

PARLIAMENTARY AGENDA

FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY 6th August, 2012 to FRIDAY, 10th August, 2012

MONDAY, 6th August, 2012

SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NIL

MEETINGS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Public Accounts Committee

Time: 2:00 p.m.

**Venue: Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings,
Brickdam, Georgetown.**

- Business:**
- (i) Corrections and Confirmation of Minutes of the 6th Meeting held on 16th July, 2012;
 - (ii) Matters Arising;
 - (iii) To consider draft letter to the Chairman of the Standing Orders Committee re Interpretation of Standing Orders 80(5) and 102(3) respectively;
 - (iv) To consider draft Special Report in relation to the Appointment of staff of the Office of the Auditor General; and
 - (v) .To consider the Audit Office of Guyana Budget proposal for 2013.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

***Not opened to the Public**

TUESDAY, 7th August, 2012

SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NIL

MEETINGS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

NIL

WEDNESDAY, 8th August, 2012

SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NIL

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees

1. Parliamentary Management Committee

Time: 200 p.m.

Venue: Committee Room No. 2 (Ground Floor, west of the main stairway), Public Buildings, Brickdam, Georgetown.

Business: (i) Correction and confirmation of Minutes of the 3rd Meeting held on Wednesday 18th July, 2012;

(ii) Matters Arising;

***Not opened to the Public**

- (iii) Correspondence;
- (iv) Business of the National Assembly;
- (v) Committees and Commission; and
- (vi) Administration:
 - (a) To discuss training for the speaker and Members of Parliament at the house of Common;
 - (b) To discuss the establishment of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, Guyana Branch;
 - (c) To discuss the recommendations contained in the Reports on the training Seminar for Members of Parliament held on the 21st – 22nd May, 2012.
 - (d) To continue discussions on possible membership of Guyana's Parliament to other Parliamentary Association;
 - (e) To discuss Part 2 of the Schools' Outreach Programme;
 - (f) To discuss Part 2 of the Lecture Series;

(g) To discuss the launching of the Parliamentary Magazine; and

(h) To discuss the Partnership walk/environmental project to be undertaken by Members of Parliament.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2. Parliamentary Standing Committee for Constitutional Reform

TIME: 3.00 p.m.

Venue: Committee Room No. 2 (Ground Floor, west of the main stairway), Public Buildings, Brickdam, Georgetown.

- Business:**
- (i) Correction and confirmation of Minutes of the 2nd Meeting held on 17th July, 2012;
 - (ii) Matters Arising;
 - (iii) To discuss outstanding issues from the 8th and 9th Parliament;
 - (iv) To discuss appropriate matters to be address by the Committee; and
 - (v) Agree on a proposed methodology to address the business of the Committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

***Not opened to the Public**

Thursday, 9TH August, 2012

Sitting of the National Assembly

Time: 2.00 p.m.

Venue: Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Brickdam, Georgetown.

Business:

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

1. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/2012

Assembly to resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance to signify the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 1/2012 – Statement of Excess (Current and Capital) Estimates totalling \$1,571,627,044 for the period ended 2012-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 85 (M36 Govt 14) published on 2012-08-02)

(Paper presented on 2012-08-02)

2. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 2/2012

Assembly to resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister of Finance to signify the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 2/2012 – Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$12,168,106,477 for the period ended 2012-12-31.

(Notice Paper No. 86 (M37 Govt 15) published on 2012-08-02)

(Paper presented on 2012-08-02)

MOTION

3. **GUYANA’S FOLLOW-UP TO COMMITMENTS MADE TO THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL WITH REGARD TO HOLDING CONSULTATIONS ON 3 MATTERS (THE ABOLITION OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN THE SCHOOLS, THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY AND THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF CONSENSUAL ADULT SAME SEX RELATIONS AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LESBIANS, GAYS, BI-SEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PERSONS)**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Guyana appeared before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) during the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in May, 2010 and again in September, 2010 where its report was adopted;

AND WHEREAS on October 18, 2010, the Government of Guyana tabled in this National Assembly a “Compendium of Documents on Guyana before the First Universal Periodic Review of the United Nations Human Rights Council, 8th Session May 11, 2010, and the UNHRC 15th Session, September 23, 2010”, the contents of which are referred to in this motion;

AND WHEREAS at the conclusion of its review, Guyana received several recommendations and committed itself to consult on 3 main matters that may be considered controversial in Guyanese society, namely the abolition of corporal punishment (Recommendations 70.36 to 70.41), the abolition of the death penalty (Recommendations 70.23 to 70.35), and the decriminalization of consensual adult same sex relations and discrimination against Lesbians, Gays, Bi-sexual and Trans-gender persons (Recommendations 70.47 to 70.53), with a view to garnering public sentiment which may lead to legislative changes;

AND WHEREAS public consultations with target groups and in geographic regions have commenced on these matters as well as public discussions in the media and amongst civil society organizations;

AND WHEREAS the Government is of the view that parliamentary consideration of these three matters would enhance the national examination procedurally by being the subject of a Special Select Committee which would organize the national consultations in a complimentary credible way,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves of these matters being submitted to the House for consideration by a Special Select Committee established for that purpose;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the following Terms of Reference to guide the work of this Special Select Committee in the determination of:

- (i) The attitude of Guyanese, especially parents and children, to corporal punishment and its possible abolition;
- (ii) The attitude of Guyanese, particularly the families of victims, criminologists, and professionals, on capital punishment and its possible abolition;

- (iii) The attitude of Guyanese of any changes in the legislative provisions and criminal code regarding consensual adult same sex relationships and discrimination, perceived or real, against Lesbians, Gays, Bi-Sexual and Transgender persons;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Parliamentary Special Select Committee presents to this House its work programme and time frame for adoption and implementation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Parliamentary Special Select Committee advises the National Assembly of the status of its work programme periodically and reports its findings and recommendations with regard to any or all of these afore-mentioned matters.

(Notice Paper No. 83 (M34 Govt 13) published on 2012-07-17)

(ii) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

MOTIONS

4. **STEPS TO BE UNDERTAKEN TO ESTABLISH THE INDEPENDENCE AND AUTHORITY OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

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

WHEREAS the Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly as contained in the Report of the Commonwealth Senior Parliamentary Staff Advisor (Sir Michael Davies Report) to the Guyana National Assembly, February, 2005, recommended, *inter alia*, that

“The National Assembly should be given much greater independence in respect of its own budget. Systems should be established within the Parliament Office to undertake the estimating, monitoring, controlling and accounting for the Assembly’s expenditure; and

The Clerk of the National Assembly should become the employer of all staff of the Parliament Office. A larger Personnel Office should be established to carry out these additional responsibilities.”

AND WHEREAS the Guyana Fiduciary Oversight Project Final Framework and Guidelines Report, Volume 2, has recommended at component 6 of its recommendation that, ‘Parliament should employ its own staff, and the Speaker should appoint the Clerk of the House after consultation with all parties’;

AND WHEREAS the Government signaled its acceptance of these recommendations in the 2005 Draft Poverty Reduction Report released on the 21st June, 2005;

AND WHEREAS the basis of these recommendations is the need for Parliament to be fully independent of the Executive,

BE IT RESOLVED:

(1) That a Special Select Committee be appointed to examine these recommendations with a view to advising the National Assembly on the steps to be undertaken to establish the independence and authority of the National Assembly in respect of its own budget; and

(2) That this Special Select Committee examines these recommendations with a view to advising the National Assembly on the steps to be undertaken to

enable the Clerk to become the employing authority of the staff of the Parliament Office;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Special Select Committee submit its final report one month after its appointment.

(Notice Paper No. 50 (M20 Opp 12) published on 2012-04-19)

5. **RESTRICTION ON THE RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE**

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

WHEREAS there shall be a Parliament of Guyana which shall consist of the President and the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Parliament of Guyana has determined that the National Assembly shall hold its sittings at the Public Buildings, Brickdam, Georgetown, Demerara;

AND WHEREAS the sessions of the National Assembly have always been accessible to the public and this right has become established by convention;

AND WHEREAS from the early beginnings of the National Assembly of Guyana there have been public gatherings outside of the Public Buildings; including demonstrations and protests;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution of Guyana in Article 147 enshrines the right of every citizen to enjoy, unhindered, his or her freedom of assemble, association and freedom to

demonstrate peacefully, “that is to say, his or her right to assemble freely, to demonstrate peacefully and to associate with other persons...”

AND WHEREAS the Charter of Civil Society for the Caribbean Community states inter alia, at Article VI:

“The States shall take all appropriate measures to promote and maintain an effectively functioning representational system, including the holding of regular sessions of representatives of the people, and at Article VII

“Every person shall have the right to assemble, demonstrate peacefully and to draw up and present petitions, subjects to such restrictions as may be imposed by national law in the public interest and which are reasonably justifiable in a free and democratic society”

AND WHEREAS the Recommended Benchmarks of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at 9.1.1 (Values of the Legislature) states that the “Legislature shall be accessible, and open to citizens and the Media, subject only to demonstrate public safety and work requirements;

AND WHEREAS it is expected that the Guyana Police Force will take steps to ensure the safety and security of Members of Parliament, the staff of the National assembly, and those who access the said National Assembly;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. This National Assembly declares that the right of citizens to assemble and to demonstrate peacefully should not be hindered by the Guyana Police Force or any other agency or institution of state;

2. The Guyana Police Force should relocate its barricades so as to allow freedom of assemble within a closer proximity of the National Assembly, Public Buildings; and
3. The Parliament Office makes arrangements for the broadcast of National Assembly sittings in the environs of the National Assembly.

(Notice Paper No. 51 (M21 Opp 13) published on 2012-04-23)

6. **OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BILL 2012 – No. 8/2012**

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, 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 Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly Bill 2012 – Bill No. 8/2012 –

A BILL intituled AN ACT to set out the responsibilities and authority of the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly of Guyana and to provide for the establishment and administration of an independent Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly.

(Notice Paper No. 60 (M30 Opp19) published on 2012-06-15)

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

(iii) **COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

MOTION

7. **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE**

Lt. Col. (Ret't) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P. to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Standing Orders Committee be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 82 (M33 Opp21) published on 2012-07-17)

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees

NIL

FRIDAY, 10TH AUGUST, 2012

SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NIL

MEETINGS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

NIL

**Parliament Office,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.**

6th August, 2012.