

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 32ND 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, 1ST NOVEMBER, 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-

(1) By the Speaker of the National Assembly:

- (i) Ethnic Relations Commission Report on an investigation and review of Employment Practices in the Public and Private Sectors in Region #4.

(To be Circulated)

2.

(ii) Ethnic Relations Commission Report on the award and distribution of Economic Opportunities in Guyana.

(To be Circulated)

(iii) Ethnic Relations Commission Report on the Public Procurement in Guyana with special regard to openness and fairness.

(To be Circulated)

(iv) Ethnic Relations Commission Report on Research on the award of Academic Scholarships in Guyana.

(To be Circulated)

(v) Ethnic Relations Commission Report on the study of land distribution in Guyana.

(To be Circulated)

(2) By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:

Annual Report of the Supreme Court Registry for the year 2006.

(To be Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Home Affairs on behalf of the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

The Report on the award of the Arbitral Tribunal between Guyana and Suriname.

(To be Circulated)

(4) By the Minister of Home Affairs:

Summary of the Security Sector Reform Action Plan 2007 – 2011.

(To be Circulated)

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3.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE-

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. **RE-EMPLOYMENT OF RETIRED REGIONAL EDUCATION OFFICER –
REGION NO. 6**

Member Asking: Dr. John Austin, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Could the Honourable Minister of Education please inform this National Assembly:-

- (i) Why a retired Regional Education Officer was re-employed as Regional Education Officer of Region No. 6?
- (ii) Why that individual was re-employed when it was known that there were many other available eligible and suitably qualified and experienced persons?

(Notice Paper No. 174 (Q 132 Opp 131) published on 2007-07-20)

2. **INCLUSION OF A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING AT SANTA MISSION IN 2007
NATIONAL BUDGET**

Member Asking: Mr. Mervyn Williams, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Education

Could the Minister of Education please inform this National Assembly:-

- (i) What were the factors which informed his decision, to include a new school building at Santa Mission in the 2007 National Budget, when this item was not included in the 2007 Work Programme for the Region three Education Department?

4.

- (ii) Whether the inclusion of the proposed school at Santa Mission was responsible for the deletion of a proposed new school building to replace the existing Bagotville Primary School Building?
- (iii) Whether he is aware that the Bagotville Primary School is in such a state of disrepair that it presents serious risks to life and limb, as well as a serious health hazard for both students and teachers?
- (iv) If, in view of the fact that no contract has, as yet, been awarded for the construction of the new Santa Mission School, he would consider deferring the construction of this school to 2008, in order to construct the new Bagotville Primary School, as an emergency education project, to rectify the serious problems being experienced by pupils, teachers and the Bagotville community, due to the dilapidated condition of the existing Bagotville Primary School?

(Notice Paper No. 175 (Q 133 Opp 132) published on 2007-07-20)

3. **MECHANISMS IN PLACE TO ASSIST SENIOR CITIZENS' HOMES**

Member Asking: Mrs. Volda Lawrence, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Could the Honourable Minister of Human Services and Social Security please inform this National Assembly:-

- (i) What are the present mechanisms in place to assist senior citizens' homes, which provide accommodation for senior citizens and other persons, to defray the high water and electricity costs?

5.

- (ii) If no such mechanisms are now in place, when does her Ministry plan to institute such mechanisms to provide relief for these homes by defraying the high costs of water and electricity which they are compelled to pay?

(Notice Paper No. 176 (Q 134 Opp 133) published on 2007-07-20)

For Oral Reply

4. GUYSUCO'S TENDER DOCUMENT

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Agriculture

*Could the Hon. Minister say what action he has taken with respect to Guysuco's Tender Document, where Guysuco omitted to request NIS and PAYE compliance certificates, that was submitted to him by Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P., on the 29th June, 2007 for the supply of seventy (70) Desktop computers and fifteen (15) Laptop computers.

(Notice Paper No. 179 (Q135 Opp134) published on 2007-08-08)

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-

6.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

Introduction and First Reading

DEEDS REGISTRY AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2007 – Bill No. 22/2007

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, on behalf of the Government, to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Deeds Registry Authority Act.

PUBLIC BUSINESS-

(i) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTIONS

Speaker's consent obtained in accordance with Standing Order No. 28(2) for the following motions to be proceeded with at this sitting:

1. **SECURITY SECTOR REFORM ACTION PLAN**

The Minister of Home Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Government of Guyana has pledged, in this 9th Parliament, to enhance Public Safety and the Rule of Law in Guyana;

AND WHEREAS the Administration has achieved consensus among Law Enforcement entities on the implementation of a specified number of activities labeled the Security Sector Reform Action Plan 2007-2011, intended to achieve that enhancement;

AND WHEREAS the Administration is aware of the importance of garnering public support for the Law Enforcement agencies in their implementation of the activities in the above-mentioned Security Sector Reform Action Plan;

AND WHEREAS the Administration commits itself to reporting regularly to this House on progress in the implementation of activities in the Security Sector Action Plan;

7.

AND WHEREAS the Summary of the Security Sector Reform Action Plan 2007-2011 with its eleven priority areas has been laid and circulated in this House,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this House takes note of the Administration's Security Sector Reform Action Plan and fully supports its implementation;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this House appoints a Special Select Committee on the Security Sector Reform Action Plan 2007-2011 to:

- (a) receive and examine official annual reports from the Administration on the status of the implementation of the activities in the eleven priority areas, on an annual basis;
- (b) provide a Final Report to the House on the completion of their examination of the reports on the implementation of the entire Security Sector Reform Action Plan.

(Notice Paper No. 180 (M44 Govt26) published on 2007-10-25)

2. **INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL OF THE LAW OF THE SEA – ARBITRAL AWARD**

The Minister of Home Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Guyana initiated arbitration proceedings concerning the delimitation of its maritime boundary with Suriname, and concerning alleged breaches of international law by Suriname in disputed maritime territory on February, 2004;

8.

AND WHEREAS Guyana brought these proceedings pursuant to Articles 286 and 287 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and in accordance with Annex VII to the Convention;

AND WHEREAS Guyana and Suriname ratified the Convention on 16th November, 1993 and 9th July, 1998, respectively;

AND WHEREAS in its Notification and Statement of Claim, Guyana stated that the Parties are deemed to have accepted arbitration in accordance with Annex VII of the Convention by operation of Article 287(3) of the Convention;

AND WHEREAS Guyana noted that neither Party had made a declaration pursuant to Article 287(1) of the Convention regarding their choice of compulsory procedures, and that neither Party had made a declaration pursuant to Article 298 regarding optional exceptions to the applicability of the compulsory procedures provided for in Section 2;

AND WHEREAS in its Notification and Statement of Claims, Guyana appointed Professor Thomas Franck as a Member of the Tribunal in accordance with Article 3(b) of Annex VII, and Suriname appointed Professor Hans Smit in accordance with Article 3(c) of Annex VII;

AND WHEREAS by joint letter to the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration dated 15th June, 2004, the Parties noted that they had agreed to the appointment of the remaining three Members of the Tribunal in accordance with Article 3(d) of Annex VII, headed by H.E. Judge L. Dolliver M. Nelson (President);

AND WHEREAS the constituted Tribunal commenced its work immediately, by holding numerous hearings at the Headquarters of the Organisation of the American States;

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9.

AND WHEREAS the Governments of Guyana and Suriname made numerous submissions and provided evidence to support their separate cases to the Tribunal;

AND WHEREAS the Arbitral Tribunal in its Report unanimously rule in Guyana's favour on 17th September, 2007 and finally and forever settled the maritime boundary between Guyana and Suriname;

AND WHEREAS the Final Report of the Arbitral Tribunal of the Law of the Sea in the matter of an Arbitration between Guyana and Suriname has been tabled in this Parliament,

NOW BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly acknowledges with appreciation the Government of Guyana for having the courage and wisdom to take the Guyana Claim to the Arbitral Tribunal;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly places on record its appreciation and recognition of the work done by the Guyana team of distinguished Agents and Counsel and the support work of the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Archives, the Guyana Land and Surveys Commission and many researchers and friends and supporters of Guyana;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly unanimously notes with approval the findings of the Final Report of the Arbitral Tribunal Award and orders that it be incorporated into the official records of the Guyana Parliament.

(Notice Paper No. 181 (M45 Govt27) published on 2007-10-25)

10.

BILLS – Second Reading

*3. **THE FOREST BILL 2007 – Bill No. 21 of 2007 published on 2007-07-24**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to consolidate and amend the law relating to forests.

(Read a first time on 2007-08-02)

BILLS – Second Readings, Committee and Third Readings

*4. **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)

*5. **ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM BILL 2007 – Bill No. 18/2007 published on 2007-06-04**

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

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

11.

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the establishment and management of a Financial Intelligence Unit; to provide for unlawful proceeds of all serious offences to be identified, traced, frozen, seized and eventually forfeited; to provide for comprehensive powers for the prosecution of money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes; and the forfeiture of the proceeds of crime and terrorist property; to require reporting entities to take preventive measures to help combat money laundering and terrorist financing; to provide for civil forfeiture of assets and for matters connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 2007-06-07)

(Committed to the Special Select Committee on 2007-06-07)

MOTION

*6. **AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 54**

The Assembly to resume the debate on the following Motion, after the Standing Orders Committee has reported thereon:

WHEREAS Standing Order No. 54 provides that an interval of not less than seven (7) days must elapse between the first and second reading of a Bill;

AND WHEREAS a sitting of the National Assembly is generally held on a Thursday;

AND WHEREAS the stipulation of seven (7) days does not allow for the second reading of the Bill on the following Thursday;

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

12.

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that Standing Order 54 be amended to allow for a Bill, read a first time on a Thursday to be read a second time on the following Thursday;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Standing Order 110 this National Assembly refers this motion to amend Standing Order No. 54 to the Standing Orders Committee for further consideration with a view to effect the desired amendment.

(Notice Paper No. 57(M15 Govt 11) published on 2007-01-18)

(Referred to Standing Orders Committee on 2007-01-31 in accordance with Standing Orders No. 110 (3))

(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.

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

13.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

***7. AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 10**

The Assembly to resume the debate on the following Motion, after the Standing Orders Committee has reported thereon:

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;

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)

(Referred to Standing Orders Committee on 2007-05-24 in accordance with Standing Order No. 110 (3))

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

14.

(iii) COMMITTEE BUSINESS

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L. COONJAH
Deputy Clerk of the National Assembly

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

26th October, 2007.