

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA – FIRST SESSION (2020-2021)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NOTICE PAPER NO. 53

Member Asking: Ms. Amanza Walton-Desir, LL.M, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation

QUESTION

AGREEMENT WITH CORMAC GROUP LLC

The Government of Guyana through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on December 28, 2020 entered into a six-month Agreement with Cormac Group LLC to provide lobbying services on behalf of the Government and by extension the people of Guyana. The Contract was signed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ms. Elizabeth Harper.

In this connexion:

1. Can the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs provide the criteria used for the selection of the Cormac Group LLC?
2. Can the Minister map the various foreign policy scenarios that informed the choice of the specific firm?
3. Can the Minister indicate the procurement process utilized to hire Cormac Group LLC?
4. Can the Minister indicate whether other firms/groups were considered, the names of those groups/firms and indicate also the considerations which gave Cormac Group LLC the competitive advantage over the other firms/groups?
5. Can the Minister indicate to what extent will there be overlap with the functions of foreign service personnel, particularly personnel in Washington D.C?

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6. Can the Minister state whether our Mission in Washington D.C is equipped to adequately represent Guyana's interests? If it is so, why did the Government deem it necessary to hire Cormac Group LLC? If not, what are the actions being taken to equip the Washington Mission with the required resources?
7. Given that the terms of the contract indicate that representation is being made on behalf of Guyana, can the Minister say what reporting mechanism has been established to inform the people of Guyana on the progress with the tasks assigned (save those with national security implications)?
8. Given that the Legislature is a branch of Government, what mechanisms are being put in place to ensure that the Opposition Parties in the National Assembly are engaged in this process with Cormac Group LLC?
9. Can the Minister undertake to update the Foreign Relations Sector Committee on Quarterly basis on the progress made by the Group?

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