

TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA – FIRST SESSION (2012)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE PAPER NO. 83

Member Giving Notice: **The Prime Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs**

MOTION

**GUYANA’S FOLLOW-UP TO COMMITMENTS MADE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL WITH REGARD TO HOLDING CONSULTATIONS ON 3
MATTERS (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)**

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;

2.

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;

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,

BE IT 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;

BE IT 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;

3.

- (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;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

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

BE IT 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.

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