

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 135TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION

(2006 - 2010) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER, 2010

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

BUSINESS FOR SITTING

PRAYERS

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER-

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT-

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS-

Private Bill

***By Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P.**

Petition on behalf of the Guyana and Trinidad Mutual Fire Insurance Company Limited seeking to have introduced in the Assembly a Private Bill to amend the Guyana Trinidad Mutual Fire Insurance Company Limited Ordinance, Chapter 210 of the Kingdom Edition of the Laws of British Guiana (Principal Ordinance).

/...2

***Not to be proceeded with at this sitting**

2.

After the petition is read, the Speaker will put the question that the promoters be allowed to proceed.

(Circulated)

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:

High Court Rules 2010 – No.4 of 2010.

(To be Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. PAYMENT OF OLD AGE PENSION 2002 – 2009

Member Asking: Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Could the Hon. Minister state how many people were in receipt of old age pension in 2002 to 2009?

(Notice Paper No. 494(Q342 Opp317) published on 2010-10-22)

3.

2. **GEOTECHNICAL REPORT FOR THE ALIGNMENT OF THE HOPE CANAL**

Member Asking: Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

In view of the government's stated willingness to embrace transparency and accountability, will the Hon. Minister make available to the AFC the geotechnical report for the alignment of the Hope Canal? If so, how soon?

(Notice Paper No. 496(Q344 Opp319) published on 2010-10-22)

3. **STRUCTURAL DRAWINGS FOR 4 DOOR SLUICES**

Member Asking: Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

Will the Hon. Minister state whether structural drawings have been done for the four door sluice across the Conservancy Dam and for the four door sluice with spill weir? If so, how soon can the AFC get access to copies of them?

(Notice Paper No. 497(Q345 Opp320) published on 2010-10-22)

For Oral Reply

4. **CHIEF JUSTICE PENSION ORDER NO. 16/2010**

Member Asking: Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Finance

Could the Hon. Minister say –

- (i) *What was the basis for making the Chief Justice's Pension Order No. 16/2010?
- (ii) *Why did the Order place the personal emoluments of the Chief Justice at the same level of the Chancellor of the Judiciary?

(Notice Paper No. 495(Q343 Opp318) published on 2010-10-22)

4.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS-

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND MOVED BY A MINISTER-

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

PUBLIC BUSINESS -

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Reading

- *1. **RICE FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL 2010 – Bill No. 8/2010 published on 2010-07-21**

The Minister of Agriculture to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Rice Factories Act 1998.

(Read a first time on 2010-07-22)

BILLS – Second Readings, Committee and Third Readings

- *2. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 23/2009 published 2009-06-03**

The Assembly to proceed upon the further stages of the following Bill, after the Special Select Committee has reported thereon:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Government Act.

(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-06-04)

***Not to be proceeded with at this sitting**

5.

***3. FISCAL TRANSFERS BILL 2009 - Bill No. 25/2009 published on 2009-06-11**

The Assembly to proceed upon the further stages of the following Bill, after the Special Select Committee has reported thereon:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the formulation and implementation of objective criteria for the purpose of the allocation of resources to and the garnering of resources by local democratic organs and for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-06-11)

***4. MUNICIPAL AND DISTRICT COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – Bill No. 26/2009 published on 2009-06-11**

The Assembly to proceed upon the further stages of the following Bill, after the Special Select Committee has reported thereon:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Municipal and District Councils Act.

(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-06-11)

***5. CUSTODY, CONTACT, GUARDIANSHIP AND MAINTENANCE BILL 2009 – Bill No. 29/2009 published on 2009-06-25**

The Assembly to proceed upon the further stages of the following Bill, after the Special Select Committee has reported thereon:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the granting of custody, contact, guardianship and maintenance rights with respect to children and for connected purposes.

(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-06-25)

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***Not to be proceeded with at this sitting**

6.

***6. CHILDCARE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BILL 2009 – Bill No. 31/2009
published on 2009-07-08**

The Assembly to proceed upon the further stages of the following Bill, after the Special Select Committee has reported thereon:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to regulate childcare services and to provide for parameters for the granting of licences for childcare and development services and connected matters.

(Read a first time and committed to the Special Select Committee on 2009-07-09)

**(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS
MOTIONS**

7. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION BILL 2006 – Bill No. 26/2006

Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 52(1), grant leave for the introduction and first reading of the Freedom of Information Bill 2006 – Bill No. 26/2006 –

A Bill intituled an Act to give access to information to members of the public.

(Notice Paper No. 502 (M158 Opp 51) published on 2010-11-09)

If leave is granted, the Clerk shall read aloud the title of the Bill.

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7.

*8. **BROADCASTING BILL 2010 – Bill No. 3/2010**

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P., to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 52(1), grant leave for the introduction and first reading of the Broadcasting Bill 2010 – Bill No. 3/2010 -

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the establishment of a Broadcasting Authority, to provide for their functions, and to provide for the licensing of broadcasting agencies and the encouragement of production and broadcasting of television and radio programmes having relevance generally to life and culture of the people and for consequential and related matters.

(Notice Paper No. 503 (M159 Opp 52) published on 2010-11-09)

If leave is granted, the Clerk shall read aloud the title of the Bill.

*9. **POLITICAL PARTIES CAMPAIGN FINANCING**

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Article 162(1)(b) of the Constitution directs GECOM in relation to elections to issue such instructions and ‘take such action as appear to it to be expedient to ensure

impartiality, fairness and compliance with the provisions of the Constitution or of any Act of Parliament on the part of persons or performing duties connected with or relating to the matters aforesaid’;

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***Not to be proceeded with at this sitting**

8.

AND WHEREAS the laws relevant to financing campaigns of political parties as contained in Chapter 1:03 Laws of Guyana, Representation of the People Act Part XIII entitled ‘Election Expenses’ are generally considered to be archaic and not meaningful;

AND WHEREAS historically the Chief Elections Officer as the regulator and political parties as contestants in elections, routinely observe these laws in the breach;

AND WHEREAS Guyana has committed to several international instruments and mandates for addressing the issues of political party and campaign financing most notably the following, which explicitly or indirectly address these issues:

- As in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain at the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago April 19, 2009 where CARICOM heads of State reaffirmed their commitment to fostering credibility and public trust in democratic institutions, in particular the legitimacy of electoral processes;
- As in Article 5 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter where strengthening of political parties and other political organizations is recognized as a priority for democracy paying special attention to problems associated with the high cost of election campaigns and the establishment of a balance and transparent system for their financing;
- As in Article 7 Section 3 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to which Guyana acceded on April 16, 2008, and which requires that each state party ‘considers

taking appropriate legislative and administrative measures to enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and ... the funding of political parties’;

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9.

- As in Article 10 of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption adopted in Maputo on July 11, 2003, each state party shall adopt legislative and other measures to incorporate the principle of transparency in funding of political parties; and prescribe the use of funds to finance political parties;
- As in Recommendation (2003) 4 of the Committee of Ministers for the Council of Europe (CoE) to member states on common rules against corruption in the funding of political parties and electoral campaigns which was adopted by the CoE Committee of Ministers on April 8, 2003. This international instrument primarily focuses on sources of funding – supporting a system that balances private and public financing – and on the merits of disclosure,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly recognizes that a strong democracy requires healthy political parties, resources to sustain and operate a basic party structure capable of representing people, contributing creatively to the public policy debate, and contesting elections; and that the role of money in politics undeniably influences the quality of democracy and governance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Government presents to the National Assembly such relevant laws and regulations pertaining to political party campaign financing; curtail abuse of public resources by the incumbent leading up to and during elections as recommended by the

Commonwealth Secretariat in order to create a level playing field for contesting parties at elections in Guyana.

(Notice Paper No. 493 (M154 Opp49) published on 2010-10-22)

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10.

(iii) COMMITTEES BUSINESS

MOTIONS

10. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF GUYANA FOR THE YEAR 2006

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee) to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly adopts the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on its examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 2006 and refer the Report to the Government for consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 500 (M156 Opp 50) published on 2010-11-04)

***11. STAFF ISSUES RELATING TO THE AUDIT OFFICE**

Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P. (Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee) to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee in examining staff issues relating to the Audit Office noted that the Works and Structure Division and the staff therein were omitted from the Rationalised Job/Position Titles and the Manning Level Chart of the Regulations, the Rules, Policies and Procedures Manual;

AND WHEREAS in order to correct the omission, the Chief Parliamentary Counsel advised that the amendment be published in the Gazette and that the Public Accounts Committee shall, thereafter, lodge the Regulations with the Clerk of the National Assembly together with a notice of motion for confirmation by the National Assembly;

/...11

***Not to be proceeded with at this sitting**

11.

AND WHEREAS the amendment was published in the Official Gazette, Legal Supplement B No. 2 of 2009 dated 18th March, 2009 and an erratum gazette on 20th July, 2010,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Rationalised Job/Position Titles and the Manning Level Chart of the Rules, Policies and Procedures Manual be confirmed, as correct, by the National Assembly.

(Notice Paper No. 485 (M147 Opp 40) published on 2010-07-29)

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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam,
Georgetown.

12th November, 2010.