

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ORDER PAPER**

**FOR THE 151<sup>ST</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION**

**(2006 - 2011) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD**

**AT 2.00 P.M.**

**ON THURSDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2011**

**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-**

**Private Bill**

**\*By Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.**

Petition on behalf of the Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Fire Insurance Company Limited seeking to have introduced in the Assembly a Private Bill to amend the Guyana Trinidad Mutual Fire Insurance Company Limited Ordinance, Chapter 210 of the Kingdom Edition of the Laws of British Guiana (Principal Ordinance).

/...2

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

2.

After the petition is read, the Speaker will put the question that the promoters be allowed to proceed.

(Circulated)

**PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-**

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-**

By the Minister of Human Services and Social Security (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Custody, Contact, Guardianship and Maintenance Bill 2009):

Report of the Special Select Committee on the Custody, Contact, Guardianship and Maintenance Bill 2009 – Bill No. 29/2009.

(Circulated)

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

**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-**

/...3

3.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS-**

**(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**BILLS – Second Readings**

**1. TITLE TO LAND (PRESCRIPTION AND LIMITATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2011 – Bill No. 3/2011 published on 2011-02-25**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Title to Land (Prescription and Limitation) Act.

**(Read a first time on 2011-03-03)**

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

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security (Chairperson of the Special Select Committee on the Custody, Contact, Guardianship and Maintenance Bill 2009) to move the second reading of the following Bill which was referred to a Special Select Committee for consideration and report:

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)**

4.

**MOTION**

3. **OBSERVANCE OF COMMONWEALTH DAY**

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

WHEREAS Commonwealth Day will be celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2011 with the theme “Women as Agents of Change”;

AND WHEREAS the Guyana Parliament and the Executive of the Guyana Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will be duly recognizing this day and holding an activity on the important theme for 2011;

AND WHEREAS we recognize that the London Declaration of 1949 was the start of a new era in which the founding member countries of the Commonwealth committed themselves to working together in partnership and as equals towards a shared future;

AND WHEREAS over these years the Commonwealth has developed into a vibrant association of fifty three (53) independent states representing nearly 2 billion people, a third of the world’s population of which approximately 1 billion are women and girls;

AND WHEREAS whilst there are many challenges remaining such as poverty, civil war, crime, gender equality and domestic violence, the Commonwealth can pride itself on comprising a family of some of the largest democratic independent nations and newly emerging democratic developing nations taking progressive positions on the new challenges of climate change and environmental degradation, the global financial and economic crisis, unequal trade relations and global food security, to name a few;

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AND WHEREAS various organizations have emerged that promote the objectives and principles of the Commonwealth amongst its members such as the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan, the Commonwealth of Learning and the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

AND WHEREAS Guyana is a proud member of the Commonwealth which has benefited from the support of this body in the struggle for the restoration and strengthening of democracy with the presence of international observer missions as well as support of profound parliamentary reforms (2005) and other on – going support to the Parliament of Guyana through the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association;

AND WHEREAS Guyana has not only been a recipient but it has played an important role in promoting democracy and women’s rights as well and contributed with progressive positions on poverty reduction and to the international debate on equitable trade relations and climate change.

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly, recognizes during the Observance of Commonwealth Day 2011, the Commonwealth’s significant contribution to Guyana and other member countries in the promotion of peace, representative democracy and individual liberty and sustainable human development; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly reiterates its recognition and support for the efforts of the Commonwealth to address emerging and old challenges and its endeavours to promote a world of freedom, equality, development and prosperity for all peoples, especially the young and women.

**(Notice Paper No. 513 (M168 Govt 104) published on 2011-02-28)**

6.

**BILLS – Second Reading**

- \*4. **RICE FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 8/2010 published on 2010-07-21**

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

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

**(Read a first time on 2010-07-22)**

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

- \*5. **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)**

- \*6. **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)**

/...7

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

7.

\*7. **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)**

\*8. **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**  
**MOTIONS**

\*9. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL 2006 – Bill No. 26/2006**

Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 52(1), grant leave for the introduction and first reading of the Freedom of Information Bill 2006 – Bill No. 26/2006 –

/...8

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

**8.**

A Bill intituled an Act to give access to information to members of the public.

**(Notice Paper No. 502 (M158 Opp 51) published on 2010-11-09)**

If leave is granted, the Clerk shall read aloud the title of the Bill.

\*10. **BROADCASTING BILL 2010 – Bill No. 3/2010**

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 52(1), grant leave for the introduction and first reading of the Broadcasting Bill 2010 – Bill No. 3/2010 -

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the establishment of a Broadcasting Authority, to provide for their functions, and to provide for the licensing of broadcasting agencies and the encouragement of production and broadcasting of television and radio programmes having relevance generally to life and culture of the people and for consequential and related matters.

**(Notice Paper No. 503 (M159 Opp 52) published on 2010-11-09)**

If leave is granted, the Clerk shall read aloud the title of the Bill.

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



9.

\*11. **POLITICAL PARTIES CAMPAIGN FINANCING**

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Article 162(1)(b) of the Constitution directs GECOM in relation to elections to issue such instructions and ‘take such action as appear to it to be expedient to ensure impartiality, fairness and compliance with the provisions of the Constitution or of any Act of Parliament on the part of persons or performing duties connected with or relating to the matters aforesaid’;

AND WHEREAS the laws relevant to financing campaigns of political parties as contained in Chapter 1:03 Laws of Guyana, Representation of the People Act Part XIII entitled ‘Election Expenses’ are generally considered to be archaic and not meaningful;

AND WHEREAS historically the Chief Elections Officer as the regulator and political parties as contestants in elections, routinely observe these laws in the breach;

AND WHEREAS Guyana has committed to several international instruments and mandates for addressing the issues of political party and campaign financing most notably the following, which explicitly or indirectly address these issues:

- As in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain at the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago April 19, 2009 where CARICOM heads of State reaffirmed their commitment to fostering credibility and public trust in democratic institutions, in particular the legitimacy of electoral processes;

/...10

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

- As in Article 5 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter where strengthening of political parties and other political organizations is recognized as a priority for democracy paying special attention to problems associated with the high cost of election campaigns and the establishment of a balance and transparent system for their financing;
- As in Article 7 Section 3 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to which Guyana acceded on April 16, 2008, and which requires that each state party ‘considers taking appropriate legislative and administrative measures to enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and ... the funding of political parties’;
- As in Article 10 of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption adopted in Maputo on July 11, 2003, each state party shall adopt legislative and other measures to incorporate the principle of transparency in funding of political parties; and prescribe the use of funds to finance political parties;
- As in Recommendation (2003) 4 of the Committee of Ministers for the Council of Europe (CoE) to member states on common rules against corruption in the funding of political parties and electoral campaigns which was adopted by the CoE Committee of Ministers on April 8, 2003. This international instrument primarily focuses on sources of funding – supporting a system that balances private and public financing – and on the merits of disclosure,

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That this National Assembly recognizes that a strong democracy requires healthy political parties, resources to sustain and operate a basic party structure capable of representing people, contributing creatively to the public policy debate, and contesting elections; and that the role of money in politics undeniably influences the quality of democracy and governance;

11.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Government presents to the National Assembly such relevant laws and regulations pertaining to political party campaign financing; curtail abuse of public resources by the incumbent leading up to and during elections as recommended by the Commonwealth Secretariat in order to create a level playing field for contesting parties at elections in Guyana.

**(Notice Paper No. 493 (M154 Opp49) published on 2010-10-22)**

(iii) **COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

12. **ADOPTION OF THE ELEVENTH 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 this National Assembly adopts the Eleventh Report of the Standing Committee, to address matters relating to the appointment of Members of Commissions established under the Constitution, and signify to the President that Justice Prem Persaud (retd.) has been nominated in accordance with Article 198(2)(b) of the Constitution, to be appointed a Member of the Judicial Service Commission

**(Notice Paper No. 520 (M169 PPP/C 20) published on 2011-03-03)**

\*13. **STAFF ISSUES RELATING TO THE AUDIT OFFICE**

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee) to move the following motion:

/...12

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

12.

WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee in examining staff issues relating to the Audit Office noted that the Works and Structure Division and the staff therein were omitted from the Rationalised Job/Position Titles and the Manning Level Chart of the Regulations, the Rules, Policies and Procedures Manual;

AND WHEREAS in order to correct the omission, the Chief Parliamentary Counsel advised that the amendment be published in the Gazette and that the Public Accounts Committee shall, thereafter, lodge the Regulations with the Clerk of the National Assembly together with a notice of motion for confirmation by the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the amendment was published in the Official Gazette, Legal Supplement B No. 2 of 2009 dated 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 and an erratum gazette on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2010,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Rationalised Job/Position Titles and the Manning Level Chart of the Rules, Policies and Procedures Manual be confirmed, as correct, by the National Assembly.

**(Notice Paper No. 485 (M147 Opp 40) published on 2010-07-29)**

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

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

**4<sup>th</sup> March, 2011.**

