

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA – FIRST SESSION (2020-2023)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE PAPER NO. 261

Member Giving Notice: **Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.**

MOTION

RESCISSION OF RESOLUTION NO. 35 OF 2022 – AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDER NO. 82 (PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE)

WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was established in British Guiana in 1957 by Standing Order 70 (2) and is now provided for by Standing Order 82 of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) derives its mandate from Article 223(5-8) of the Constitution of Guyana (2003) and Standing Order (82) of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) exercises supervisory oversight of the functioning of the Audit Office in accordance with the Rules, Policies, and Procedures Manual, the Audit Act, and any other Law;

AND WHEREAS the duty of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is to examine the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by the Assembly to meet Public Expenditure and such other accounts laid before the Assembly as the Assembly may refer to the Committee together with the Auditor General's Report thereon;

2.

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) examines the economy and the efficiency of the administration of these public expenditures by: a) All central and local government bodies and entities; b) All bodies and entities in which the state has a controlling interest; and c) All projects funded by way of taxes, loans or grants by any foreign state or organization;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) exercises powers in keeping with the Legislative Bodies Evidence Act, Chapter 1:08, allowing, for the summoning of witnesses to give evidence and or provide documents to the Committee;

AND WHEREAS Resolution No. 35 of the National Assembly of Guyana passed on Wednesday, 13th April, 2022, amended Standing Order 82 by inserting immediately after paragraph (3), the following paragraph - "(4) A quorum shall be five (5) members, two (2) representing the Government, two (2) representing the Opposition and the Chairperson;

AND WHEREAS before Resolution No. 35, a quorum for Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was in keeping with Standing Order 95 (6) which states, "Unless the Assembly otherwise direct, three (3) Members shall be the quorum. In ascertaining whether there is a quorum present, the Member in the Chair shall not be excluded.";

AND WHEREAS since the existence of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), its work has always gone unhindered up until Resolution No. 35 of the National Assembly of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is yet to complete the examination of the Auditor General Reports for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is yet to submit reports to the National Assembly for the financial years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021;

/...3

3.

AND WHEREAS since Resolution No. 35, eleven (11) meetings of the Public Accounts Committee have been canceled due to the lack of a quorum;

AND WHEREAS on all eleven (11) occasions it was due to no member of the Government side showing up for the Public Accounts Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly rescinds Resolution No.35 which was passed by the National Assembly on Wednesday, 13th April, 2022.

(Notice Paper No. 261 (M65 Opp. 12) published on 2023-06-08)

Date Received: 2023-04-03

Date for Order Paper: 2023-06-21