

PARLIAMENTARY AGENDA

FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, 4th FEBRUARY, 2013 - FRIDAY, 8th FEBRUARY, 2013

MONDAY, 4th FEBRUARY, 2013

SITTING OF THE NATIONAL

ASSEMBLY

NIL

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees

1. Public Accounts Committee

TIME: 1.30 p.m.

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

- Business:**
- (i) Correction and confirmation of Minutes of the 19th Meeting held on 28th January, 2013;
 - (ii) Matters Arising;
 - (iii) To consider the time for the commencement of Public Accounts Committee Meetings;

- (iv) To consider letter re: Establishment of a Global Organization of Parliamentarians against Corruption (GOPAC) branch in Guyana; and
- (v) To commence examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the fiscal years ended 31st December, 2010 and 2011, together with the Report of the Auditor General thereon, in respect of the following:

Ministry/Department/Other	Paragraph in Auditor General's Report	Accounting Officer
1.Region 4 – Demerara/Mahaica	393-398 (6) (2010) 410-432 (22) (2011)	Mr. Deolall Rooplall

Any Other Business

***2. 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:**
- (i) Correction and confirmation of Minutes of the 4th Meeting held on 28th January, 2013;
 - (ii) Matters Arising;

***Not opened to the public**

- (iii) To examine the recommitted Clauses of the Bill; and
- (iv) To continue consideration of the Guyana Cricket Administration Bill 2012-Bill No. 31/2012.

Any Other Business

TUESDAY, 5th FEBRUARY, 2013

Sitting of the National Assembly

NIL

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees

NIL

WEDNESDAY, 6th FEBRUARY, 2013

Sitting of the National Assembly

NIL

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees

***Special Select Committee on the Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill
2012-Bill No. 11 of 2012**

Time: 3.00 p.m.

Venue: Committee Room No. 2, Public Buildings, Brickdam,
Georgetown.

- Business:**
- (i) To correct and confirm the Minutes of the 1st Meeting held on the 28th November, 2012;
 - (ii) To consider the submission by the Guyana Bar Association on the Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill 2012, Bill No. 11 of 2012; and
 - (iii) To consider the Deeds Registry (Amendment) Bill 2012, Bill No. 11 of 2012.

Any Other Business

***Not opened to the public**

THURSDAY, 7th FEBRUARY, 2013

Sitting of the National Assembly

Time: 2.00 p.m.

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

Business:

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. CARIFORUM NEGOTIATORS

Member Asking: Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs

During the course of her closing comments in the debate concerning the ratification of the CARIFORUM Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) on 10th May, 2012, Minister Rodrigues-Birkett claimed that “we have learned many things from that process, Caricom in particular. We have learned that we must pay our own negotiators. We must not let people who are negotiating with pay our negotiators. We are now negotiating with Canada and we have taken that decision because there were times when one could not differentiate from (SIC) who is paying and who was negotiating. I must say that I say some of that here today...”

Would the Minister be good enough to say:-

- (i) In which particular EPA negotiations she participated, what evidence she has to support this claim of malfeasance on the part of CARIFORUM negotiators and which other CARIFORUM state has made such a complaint?

- (ii) Attached is the list of Members of the CARIFORUM's College of Negotiators for the EPA, would the Minister please indicate:
- (a) Which of these persons was paid for their services?
 - (b) Which were paid by the EU, who requested that they be paid and the mechanism by which they were paid?
- (iii) What proportion of the cost of the EPA negotiations was borne by CARIFORUM member states?
- (iv) How does the funding arrangements for the Canada/CARICOM negotiations differ from that of the EPA in relation to the payment of negotiators and the funding of the workshops and negotiating sessions?
- (Notice Paper No.122 (Q 68 Opp. 67) published on 2013-01-07)

2. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – HOPE CANAL CONSTRUCTION

Member Asking: Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Natural Resources and Environment

- (i) Since the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1996 made it a requirement that environmental impact assessments be done in relation to projects which include dams or constructions designed to hold liquid or store it, why was not an environmental impact assessment (EIA) done on the Hope Canal construction?
- (ii) Was this omission to carry out an environmental impact assessment on the Hope Canal construction, not a violation of the Environmental Protection Act 1996?
- (iii) Did the Developer of the Hope Canal Project submit any data to the Environmental Protection Agency?

- (iv) Did the Environmental Protection Agency publish any information on the Hope Canal Project more particularly as to whether the Project may or may not significantly affect the environment?
- (v) Was an Environmental Authorisation issued by the Environmental Protection Agency? Could a photocopy be issued to the National Assembly?
- (vi) If some alternative called an Environmental Plan was submitted, could a copy of that Plan be shared with the National Assembly?
(Notice Paper No.123 (Q 69 Opp. 68) published on 2013-01-07)

3. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THREE (3) LAND FILLING SITES

Member Asking: Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

On 28th November, 2012, a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) was signed for three (3) land filling sites. Could the Honourable Minister say to this Honourable House:-

- (a) What criteria were used in identifying these sites?
(b) Were there any consultations with the residents in the various areas?
(Notice Paper No.124 (Q 70 Opp. 69) published on 2013-01-07)

4. TOLL FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN TO CROSS THE BERBICE RIVER BRIDGE

Member Asking: Ms Jennifer Wade, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Works

The cost for a school child to cross the Berbice River Bridge is eight hundred (\$800.00) dollars daily.

Could the Honourable Minister say to this Honourable House if there are plans to reduce the toll for school children in 2013?

(Notice Paper No.125 (Q 71 Opp. 70) published on 2013-01-07)

5. SYNTHETIC TRACK AT LEONORA

Member Asking: Mr. John Adams, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

- (i) Could the Honourable Minister say to this Honourable House the status of the synthetic tract at Leonora, West Coast Demerara?
- (ii) How much money has been expended so far on this project?
- (iii) What is the projected date of the completion of this project?

(Notice Paper No.126 (Q 72 Opp. 71) published on 2013-01-07)

6. NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND POLICY

Member Asking: Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Could the Honourable Minister inform this Honourable House whether her Ministry will be abolishing the no child left behind policy? If so, how soon?

(Notice Paper No.127 (Q 73 Opp. 72) published on 2013-01-07)

7. COMPULSORY NURSERY EDUCATION

Member Asking: Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Could the Honourable Minister inform this Honourable House whether her Ministry will be:-

- (i) Making Nursery Schools in Guyana compulsory?
- (ii) If, yes, how soon and if no, why?

(Notice Paper No.128 (Q 74 Opp. 73) published on 2013-01-07)

8. FIRST YEAR STUDENTS OF THE CYRIL POTTER COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Member Asking: Ms Vanessa Kissoon, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

- (i) Could the Honourable Minister inform this Honourable House why the first year students of the Cyril Potter College of Education 2010-2011 have to pay thirty eight thousand (\$38,000.00) dollars for laptops?
- (ii) Could the Honourable Minister inform this Honourable House and the people of Guyana, whether the first year students of the Cyril Potter College of Education 2010-2011 would receive the laptops that were meant for them?

(Notice Paper No.129 (Q 75 Opp. 74) published on 2013-01-07)

9. PUBLIC DEBT

Member Asking: Mr. Moses Nagamootoo, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Finance

- (i) Can the Hon. Minister say what was the total public debt (both foreign and local) in US and Guyana dollars equivalent, as at September 30, 1992?
- (ii) Can the Hon. Minister say what was the public debt in US and Guyana dollars equivalent, as at March 30, 2012?
- (iii) Can the Hon. Minister confirm that the public debt at 31st December, 2010 was G\$338,432,786,000.00 (three hundred and thirty eight billion, four hundred and thirty

two million, seven hundred and eighty six thousand dollars)? If not, what is the accurate amount?

- (iv) Can the Minister confirm that the public debt as at 31st December, 2011 was G\$378,850,385,000.00 (three hundred and seventy eight billion, eight hundred and fifty million, three hundred and eighty five thousand dollars)? If not, what is the accurate amount?

(Notice Paper No.130 (Q 76 Opp. 75) published on 2013-01-09)

For Oral Reply

10. NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY

Member Asking: Mr. Christopher Jones, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

WHEREAS it was reported in the Stabroek News of Wednesday, 9th January, 2013, that representatives of FIFA and CONCAF will be visiting Guyana shortly to seek reconciliation in the long running chaos between GFA and GFF;

AND WHEREAS the administration of cricket is in a similar state of chaos;

- (i) * Could the Honourable Minister state whether there exist, a National Sports Policy and if so, what is the state of implementation of this Policy?
- (ii) * Could the Honourable Minister also confirm that a National Sports Policy document was prepared by a Doctor Hick from Canada with assistance from UNDP and what has happened to that document?

(Notice Paper No.132 (Q 77 Opp. 76) published on 2013-01-16)

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. **LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ELECTIONS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 3/2013 published on 2013-01-09**

The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Authorities (Elections) Act to provide for the postponement of elections of councillors of local democratic organs.

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

3. **SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE (APPEAL) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 6/2013 published on 2013-01-25**

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 Court of Appeal Act and the High Court Act.

(Read a first time on 2013-01-25)

4. **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)

5. **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)

(ii) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

MOTIONS

6. **THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENCE OF CRIMINAL VIOLENCE FROM 2004 TO 2010 IN GUYANA**

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

WHEREAS, Article 138(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Guyana prescribes that no person shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of the sentence of a court in respect of an offence under the Laws of Guyana of which he has been convicted;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 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”;

AND WHEREAS this country has witnessed a pattern of unlawful killing of undetermined numbers of persons – including assassinations; executions; murders; extra-judicial killings by members of the Guyana Police Force Target Special Squad and other forms of criminal violence in

Guyana during a period of ‘troubles’ on the East Coast and East Bank of Demerara and elsewhere – which were harmful to the public welfare;

AND WHEREAS several of these killings have been of a deliberate and systematic nature – particularly those which occurred at Agricola; Bartica; Buxton; Eccles; Lindo Creek; Lusignan and Bel Air, Bourda and Kitty in Georgetown – which can be classified as massacres and have engendered alarm and despondency among the population;

AND WHEREAS some killings involved members of the Guyana Police Force, the Guyana Defence Force and unidentified criminal gangs in which gangsters were equipped with a variety of electronic ‘eavesdropping’ equipment, weapons and vehicles that were provided with assistance and support by members of the Guyana Police Force;

AND WHEREAS commissions of inquiry and coroners’ inquests have not been conducted into some unnatural deaths and criminal investigation reports by the Guyana Police Force, with regard to the most egregious of these crimes, have often been inconclusive;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly is the supreme legislative forum of our Republic wherein the people’s elected representatives discuss and determine matters of national interest and which is obliged to consider the grave threats to the public welfare and public security which prevailed during the aforesaid period of the ‘troubles’ and which remain substantially uninvestigated,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly condemns the killing of citizens of Guyana which occurred during the period of the ‘troubles’ and expresses its concern that commissions of inquiry have not been convened to investigate the unlawful killings, including the assassination of a Minister of the Government in April, 2006, on the East Coast of Demerara;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls upon the President of Guyana, in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03, to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to inquire into the unlawful killing of citizens during the years 2004 to 2010.

(Notice Paper No. 112 (M47 Opp 29) published on 2012-12-12)

7. **THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2013 – Bill No. 4 of 2013**

Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, 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 Constitution (Amendment)

Bill 2013 – Bill No. 4 of 2103:-

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Constitution of Guyana in accordance with Article 164 of the Constitution of Guyana.

(Notice Paper No. 133 (M 56 Opp.33) published on 2013-01-16)

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

8. **THE FISCAL MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (AMENDMENT)**

BILL 2013 – Bill No. 5 of 2013

Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, 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 Fiscal Management and Accountability (Amendment) Bill 2013 – Bill No. 5 of 2103:-

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Fiscal Management and Accountability Act 2003.

(Notice Paper No. 134 (M 57 Opp.34) published on 2013-01-16)

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

9. **RESTORATION OF GEORGETOWN**

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Georgetown is the capital city of Guyana, commonly known as ‘Garden City of the Caribbean’;

AND WHEREAS the expanded boundaries of the city of Georgetown have placed severe strain and pressures on the drainage systems. In addition the heavy siltation of canals, the dumping of refuse and various other kinds of items which block drains, the lack of maintenance of the outfall channels have all led to poor drainage of the city;

AND WHEREAS refuse collection and disposal have reached a critical point where large amounts of garbage are being dumped on street corners, open spaces and canals, creating public nuisance and health hazards;

AND WHEREAS many construction sites continue to block drains and dispose of waste on city parapets and in many instances create stagnant pools of water that encourage the breeding of mosquitoes;

AND WHEREAS the Georgetown City Council is unable to carry out its mandate as prescribed in the Municipal and District Councils Act of 1969 and the Local Democratic Organs Act of 1980, due to the severe under-collection of taxes, rents and fees as well as the miserly subvention received from Central Government,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana commits its support towards the restoration of our Capital City, Georgetown;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly calls upon the Government to:

- (i) Utilize every machinery, work force, and agencies at its disposal and command in conjunction with the Georgetown City Council, Members of the National Assembly, the business and commercial sector, NGOs, Clubs and citizens in the removal of garbage, abandoned vehicles and builders waste as well as the de-siltation of canals and alleyways over the next three (3) months in an effort to “Restore Georgetown to the Garden City of the Caribbean”; and
- (ii) That the Government establishes a Committee consisting of Members of Parliament, Officials of the Georgetown City Council, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and the Ministry of Transport and Hydraulics to monitor the progress of the restoration of Georgetown and report to the National Assembly within four (4) months of the establishment of the Committee.

(Notice Paper No. 135 (M 58 Opp.35) published on 2013-01-22)

Meetings of Parliamentary Committees

***1. Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations**

Time: During the suspension of Sitting of the National Assembly for refreshments.

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

Business: Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee.

Any Other Business

***2. Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Natural Resources**

Time: During the suspension of Sitting of the National Assembly for refreshments.

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

***Not opened to the public**

Public Building, Brickdam, Stabroek, Georgetown.

Business: - Election of Chairperson and vice Chairperson of the Committee.

Any Other Business

***3. Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services**

Time: During the suspension of Sitting of the National Assembly for refreshments.

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

Business: - Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee.

Any Other Business

***4. Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services**

Time: During the suspension of Sitting of the National Assembly for refreshments.

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

Business: - Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee.

Any Other Business

***Not opened to the public**

FRIDAY, 8th FEBRUARY, 2013

Sitting of the National Assembly

NIL

Meetings of Parliamentary 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 Bill 2012-Bill No. 20/2012

Time : 5.00 p.m.

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

- Business:**
- (i) Correction and confirmation of Minutes of the 4th and 5th Meetings held on 23rd and 30th January, 2013, respectively;
 - (ii) Matters Arising;
 - (iii) To consider the deferred Clauses in the Local Government Commission Bill 2012 –Bill No. 13/2012; and
 - (iv) To consider the Fiscal Transfers Bill 2012-Bill No. 20/2012.

Any Other Business

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

4th February, 2013.

***Not opened to the public**