

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
ORDER PAPER
FOR THE 11TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND
SESSION
(2002-2003) OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD
AT 2.00 P.M.
ON FRIDAY, 16TH MAY, 2003
IN THE CONVENTION CENTRE, OCEAN VIEW INTERNATIONAL HOTEL,
LILIENDAAL, GREATER 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, ETC.

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS -

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS -

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

**ITEM 1 - FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD
IN BRITISH GUIANA**

The Minister of Foreign Trade and International Co-operation to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the 27th April, 2003, marked the fiftieth anniversary of the first general elections held in British Guiana under universal adult suffrage; and

WHEREAS the 18th May, 2003 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first sitting of the House of Assembly after the aforesaid general elections.

BE IT RESOLVED that the National Assembly

1. Commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the first general elections held under universal adult suffrage on the 27th April, 1953, the winning of those elections by the People's Progressive Party and the election of the Executive Council on the 18th May, 1953 as historic events of national importance; and
2. Pays tribute to all those who played a role in the achievement of the foregoing and particularly to the people of British Guiana united across ethnic and class lines who were mainly responsible for making the momentous achievements possible which eventually led to the independence of Guyana.

(Notice Paper No. 41(M14Govt13) published 2003-05-06)

ITEM 2 - TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE DISCIPLINED FORCES COMMISSION

SUBSTITUTED

The Minister of Education to move the following motion:

WHEREAS article 197A (5) of the Constitution states:

“(5) Disciplined forces commissions may be constituted by the National Assembly from time to time, as may be necessary, with power to examine any matter relating to the public welfare, public safety, public order, defence or security, including the structure and composition of the disciplined forces and make recommendations generally with a view to promoting their greater efficiency, and giving effect to the need in the public interest that the composition of the disciplined forces take account of the ethnic constituents of the population.”

AND WHEREAS the Agreement by the President and the Leader of the Opposition as reflected in the Communique dated 6th May, 2003, provides for the establishment of a Disciplined Forces Commission.

BE IT RESOLVED that,

That the National Assembly approves the establishment of a Disciplined Forces Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that with respect to the Commission, the National Assembly agrees to the following:-

4.

1. The Commission shall comprise five (5) persons, drawn from qualified and competent persons with senior level experience and expertise in any of the following areas: the Judiciary, the legal profession, the Police Forces, other Disciplined Forces, Human Rights organisations, management, or any other relevant discipline or area of expertise, and shall be both investigatory and advisory.
2. The President shall appoint the Chairperson after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition.
3. The President shall also nominate two (2) Commissioners and the Leader of the Opposition shall also nominate two (2), taking account of the need to consult broadly with human right and other organisations.
4. The Commission shall be appointed within two (2) weeks of the meeting between the President and the Leader of the Opposition, held on May 5th 2003 and will complete its task within six (6) months.
5. The Commission shall, in accordance with article 197A(6) of the Constitution, have all the powers and authority of a Commission of Inquiry under the Commission of Inquiry Act, Cap. 19:03 and shall as far as practicable adopt the procedures set out therein.
6. The Commission shall present its report and findings, recommendations and implementation time table to the National Assembly within six (6) months save that the Commission shall give priority to its Inquiry into the Guyana Police Force and shall present an Interim Report thereon to the National Assembly within three (3) months.
7. The Report and Interim Report of the Commission shall be subject to an affirmative resolution of the National Assembly.

8. The findings and recommendations of the Commission that are accepted by the National Assembly shall be implemented within a specified time frame and monitored by the Sector Committee determined by the National Assembly.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Assembly approves,

1. That the Commission shall inquire into the Disciplined Forces, i.e. the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Defence Force, the Guyana Prison and the Guyana Fire Services, and all their branches, departments and units, focusing and making recommendations for their reform, sustained professional development and structure in so doing, the Commission shall pay particular attention to:

- The changing context of the operations of the Disciplined Forces, taking into consideration national and international developments.
- Their relationship with and responsibility to the civilian authorities.
- The methods and processes of achieving greater ethnic balance.
- Operational efficiency and effectiveness including inter service co-operation and collaboration
- Financial and public accountability.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Assembly hereby mandate the Commission shall give priority to its enquiry into the Guyana Police Force and, within three (3) months of the establishment of the Commission, shall examine and, where necessary, make recommendations on the following:

3. The composition, structure, functions and operations of the Guyana Police Force, bearing in mind:
- (a) The changing nature of crime and influence of the traffic in illicit drugs and fire arms, back-tracking and money laundering.

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- (b) The relevance of the recommendations of the International Commission of Jurists, particularly with regard to racial imbalance in the Force, to today's reality.
 - (c) Terms and conditions of employment, remuneration, training, accommodation, criteria for promotion, discipline, equipment and logistical needs.
 - (d) The rules of engagement, including manuals of procedure of operation.
 - (e) The rules, regulations, criteria for granting and controls regarding issuance of firearm licenses.
 - (f) Powers of arrest and detention.
 - (g) Concerns about the adequacy and application of the Coroner's Act.
 - (h) The origin, course and development of allegations of:
 - (a) Extra judicial killings, summary executions and the involvement of sections of the Guyana Police Force in illegal activities.
 - (b) Political interference in the administration, management and conduct of the GPF with reference to the Constitution, The Police Act Chapter 16:01 and all other relevant laws.
 - (i) Attacks on the Police Force and the shooting and killings of members of the GPF.
- 2 Ways in which increased public support and confidence can be achieved. For example, examine ways of improving:
- (a) Police/community relations.
 - (b) The functions and operation of Office of Professional Responsibility and Public Relations.
 - (c) The establishment and functioning of Community Policing Groups.
3. The introduction of best practices from elsewhere based on their applicability to Guyana.
4. The location and staffing of police stations and outposts, particularly in the hinterland, within the context of changed and changing demographic and other relevant considerations.

(Notice Paper No. 45(M18 Govt17) published 2003-05-13)

Bills - Second Reading***ITEM 3 - KIDNAPPING BILL 2002 - Bill No. 15/2002 published 2002-12-05**

The Minister of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Government, to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the punishment of the offences of abduction, wrongful restraint and wrongful confinement for ransom and other related offences and for matters incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 2002-12-05)

***ITEM 4 - THE PHARMACY PRACTITIONERS BILL 2003 - Bill No. 5/2003 published 2003-05-12**

The Minister of Health, on behalf of the Government, to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the incorporation of a pharmacy Council for the registration of pharmacists, practising pharmacists, pharmacist assistants and for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2003-05-15)



S.E. ISAACS

Clerk of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.
16th May, 2003.

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