

PARLIAMENTARY AGENDA

FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, 20th MAY, 2013 - FRIDAY, 24th MAY, 2013

MONDAY, 20th MAY, 2013

SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NIL

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees

**1.*Special Select Committee on Guyana's
Commitment to the United Nations Human Right
Council with Regard to 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**

TIME: 10.00 a.m.

Venue: Committee Room No. 2 (Ground Floor, west of the Main Stairway), Parliament Office, Public Buildings, Brickdam, Georgetown.

Business: (i) **To receive oral presentation from:**
(a) Representative(s) from the rights of the Child Commission @ 10.00 a.m.; and

***Not opened to the public**

- (b) Representative(s) from the Guyana Prison Service @ 11.00 a.m.
- (ii) Correction and confirmation of Minutes of the 6th Meeting held on May, 2013;
- (iii) Matters Arising; and
- (iv) To continue consideration of Matrix highlighting references to Corporal Punishment that applies to the Motion referred to in Resolution No. 23 of 2012.

Any Other Business

2. Public Accounts Committee

Time: 1.00 p.m.

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

- Business:** *(i) Correction and confirmation of Minutes of the 25th Meeting held on 16th May, 2013;
- (ii) Matter Arising;
- (iii) Audit Office:
- Recruitment of Deputy Human Resources Manager- Training and Development;
 - Annual Performance Report for the year 2012;
 - Performance Report for the year 1st quarter (January – March, 2013);
- *(iv) To consider letter re: Establishment of Global

Organization of Parliamentarians against
Corruption (GOPAC) branch in Guyana; and
(v) To consider the nominees for appointment to the
Public Procurement Commission.

Any Other Business

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

**3. *Special Select Committee on the Anti-Money Laundering
and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Amendment)**

Bill No. 12/2013

Time: 4.00 p.m.

Venue: Committee Room No. 1, Committees Division,
Parliament Chamber,
Public Buildings, Brickdam, Georgetown

Business: (i) Correction and confirmation of Minutes of the 3rd
Meeting held on Thursday, 16th May, 2013;
(ii) Matters Arising; and
(iii) To continue consideration of the Anti-Money Laundering
and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (Amendment)
Bill 2013 – Bill No. 12/2013

Any Other Business

***Not opened to the public**

4. *Special Select Committee on the Guyana Cricket Administration Bill 2012 – Bill No. 31/2012

Time: 4.00 p.m.

Venue: Committee Room No. 2 (Ground Floor, West of the Main Stairway), Public Buildings, Brickdam, Georgetown.

- Business:**
- (1) Correction and confirmation of Minutes of the 11th and 12th Meetings held on Monday, 18th March, and Monday, 13th May, 2013;
 - (ii) Matters Arising;
 - (iii) To examine the revised Guyana Cricket Administration Bill with the amendments made by the Committee and the Guyana Cricket Board incorporated therein – prepared by Mr. Cecil Dhurjon, Chief Parliamentary Counsel.
 - (iv) To examine the Constitutions of:
 - the Guyana Cricket Board;
 - the Essequibo Cricket Board; and
 - the Berbice Cricket Board.

Any Other Business

***Not opened to the public**

TUESDAY, 21st MAY, 2013

Sitting of the National Assembly

NIL

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees

NIL

WEDNESDAY, 22nd MAY, 2013

Sitting of the National Assembly

Time: 2.00 p.m.

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

Business:

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) **GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS**

BILLS – Second Readings

1. **CUSTOMS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013–Bill No. 2/2013 published on 2013-01-08**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Customs Act.

(Read a first time on 2013-01-10)

2. **EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 7/2013 published on 2013-02-14**

The Minister of Home Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Evidence Act.

(Read a first time on 2013-03-14)

3. **MOTOR VEHICLES AND ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 –
Bill No. 8/2013 published on 2013-02-14**

The Minister of Home Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road
Traffic Act.

(Read a first time on 2013-03-14)

4. **FIRE SERVICE (CHANGE OF NAME) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 13/2013
published on 2013-05-02**

The Minister of Home Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to rename the Fire Service Act, the Fire
Service and for related purposes.

(Read a first time on 2013-05-07)

5. **POLICE (CHANGE OF NAME) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 14/2013 published on
2013-05-02**

The Minister of Home Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to rename the Police Act, the Police
Force, the Police (Discipline) Act and for related purposes.

(Read a first time on 2013-05-07)

6. **TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL 2012–Bill No.18/2012 published on 2012-08-09**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment of the Telecommunications Agency and for a regular, coordinated, open and competitive telecommunications sector and for matters incidental thereto or connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2012-08-09)

7. **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – Bill No. 17/2012 published on 2012-08-09**

The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Public Utilities Commission Act.

(Read a first time on 2012-08-09)

(i) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

MOTIONS

8. **THE MARRIED PERSONS (PROPERTY) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 9 of 2013**

Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly 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 Married Persons

(Property) (Amendment) Bill 2013 – Bill No. 9 of 2013:-

A Bill intituled AN ACT to amend the Married Persons (Property) Act.

(Notice Paper No. 164 (M 60 Opp.37) published on 2013-03-13)

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

9. **HONOURING THE 21ST AUGUST, 2012 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA AND THE REGIONAL DEMOCRATIC COUNCIL, REGION #10**

Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P. to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the people of Linden have from the time of the announcement by the Government that there would be an increase in electricity tariff, consequent to the government's intended withdrawal of the subsidy, indicated through their pronouncements in the national media, peaceful picketing exercises and other forms of peaceful protest that the community did not have the economic capacity to pay the steep and unconscionable increase in the cost of electricity and therefore saw the decision as an unjust imposition on the people of Linden;

AND WHEREAS the Government continued to take action to impose the increase in the cost of electricity on the people of Linden in total violation of the people's right to be involved in decisions that directly affect them as is explicit in Article 13 of the Constitution which states that, "The principal objective of the State is to establish an inclusionary democracy by providing increasing opportunities for the participation of citizens, and their organizations in the management and decision-making processes of the State, with particular emphasis on those areas of decisions-making that directly affect their well being";

RECOGNISING that the Government was not responsive to the concerns and interests of the people of Linden and therefore left the people of Linden with no

alternative, but to continue to protest;

AND WHEREAS the people of Linden were involved in peaceful protest and were subjected to the uncalled for use of excessive and lethal force by the Guyana Police Force

resulting in the death of Mr. Allen Lewis, Mr. Ron Sommerest, Mr. Shemroy Bouyea and the injuring of scores of unarmed protestors;

AND WHEREAS the use of lethal force rather than instilling fear that was intended, increased the resolve of the people and escalated the protest forcing the Government to respond to concerns of the people of Linden and enter into negotiations with the people of Region 10, represented by their elected and legitimate representatives;

CONCERNED that even while the negotiations were ongoing the Guyana Police and Guyana Defence Forces were used against the people of Linden, including the Indiscriminate shooting and injuring of innocent people in their homes on a quiet Sunday;

NOTING that in the face of such provocation, the Region continued to negotiate with The Government in good faith;

AND WHEREAS these negotiations resulted in the Agreement of 21st August, 2012, between the Government of Guyana and Region 10 Regional Democratic Council signed, on behalf of the Government of Guyana, by the Hon. Prime Minister, Mr. Samuel Hinds, O.E., M.P., and on behalf of Region 10, Regional Democratic Council, by Mr. Sharma Solomon;

AND WHEREAS the full text of the aforesaid written Agreement, which is attached to this motion, contains the details of the Agreement, inclusive of the deadlines for implementation and the actions required to be undertaken by all parties to the Agreement; (See Appendix)

CONCERNED that six (6) months after the signing of the Agreement many aspects of the Agreement have not been implemented, especially the commitment to return the dish and transmitter to the people of Linden, inter alia;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls on the Government of Guyana to immediately adhere to its commitments and obligations under the written Agreement of 21st August, 2012 thereby ensuring that the benefits which were to accrue to the residents of Region 10 are realized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Government of Guyana be held solely accountable and responsible for all direct and indirect consequences flowing from its continued unwillingness to adhere to the letter and spirit of the written Agreement of 21st August, 2012.

(Notice Paper No. 165 (M 61 Opp.38) published on 2013-03-13)

10. **APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THE
INCIDENCE OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN GUYANA**

Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana prescribes at Article 140(1) that "No person shall be held in slavery or servitude;" and, at Article 140(2) that "No person shall be required to perform forced labour;"

AND WHEREAS the state of Guyana is a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Trans-National Organized Crime adopted by General Assembly Resolution 55/25 of 15th November, 2000 and to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; and, further, Guyana has prohibited all forms of trafficking in persons through the Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act 2005;

AND WHEREAS there have been credible reports that undetermined numbers of persons, have been trafficked, kept in involuntary servitude and required to perform forced labour, particularly in the hinterland regions of Guyana, but also elsewhere;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Ch. 19:03, “The President may issue a commission appointing one or more Commissioners and authorizing such Commissioner or Commissioners to inquire into any matter in which an inquiry would, in the opinion of the President, be for the public welfare,”

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly declares its abhorrence at the crime of trafficking in persons; expresses its sympathy with the victims of trafficking; calls for victims to be treated humanely – not as offenders and asserts the responsibility of the State to protect all of its citizens; and

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls upon the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Ch. 19:03, to appoint a commission of inquiry to inquire into the allegations, and to determine the extent, of trafficking in persons and to make recommendations for suppression and abolition of the unlawful trade.

(Notice Paper No. 186 (M 73 Opp 46) published on 2013-05-09)

11. **APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THE
INCIDENCE OF ILLNESS AND DEATHS IN THE BARIMA-WAINI REGION OF
GUYANA**

Brig. (Ret’d) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana prescribes at Article 24 that “Every citizen has the right to free medical attention etc;” and, at Article 36 that, “The well-being for the nation depends upon preserving clean air, fertile soils, pure water, etc;”

AND WHEREAS there have been credible reports that several persons – including a two-month old child, a seven-month old child and a twelve-month old child – have died

and over 500 persons became ill since February, 2013 and several other persons had died and become ill from time to time, from similar causes said to be associated with the supply of water, elsewhere in the same Barima-Waini Region;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Ch. 19:03, "The President may issue a commission appointing one or more Commissioners and authorizing such Commissioner or Commissioners to inquire into any matter in which an inquiry would, in the opinion of the President, be for the public welfare;"

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly expresses its sympathy with the relatives of the deceased children and with the victims of the illness in the Barima-Waini Region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls upon the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Ch. 19:03, to appoint a commission of inquiry to inquire into the illness and deaths of persons and to make recommendations to prevent a recurrence of such illness and deaths and to preserve the well-being of the residents of the Barima-Waini Region.

(Notice Paper No. 187 (M 74 Opp 47) published on 2013-05-09)

(iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS

MOTION

12. **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL WITH REGARD TO 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 (RESOLUTION NO. 23 OF 2012)

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Special Select Committee of the National Assembly on the United Nations Human Rights Council with regard to 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 (Resolution No. 23 Of 2012), outlining its work programme on the abolition of corporal punishment in the schools be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 166 (M 62 Committee 3) published on 2013-03-18)

THURSDAY, 23rd MAY, 2013

Sitting of the National Assembly

NIL

Meetings of Parliament Committees

***Special Select Committee on the Local Government**

(Amendment) Bill 2012 –Bill No. 12/2012; Local Government

Commission Bill 2012-Bill No. 13/2012; Municipal and District

Councils (Amendment) Bill 2012- Bill No. 19/2012; And the Fiscal

Transfer Transfer Bill 2012-Bill No. 20/2012

Time: 4.00 p.m.

Venue: Committee Room No.1, Committees Division, Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings, Brickdam, Georgetown.

- Business:**
- (i) Correction and confirmation of minutes of the 14th Meeting held on 17th May, 2013;
 - (ii) Matters Arising;
 - (iii) To consider the Deferred/Parked Clauses of the Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2012-Bill No. 12/2012; and
 - (iv) To consider submissions from the Experts in conjunction with the Chief Parliament Counsel on the Schedule of the Fiscal Transfers Bill 2012-Bill No. 20/2012.

Any Other Business

***Not opened to the Public**

FRIDAY, 24th MAY, 2013

Sitting of the National Assembly

NIL

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees

NIL

Parliament Office,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

20th May, 2013.