

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 13TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION

(2006 - 2007) OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON FRIDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY, 2007

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

BUSINESS FOR SITTING

PRAVERS

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER-

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT-

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS-

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

2.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF DENISE McINTYRE

Member Asking: Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Health

Will the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly whether he intends to hold an inquiry into the death of Denise McIntyre, aged 40 years, who died on or around 5th January, 2007 at the Public Hospital Corporation after giving birth to a still born baby?
(Notice Paper No. 45 (Q30 Opp30) published on 2007-01-18)

2. CONTRACT OF TECHNICAL ADVISER TO THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

Member Asking: Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

(i) Could the Hon. Minister say what is the duration of the contract of the Peruvian National who was appointed Technical Adviser to the Minister of Home Affairs on 24th July, 2006?

(ii) What is the monthly salary and other allowances of this Technical Adviser?

(Notice Paper No. 46 (Q31 Opp31) published on 2007-01-18)

3. PRIVATIZATION OF THE WAUNA OIL PALM ESTATE

Member Asking: Mr. James McAllister, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

Could the Hon. Minister update the National Assembly on the status of the privatization of the Wauna Oil Palm Estate in Region No. 1?

(Notice Paper No. 47 (Q32 Opp32) published on 2007-01-18)

3.

4. **ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO PRIVATE CANE FARMERS**

Member Asking: Mr. James McAllister, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

- (i) Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly whether Government assists private cane farmers in plowing their fields?
- (ii) If yes, could the Hon. Minister inform this National Assembly as to the criteria used by the Government in giving this assistance?

(Notice Paper No. 48 (Q33 Opp33) published on 2007-01-18)

5. **COMPLETION OF WELLS AT LA GRANGE AND METEN-MEER-ZORG**

Member Asking: Mr. James McAllister, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

Could the Hon. Minister say when the wells at La Grange and Meten-Meer-Zorg located on the West Coast of Demerara, Region No. 3 would be completed?

(Notice Paper No. 49 (Q34 Opp34) published on 2007-01-18)

6. **RATES OWED BY THE GUYANA POWER AND LIGHT INC. TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF GEORGETOWN**

Member Asking: Mr. James McAllister, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Could the Hon. Minister say what arrangements were made for the payment of rates owed by the Guyana Power and Light Inc. to the Mayor and City Council of Georgetown prior to the privatization of the Guyana Electricity Corporation?

(Notice Paper No. 50 (Q35 Opp35) published on 2007-01-18)

4.

7. **ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE FOR CRAFTSMEN AND ARTISTS FOR CRICKET WORLD CUP 2007**

Member Asking: Mr. James McAllister, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport

Could the Hon. Minister say what arrangements are being made for craftsmen and artists to display their creations during Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007?

(Notice Paper No. 51 (Q36 Opp36) published on 2007-01-18)

8. **ROYALTIES COLLECTED BY THE GUYANA GEOLOGY AND MINES COMMISSION (GGMC)**

Member Asking: Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Prime Minister

(i) Could the Hon. Prime Minister say what is the total amount of royalty collected by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) in 2005 and 2006 from Region No. 7?

(a) How much royalty was collected from Brazilians?

(b) How much royalty was collected from Guyanese?

(ii) What percentage of royalties from the miners in Region No. 7 for 2006 would be used to develop Region No. 7 in 2007?

(Notice Paper No. 52 (Q37 Opp37) published on 2007-01-18)

9. **BRAZILIAN MINERS WORKING IN REGION NO. 7**

Member Asking: Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Prime Minister

- (i) Can the Hon. Prime Minister say how many Brazilian miners are presently working in Region No. 7?
- (ii) Can the Hon. Prime Minister provide a list of these miners who have received permission from GGMC or the Office of the Prime Minister?
(Notice Paper No. 53 (Q38 Opp38) published on 2007-01-18)

10. **POTABLE WATER FOR RESIDENTS OF BARNWELL NORTH MOCHA
ARCADIA**

Member Asking: Mr. Keith Scott, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

Will the Hon. Minister say when will the residents of Barnwell North Mocha Arcadia, East Bank Demerara receive potable water from the Guyana Water Authority (GWI) facility at Mocha Arcadia?

(Notice Paper No. 54 (Q39 Opp39) published on 2007-01-18)

6.

11. **NATIONAL PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL IN NEW AMSTERDAM**

Member Asking: Ms Africo Selman, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Health

- (i) Can the Hon. Minister say what provisions are being made to improve the deplorable conditions of the National Psychiatric Hospital in New Amsterdam?
- (ii) Can the Hon. Minister say what is the total number of patients housed in the National Psychiatric Hospital in New Amsterdam?
- (iii) Can the Hon. Minister say what is the authorized strength for nurses at the National Psychiatric Hospital in New Amsterdam. Can the Minister also say how many trained Psychiatric nurses are currently employed by the Ministry at that institution?

(Notice Paper No. 55 (Q40 Opp40) published on 2007-01-18)

12. **ROYALTIES FROM THE FORESTRY SECTOR**

Member Asking: Mrs. Judith David-Blair, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

What percentage of royalties will be retrieved by Region No. 7 from the Forestry Sector?

(Notice Paper No. 56 (Q41 Opp41) published on 2007-01-18)

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS, INCLUDING POLICY STATEMENTS-

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS-

7.

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

MOTION

1. **BUDGET SPEECH 2007 – MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2007**

Assembly to resume the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2007.

(Moved by the Minister of Finance on 2007-02-02)

BILLS - Second Reading

*2. **PESTICIDES AND TOXIC CHEMICALS CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 2007 – Bill No. 4/2007 published on 2007-01-25**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Act 2000.

(Read a first time on 2007-01-31)

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

8.

BILL – Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

***3. HEALTH FACILITIES LICENSING BILL 2006 – Bill No. 29/2006 published on 2006-12-21**

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 licensing of Health Facilities and for related matters.

(Read a first time on 2006-12-21)

(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2007-01-11)

(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and first Reading

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

Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., is to seek leave to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to give access to information to members of the public.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTIONS

***4. INTRODUCTION OF THE VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT)**

Mr. Robert Corbin, M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the PNCR-1G had always supported in principle the introduction of (VAT) to replace a number of existing taxes with the objective of widening the tax base and bringing within the tax net persons and supplies which hitherto escaped payment of taxes;

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

AND WHEREAS the introduction of the tax was expected to reduce the burden of taxation on those categories of workers, such as teachers, policemen, nurses and public servants, who were captive targets of the tax system;

AND WHEREAS throughout all stages of the passage of the relevant Legislation the PNCR-1G suggested a reduction of the proposed rate, the zero rating of essential commodities, a phased implementation of the tax and a deferral of the date of implementation beyond January 1, 2007;

AND WHEREAS the Government is in possession of information which demonstrates that to achieve their stated objective of revenue neutrality the rate of the tax could be lowered;

AND WHEREAS the implementation of the (VAT) on January 1, 2007 has led to a dramatic rise in the cost of living that is decimating the working poor and their families, with the harshest effects being felt by the unemployed, pensioners, unwaged housewives and low waged workers, resulting in a deepening sense of desperation among citizens,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- (1) A special all-Party Parliamentary Committee be established immediately to make recommendations for the reduction on the rate of the tax, for widening the range of zero rated and exempt supplies and a phased implementation of the Value-Added Tax;
- (2) The Government immediately implement significant levels of salary increases for those categories of workers most adversely affected by the implementation of (VAT);

10.

- (3) The Government promptly, but no later than six weeks of the passage of this Resolution, establish a National Commission on Tax Reform to review of the tax system and make recommendations for, inter alia, the raising of the income tax threshold and reduction of income and corporation taxes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

The membership of the aforesaid Commission includes various stakeholders, including, the Guyana Trades Union Congress, the Private Sector Organisations, the Religious community, and other social sector organizations.

(Notice Paper No. 87 (M18 Opp 6) published on 2007-01-23)

*5. **THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD**

Ms Chantelle Smith, M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS in 1991 Guyana signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

AND WHEREAS Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that “Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child”;

AND WHEREAS the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child has consistently proposed the abolition of corporal punishment when the reporting process under the convention has revealed the continued existence of school corporal punishment;

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana's report to the Committee of the Convention of the Rights of the Child of July 29, 2002 states: "Enhanced legislation is an integral element in this country's efforts to give tangible effect to the provisions of the Constitution Reform Commission.";

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana's report to the Committee on the Convention on the Rights of the Child of July 29, 2002 further states "The Constitutional Reform Commission acknowledged that the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child should inform constitutional provisions to protect children's rights. The Oversight Select Committee of the Revised Guyana Constitution subsequently accepted the above recommendations and in 2001 these rights were accorded the status of fundamental and human rights in the amended Constitution",

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly declares the continued use of corporal punishment in schools in Guyana a violation of Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly declares the continued use of corporal punishment in schools in Guyana a violation of the Constitution;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly recommends the abolition of corporal punishment under the new Education Act.

(Notice Paper No. 22 (M3 Opp2) published on 2006-11-22)

12.

(iii) **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Brickdam.**

2nd February, 2007.