

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 17TH 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 THURSDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY, 2007

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-

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS-

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

2.

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

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

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)

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3.

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)

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.

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

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;

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,

/...5

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

5.

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);
- (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. **AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 10**

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

WHEREAS the hours of Parliament are prescribed by Standing Order No. 10 of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly to be 2.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. with suspensions at 4.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. respectively;

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

6.

AND WHEREAS Members of the National Assembly have expressed varying views on the times for sittings of the Assembly with some Members favouring the commencement of sessions at an earlier time whilst others appear to prefer the strict observance of the prescribed times;

AND WHEREAS it would be desirable for a compromise to be found so as to allow for the hours of sittings to be varied from time to time by the Parliamentary Management Committee depending on the business to be disposed of,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Standing Orders Committee examines the issue of the times at which the Assembly shall meet including, the right of the Speaker to suspend the Standing Orders to allow the time to be abridged or varied and to report to the National Assembly its finding and recommendations within three months.

(Notice Paper No.92 (M23 Opp 7) published on 2007-01-30)

*6. **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”;

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

7.

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;

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)

8.

(iii) **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

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S.E. ISAACS
Clerk of the National Assembly

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

14th February, 2007.