

TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA – FIRST SESSION (2012)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE PAPER NO. 51

Member Giving Notice: **Mr. Desmond Trotman, M.P.**

MOTION

RESTRICTION ON THE RIGHT TO ASSEMBLE

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...”

2.

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

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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.

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