

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ORDER PAPER**

**FOR THE 14<sup>TH</sup> SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION**

**(2020) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD**

**AT 10.00 A.M.**

**ON WEDNESDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER, 2020**

**IN THE DOME OF THE ARTHUR CHUNG CONFERENCE CENTRE,**

**LILIENDAAL, GREATER GEORGETOWN**

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**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:

Report of the Auditor General to the National Assembly on the Public Accounts of Guyana and on the Accounts of Ministries, Departments and Regions for the fiscal year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019.

(To be Circulated)

2.

(2) By the Prime Minister:

- (i) Annual Report of the National Communications Network for the year 2017.

(To be Circulated)

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Data Management Authority for the year 2017.

(To be Circulated)

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

Civil Procedures (Amendment) Rules 2020 – No. 1 of 2020.

(To be Circulated)

(4) By the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance:

- (i) **Sales Contract No. 37000150** dated January 1, 2015 between PDVSA Petroleo S.A. and the Guyana Energy Agency (GEA) for the purpose of supplying the Cooperative Republic of Guyana with crude oil, refined Petroleum Products and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) up to 5,200 barrels per day, on a monthly basis.

(To be Circulated)

- (ii) Public Debt Annual Report for the year 2018.

(To be Circulated)

(5) By the Minister of Public Works:

Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana National Shipping Corporation for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019.

(To be Circulated)

(6) By the Minister of Housing and Water:

Audited Financial Statements of the Central Housing and Planning Authority for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018.

(To be Circulated)

3.

**REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-**

**ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-**

**For Written Replies**

1. **GUYSUCO**

**Member Asking:**                      **Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.**

**Minister Answering:**                **The Minister of Agriculture**

- (a) Can the Minister inform the House, the amount of direct financial assistance GUYSUCO has received from the Government for the last ten (10) years (ending August, 2020) and give the reason for each?
- (b) Can the Minister also state what was the cost, in US Dollars, for GUYSUCO to produce a ton of sugar for each year (2010-2020)?
- (c) Can the Minister inform this House what percentage, in US Dollars, of GUYSUCO's income (please state sugar and molasses sale) is absorbed as employment cost and debt servicing for each year (2010-2020)?
- (d) Can the Minister likewise say what was the world market price, in US Dollars, for a ton of sugar for the last ten (10) years and what was the price per ton, in US Dollars, did GUYSUCO receive from selling to each of its overseas customers (buyer's name, country and amount sold)?
- (e) Can the Minister equally inform this House what is GUYSUCO's total indebtedness as of August 31, 2020, please include and state (all bank loans, GRA arrears, NIS arrears, pension funds arrears)?

**(Notice Paper No. 4 (Q1 Opp. 1) published on 2020-09-14)**

4.

2. **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Can the Honourable Minister please provide a list in writing of the names of all the Community Development Councils across the country?

(Notice Paper No.10 (Q4 Opp. 4) published on 2020-10-19)

3. **SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT (SLED) PROGRAMME**

**Member Asking:** Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Budget 2020 approved \$105M for the Sustainable Livelihood Entrepreneurial Development (SLED) programme. Can the Honourable Minister submit a list of the Groups, Organisations and other Beneficiaries that will benefit from this programme and provide the list of the project proposals that were submitted to his ministry for approval? Can the Honourable Minister detail the criteria that would be used to disburse the \$105M and what are the requirements for the persons or groups to benefit from the SLED programme?

(Notice Paper No.11 (Q5 Opp. 5) published on 2020-10-19)

4. **NEW HOUSING SCHEMES**

**Member Asking:** Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Housing and Water

Budget 2020 provided an allocation of \$3 Billion for the “Housing Sector”. The Honourable Minister in his budget presentation alluded that, “the sum will be utilized for various activities including land preparations for the new housing schemes.

5.

Can the Honourable Minister provide the following:

- a. List the areas where the new housing schemes are to be developed?
- b. When activities will commence and likely to be completed?
- c. Number of house lots and commercial lots for possible allocations in each housing scheme listed at (a) above?

**(Notice Paper No.12 (Q6 Opp.6) published on 2020-10-19)**

**5. APPLICATION FOR HOUSE LOTS**

**Member Asking:** Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Housing and Water

Can the Honourable Minister provide the number of Applications on file as at 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2020?

**(Notice Paper No.13 (Q7 Opp.7) published on 2020-10-19)**

**6. EARLY RELEASE OF SIXTY-FIVE (65) PRISONERS**

**Member Asking:** Ms. Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Minister of Home Affairs

- (1) The Director of Prisons(a.g) has confirmed that sixty-five (65) prisoners were granted early release from prison. Could the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs state the circumstances and the factors taken into account to grant early release to the aforementioned prisoners?
- (2) Additionally, could the Hon. Minister state the names, length of incarceration and the offences for which the prisoners were convicted?
- (3) Could the Hon. Minister state whether the above information will be made public in view of this matter being of public welfare and interest?

**(Notice Paper No.16 (Q10 Opp.10) published on 2020-12-01)**

**For Oral Replies**

**7. \*NATIONAL INSURANCE SCHEME**

**Member Asking:**                      **Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.**

**Minister Answering:**                **The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with  
responsibility for Finance**

- (a) \*Can the Minister inform this House about the length of time (days) it takes the National Insurance Scheme to process and make payment on medical or maternity claim from the date NIS would have received all the relevant documentation from the claimant?
- (b) \*Can the Minister further say whether signed letters from employers verifying commencement of deductions and claimant pay slips are no longer acceptable by NIS to aid in the verification to expedite claims payment?
- (c) \*Can the Minister inform the House why (b) above affects accelerated processing of maternity claims in 2020?
- (d) \*Can the Minister inform the House the extent to which employers' method and speed of remitting employees NIS deductions to NIS works against the employees' in their moment of need?
- (e) \*Can the Minister inform this House of the number of women from January 1 to September 30, 2020, that had to wait two months or more from the date of sending in all the relevant documents to NIS to receive maternity claims?
- (f) \*Can the Minister inform this House of the number of persons from January 1 to September 30, 2020, that had to wait two months or more from the date of sending in all relevant documents to NIS to receive medical claims?

7.

- (g) \*Can the Minister further inform this House what short term measures will be put in place for NIS to reduce the waiting time for processing medical and maternity claims?

**(Notice Paper No. 8 (Q2 Opp. 2) published on 2020-10-01)**

8. **\*INTERNET SERVICE IN GUYANA**

**Member Asking:**                      **Mr. Devin Sears, M.P.**

**Minister Answering:**              **The Prime Minister**

- (a) \*Given the present COVID-19 environment, can the Minister say why the Government has not operationalised Act No.18 of 2016 to liberalise the telecommunication sector to create competition in data services, especially the internet?
- (b) \*Can the Minister inform this House how many DATA (internet) service providers operate in each of the ten regions in Guyana as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020, and state which provide primary sourced data (direct access and fiber cable) and which provide secondary sourced data in these regions?
- (c) \*Can the Minister further inform this House how many households have data (internet) via land lines and or wireless service for each of the ten regions in Guyana as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020?
- (d) \*Can the Minister further inform this House how many persons have data (internet) via mobile phone service for each of the ten regions in Guyana as at 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020?
- (e) \*Can the Minister further inform this House if he supports the need to reduce VAT on data given the necessity of online learning in this COVID-19 environment?

**(Notice Paper No. 9 (Q3 Opp. 3) published on 2020-10-01)**

8.

9. **\*CONSOLIDATED FUND**

**Member Asking:** Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance

\*Can the Honourable Minister with responsibility for Finance inform the Assembly of the total sum of monies remaining in the Consolidated Fund by the A Partnership For National Unity and Alliance For Change Government as at 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2020?

(Notice Paper No.14 (Q8 Opp.8) published on 2020-10-19)

\*10. **NATIONAL PROCUREMENT BOARD**

**Member Asking:** Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P.

**Minister Answering:** The Senior Minister in the Office of President with responsibility for Finance

1. The publication of the new appointees to the Public Procurement Board stated the following persons have been nominated and appointed to serve on the board:
  - Mr. Tarachand Balgobin as Temporary Chairman
  - Mr. Bernard Lord - Member
  - Mr. Desmond Mohamed - Member
  - Mr. Steve Ninvalle - Member
  - Mr. Mark Conway - Member
  - Ms. Gloria Beharry - Member

In accordance to Part 111 of the Procurement Act 2003, Section 16, clearly addresses the creation and membership of the National Procurement and Tender Administration Board, Section 16(2) states:

*“The administration shall be managed by the National Board which shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Minister from among persons of unquestionable integrity who have shown capacity in business, the professions, law, audit, finance and administration”.*



9.

Can the Honourable Minister state the following:

- (a) \*Whether the names listed above were appointed in keeping with Section 16 (2) of the National Procurement act?
- (b) \*The current construct is six (6), when will the additional person be appointed?

2. Section 16(3) states:

- “the members of the National Board to be appointed by the Minister shall comprise:*
- (i) not more than five persons from the Public Service;*
  - (ii) not more than three persons from the private sector after consultation with their representative organizations”.*

Can the Honourable Minister state the following:

- (a) \*State from the list of appointees, where the persons are employed?
- (b) \*State who are the representatives from the Private Sector?

3. Section 16(4) states:

*“Two members of the National Board shall serve on a full-time basis and the remainder shall serve on a part-time basis. The Minister shall appoint as Chairman one of the full-time members”.*

Can the Honourable Minister state the following:

- (a) \*Whether there is a conflict of interest in appointing Mr. Tarachand Balgobin as Temporary Chairman, since he is a full time Public Servant and the Act does not allow for this arrangement?
- (b) \*Is there consideration for the appointment of a substantive Chairperson of the Board?
- (c) \*If yes, is there a period for the appoint and when?

**(Notice Paper No.15 (Q9 Opp.9) published on 2020-10-28)**

**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-**

**Presentation and First Readings**

**1. LAW REFORM COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 – Bill No. 11/2020**

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 Law Reform Commission Act.

**2. DECEASED PERSONS ESTATES' ADMINISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL  
2020 – Bill No. 12/2020**

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 Deceased Persons Estates'  
Administration Act.

11.

3. **SMALL BUSINESS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 – Bill No. 13/2020**

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, on behalf of the Government, to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Small Business Act.

4. **HIRE-PURCHASE BILL 2020 – Bill No. 14/2020**

The Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, on behalf of the Government, to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision for the regulation of hire-purchase, credit sale and conditional sale agreements; and for related purposes.

5. **ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020 – Bill No. 15/2020**

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security, on behalf of the Government, to present the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Adoption of Children Act.

**PUBLIC BUSINESS**

(i) **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**MOTION**

1. **GLOBAL PANDEMIC OF COVID-19**

The Minister of Health to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the global pandemic of Covid-19 has changed the world as no other event in humankind's history with the world's economies slowing down with travel bans, lockdowns, curfews, school and university closures, closure of businesses and loss of jobs, increased poverty, and increased cases of domestic violence against women and children;

AND WHEREAS the first confirmed case of Covid-19 was identified in Guyana on March 11, 2020;

AND WHEREAS the former Government's response exposed its level of woeful unpreparedness despite advice and assistance from PAHO and other international bodies;

AND WHEREAS between March 11 and July 31, 2020, only 4,705 PCR tests were done at an average of 26 per day with a 7 day wait period; health facilities across the country, including the Public Hospital Georgetown, were under-resourced with PPE, drugs, medical equipment and sanitation supplies;

AND WHEREAS between August 2 and December 16, 2020, over 350 tests per day were done with an average turnaround time of 24-48 hours with more test kits, additional laboratory equipment, and trained personnel across the country;

AND WHEREAS over these nine months, there have been 6,042 confirmed cases, 5,197 recoveries and 687 current cases with 158 deaths as of Dec 17;

AND WHEREAS billions of dollars have been expended from the October, 2020 Emergency Budget to restock the empty shelves of the public health sector with supplies of drugs, medical supplies and equipment, not only to treat Covid-19 patients, but also to treat HIV/AIDS, cancer, non-communicable diseases, malaria etc., and recommence the vaccination of our children which had lapsed badly in the last two years;

AND WHEREAS the Health sector has amplified its capacity to do as many as 1500 PCR tests on a daily basis with a 24-48-hour turnaround time;

AND WHEREAS rapid antigen tests, which have been recommended by the World Health Organisation, have been deployed to every region, which would improve waiting time to less than 30 minutes per test coupled with the deployment of PCR point of care testing to Regional hospitals over the next few weeks and improved contact tracing;

13.

AND WHEREAS the private health sector is now included and involved in the fight to reduce the number of cases including building laboratory testing capacity;

AND WHEREAS the advent of several vaccines that have shown great promise, some with over 90 % efficacy are being cleared for use such as Pfizer, Moderna, etc.;

AND WHEREAS Guyana is accessing its vaccines through the COVAX Facility, launched in April by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Vaccine Alliance {GAVI} and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), in response to the pandemic and which seeks to ensure that people in all corners of the world are able to access COVID-19 vaccines once they are available;

AND WHEREAS preparatory steps are underway to ensure Guyana is ready for a COVID-19 vaccine and it is expected that Guyana will be receiving in total, vaccines equivalent to 20% of its population, an initial 3% then 17% afterwards;

AND WHEREAS Guyana will have to acquire more or other vaccines through other means;

AND WHEREAS Health workers will be the first to receive the vaccine and elderly persons and persons with co-morbidities will be second in line;

AND WHEREAS the vaccines that receive Emergency Use Authorisation require special cold storage spaces to match the specific temperatures ranging from -70 C to 2 degrees C;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry of Health has started publishing bids for contractors to procure and install refrigerators and vaccine carriers, which must be completed before Guyana receives its first quota of the COVID-19 vaccines next year;

14.

AND WHEREAS the new vaccines will require training health care staff that will be administering the vaccines so that Guyana will be ready to roll out the vaccines quickly;

AND WHEREAS a National Vaccine Task Force is being set up including the private sector and other civil society bodies to lead this major logistical undertaking;

AND WHEREAS the Government will be tabling the Corona Virus Immunization Bill in the National Assembly in early 2021,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly: -

- recognizes the seriousness of the Covid-19 pandemic in Guyana and the challenges it has posed and will continue to pose to our people and the nation over the coming year;

- pledge to support required resources needed to test, treat, and immunize our citizens;

- commit to support measures to bring relief to all Guyanese, especially those most in need with humanitarian and other initiatives to restore normalcy as soon as is feasible.

(Notice Paper No. 24 (M10 Govt. 7) published on 2020-12-17)

(ii) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**MOTIONS**

2. **APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THE UNREST AT THE LUSIGNAN PRISON, THE SUBSEQUENT DEATHS OF AND THE INJURY OF SEVERAL PRISONERS ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020**

Ms Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P. to move the following motion:

WHEREAS, Article 138(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Guyana prescribes that no person shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of the sentence of a Court in respect of an offence under the Laws of Guyana of which he has been convicted;

15.

AND WHEREAS, in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03, “The President may issue a Commission appointing one or more Commissioners and authorizing such Commissioners to inquire into any matters in which an inquiry would in the opinion of the President be for the public welfare”;

AND WHEREAS, it has been widely reported and confirmed that several prisoners were shot by members of the Guyana Prison Services in or near the Lusignan Prison, resulting in injuries and two deaths on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2020;

AND WHEREAS, the lack of information surrounding the following matters are of public concern;

AND WHEREAS, the Home Affairs Minister has failed to provide answers on these matters of public importance and the public remains without credible information, after the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 as to the circumstances which led to the unrest, injuries sustained and the subsequent deaths of several prisoners;

AND WHEREAS, it is important, in the public's interest to know and understand the specific facts and circumstances that led to the shooting and subsequent deaths of three prisoners so as to prevent a recurrence;

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the National Assembly calls on the Government to make full disclosure on all aspects of the tragedy at the Lusignan Prisons on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 and to declare what actions have been and are being taken to reduce the opportunities for such situations from re- occurring.

**(Notice Paper No. 17 (M7 Opp 1) published on 2020-12-01)**

3. **CONDEMN THE BRUTAL AND HORRIFIC KILLING OF JOEL HENRY, ISIAAH HENRY AND HARESH SINGH, BETWEEN THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 6 to 9, 2020**

Ms Geeta Chandan-Edmond, M.P. to move the following motion:

WHEREAS, Guyanese citizens, Joel Henry, Isiah Henry and Hareesh Singh, all under the age of 20 years old, from the village of N0. 3 Village, West Coast Berbice, were brutally, barbarically and horrifically killed, and the bodies found at or near the Cotton Tree Back Dam in the Mahaica/ Berbice Region No. 5;

AND WHEREAS, the period September 6 to 9, 2020, will go down in the history of our country as the period when these unspeakable crimes left the nation numb and in a state of shock and sadness;

AND WHEREAS. these brutal, senseless, barbaric, depraved and horrific killings have caused untold pain, agony, grief, anguish, anger and despair to the surviving family members, fellow villagers and the entire Guyanese Community;

AND WHEREAS, these brutal and horrific killings have evoked unequivocal condemnation from Guyanese, living in Guyana and in the diaspora;

AND WHEREAS, the diplomatic community and civil society have also unequivocally condemned these brutal, barbaric and horrific killings;

AND WHEREAS, Parliament, of which the National Assembly is a part of the supreme legislative forum of our Republic wherein the people's elected representatives discuss and determine matters of national interest and is obliged to consider the grave threats to the public welfare and public security;



17.

AND WHEREAS, Article 138(1) of the Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana prescribes that no person shall be deprived of his life intentionally save in the execution of the sentence of a court in respect of an offence under the Laws of Guyana of which he has been convicted;

AND WHEREAS, to date these horrific deaths which are of public importance, concern and welfare remain substantially unresolved.

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the National Assembly recommends to the Government to procure and finance the assistance of expert and competent professionals who can resolve these cases;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the National Assembly condemns the killing of the three Citizens aforementioned, and extends sincerest condolences to the families of the deceased; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the National Assembly calls on the Government to continue its earnest investigations, so as to ensure expeditious justice to the family.

**(Notice Paper No. 18 (M8 Opp 2) published on 2020-12-01)**

**(iii) COMMITTEES' BUSINESS**

**S. E. ISAACS, A.A.,  
Clerk of the National Assembly**

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

**18<sup>th</sup> December, 2020.**



