

TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION (2012)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION NO. 23

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;

2.

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,

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;

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;

FURTHER RESOLVED,

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

3.

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.

Passed by the National Assembly on Thursday, 9th August, 2012.

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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA

FIRST SESSION (2012)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION NO. 24

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:

2.

“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;

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

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3.

3. The Parliament Office makes arrangements for the broadcast of National Assembly sittings in the environs of the National Assembly.

Passed by the National Assembly on Thursday, 9th August, 2012.

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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

**TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA
FIRST SESSION (2012)
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

RESOLUTION NO. 25

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.

Passed by the National Assembly on Thursday, 9th August, 2012.

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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

**TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA
FIRST SESSION (2012)
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

RESOLUTION NO. 26

RESOLVED,

That the Report of the Standing Orders Committee be adopted.

Passed by the National Assembly on Thursday, 9th August, 2012.

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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly