minister of Finance the following questions:

1. With respect to the amendment to the National Insurance and Social Security (Sickness Benefit Medical Care) Regulations cited as the National Insurance and Social Security (Sickness Benefit Medical Care) (Amendment) Regulations 2009, could the Honourable Minister of Finance inform this National Assembly why the (Sickness Benefit Medical Care) Regulation 2(4) was amended and its corresponding provision in the (Injury Benefit Medical Care) Regulations, at Regulation 3(4) was not similarly amended?

2. In 2007 at “Minimum Reasonable Cost” the Scheme’s expenditure with respect to Medical Care was 9.23% of total benefit expense broken down as follows:-

Sickness Benefit Medical Care	-	\$643,693,000
Injury Benefit Medical Care	-	\$ 32,419,000
Total:	-	\$676,112,000

The prevailing rates of contribution in effect from 1st April, 2004 to date are Employed persons 13%, Self Employed persons 11.5%.

3.

Given the above facts could the Honourable Minister provide this National Assembly with expenditure projections over the period 1st January, 2010 to 31st December, 2012 under the headings:

- (a) Sickness Benefit Medical Care; and
- (b) Injury Benefit Medical Care.

3. (a) Could the Honourable Minister say what studies have been done to determine that the National Insurance Scheme can meet the increase in expenditure in the short, medium and long terms while remaining a viable entity?
- (b) Could the Honourable Minister share with this National Assembly the details of such studies, particularly the aspect showing specifically how the Scheme intends to meet the increased cost while remaining a viable entity?
4. In 2007, the Scheme's total expenses amounted to 8.5 billion dollars. This was met by \$8.1 billion dollars representing the total contribution revenue collected for that year, plus \$0.4 billion dollars from investment income (26.8% of investment revenue collected for 2007). With the advent of the new provision, could the Honourable Minister provide the National Assembly with an overall projection of the Scheme's operations for the period 1st January, 2010 to 31st December, 2012?

(Notice Paper No. 418 (Q301 Opp276) published on 2010-01-11)

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-

4.

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER-
SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER NO. 71(2)**

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

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 71(2) provides for five (5) days to be allotted for the debate on a motion for the approval of the Estimates of Revenues and Expenditure;

AND WHEREAS it is anticipated that the five days allotted by Standing Order No. 71(2) would be inadequate for the debate on the motion for the approval of the 2010 Estimates of Revenues and Expenditure,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No. 71(2) be suspended to enable the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Revenues and Expenditure for the year 2010 to be extended to six (6) days.

(Notice Paper No. 423 (M122 Govt 77) published on 2010-02-08)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

MOTION

1. **BUDGET SPEECH 2010 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2010**

Assembly to resume the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2010.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2010-02-08)

*2. **SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, THE HON. DESREY CLEMENTINE CAESAR FOX, M.P.**

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That we the Members of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana -

- place on record our shock and profound grief at the great loss to the Government and the Parliament of Guyana by the tragic death on Friday, 11th December, 2009, of the Minister in the Ministry of Education, the Hon. Desrey Clementine Caesar Fox, M.P.,
- pay tribute to the committed and distinguished service which she rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament;

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

6.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly directs that an expression of our heartfelt sympathy be conveyed to her sorrowing children and relatives.

(Notice Paper No. 417 (M120 Govt 75) published on 2010-01-07)

BILLS – Second Readings

- *3. **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 Readings

- *4. **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)

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

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

7.

*5. **MARITIME ZONES BILL 2009 – Bill No. 36/2009 published on 2009-10-08**

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 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.

(Read a first time on 2009-10-15)

(Read a second time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-10-29)

*6. **CREDIT REPORTING BILL 2009 – Bill No. 37/2009 published on 2009-10-22**

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 establish a credit reporting industry with the aim of enabling more reliable, competitive, and responsible credit lending while protecting borrowers' rights.

(Read a first time on 2009-10-29)

(Read a second time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-11-12)

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

8.

*7. **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES BILL 2009 – Bill No. 44/2009 published on 2009-11-19**

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 certain rights to persons with disabilities; to provide for the promotion and protection and full and equal enjoyment of the rights; to facilitate the enforcement of the rights; to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability; to provide for the welfare and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities; to provide for the registration of persons with disabilities; to establish the National Commission on Disabilities; and for connected purposes.

(Read a first time on 2009-11-19)

(Read a second time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-11-26)

*8. **LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 45/2009 published on 2009-11-26**

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 Legal Practitioners Act.

(Read a first time on 2009-11-26)

(Read a second time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-12-21)

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

9.

BILLS – Second Readings, Committee and Third Readings

*9. **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:

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)

*10. **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)

10.

*11. **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)

*12. **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)

*13. **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)

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

*14. **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)

*15. **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.

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

MOTIONS

***16. REQUEST TO QUESTION, THROUGH COUNSEL, HON. DR. ASHNI SINGH, M.P., MINISTER OF FINANCE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES**

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

WHEREAS at the 99th sitting in the 9th Parliament held on the 22nd day of October, 2009 the Honourable Dr. Ashni Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance moved a motion which resolved that this Honourable House signals its unanimous disapproval of a statement purportedly made by me, and that this matter be referred to the Committee of Privileges in keeping with Standing Order No. 32 with the view of finding me in contempt of this House;

AND WHEREAS at the aforesaid sitting the Honourable Speaker ruled that a prima facie case had been made out against me and referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges;

AND WHEREAS at my appearance before the Committee of Privileges on the 25th day of November, 2009 I enquired of my right directly or through counsel to question the Honourable Minister of Finance, Dr. Ashni Singh the mover of the aforesaid motion and the seconder of that motion;

AND WHEREAS by way of letter dated the 15th December, 2009 the Clerk of the National Assembly informed me that "... in order to question the mover of the motion, the Honourable Dr. Ashni Singh, either directly or through counsel, you would be required to table a motion in the National Assembly requesting leave of the House to so do.";

AND WHEREAS the rules of natural justice, dictate that an accused person be given an opportunity to question his or her accuser;

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

13.

AND WHEREAS this National Assembly as the highest court of Guyana, is duty bound to adhere to the tenets of natural justice,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Honourable House grant me leave to question, through my counsel, Honourable Dr. Ashni Singh, M.P., Minister of Finance the mover of the motion dated 22nd October, 2009 citing me for contempt of the House.

(Notice Paper No. 413 (M116 Opp 32) published on 2009-12-28)

*17. **DEATH OF MR. NAZIR ALLY, FORMER MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly records its deep regret at the death of Mr. Nazir Ally and pays tribute to his dedicated service as a Member of Parliament from 17th April, 2001 to 2nd May, 2006;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly directs that an expression of its sympathy be conveyed to his bereaved family and relatives.

(Notice Paper No. 414 (M117 Opp 33) published on 2010-01-05)

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

14.

(iii) **COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

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

10th February, 2010.