

TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA – FIRST SESSION (2012 – 2013)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE PAPER NO. 131

**Member Giving Notice: Brig. (Ret'd) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P.,
Leader of the Opposition**

MOTION

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, in its Preamble, declares that, “We the Guyanese People...proclaim our commitment to “Safeguard and build on the rich heritage, won through tireless struggle, bequeathed us by our forebears;” and further proclaims that we should “Celebrate our cultural and racial diversity and strengthen our unity by eliminating any and every form of discrimination”;

AND WHEREAS the said Constitution, at Article 35, states further, “The state honours and respects the diverse cultural strains which enrich the society and will seek constantly to promote national appreciation of them at all levels and to develop out of them a socialist national culture for Guyana”;

AND WHEREAS indentured immigrant labourers from Madeira arrived in the colony of British Guiana one hundred and seventy eight years ago, on 3rd May, 1835;

AND WHEREAS indentured immigrant labourers from China arrived in the colony of British Guiana one hundred and sixty years ago, on 12th January, 1853;

2.

AND WHEREAS indentured immigrant labourers from India arrived in British Guiana one hundred and seventy five years ago, on 5th May, 1838;

AND WHEREAS liberated captive Africans arrived in the colony of British Guiana one hundred and seventy two years ago, in May 1841;

AND WHEREAS the indigenous peoples of Guyana observe “Amerindian Heritage Day” each year on 10th September;

AND WHEREAS enslaved Africans rose, in what is known as the Berbice Revolt, on the Berbice Plantation of Hollandia two hundred and fifty years ago on 27th February, 1763;

AND WHEREAS enslaved Africans rose, in what is known as the Demerara Revolt, on several Demerara Plantations one hundred and ninety years ago on 18th August, 1823;

AND WHEREAS enslaved Africans regained their freedom one hundred and seventy five years ago on 11th August, 1838;

AND WHEREAS the State, from time to time, may consider the erection of monuments, the observance of events, the publication of educational and historical texts, films, broadcasts and other educational materials in order to satisfy the various cultural needs of the people of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS the National Assembly is the supreme legislative forum of our Republic wherein the people’s elected representatives – from both the legislative and executive branches – discuss and determine matters of national interest and importance;

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3.

AND WHEREAS due recognition should be given to the rights and consideration given to the cultural needs of all Guyanese,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls for the immediate establishment of a National Heritage Commission to be charged, inter alia, with responsibilities for:

- (i) The promulgation of a National Cultural Policy which “honours and respects the diverse cultural strains which enrich the society and will seek constantly to promote national appreciation of them at all levels; and
- (ii) The commemoration of events and the establishment of memorials which “Celebrate our cultural and racial diversity and strengthen our unity by eliminating any and every form of discrimination”.

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