

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 21ST SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION

(2020-2021) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 10:00 A.M.

ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 2021

IN THE DOME OF THE ARTHUR CHUNG CONFERENCE CENTRE,

LILIENDAAL, GREATER 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-

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

2.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. POLICE PERFORMANCE

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

1. Could the Hon. Minister say what methods are used by the Ministry in monitoring and evaluating police performance in relation to crime solving?
2. Could the Hon. Minister also provide the results of the monitoring and evaluating of the said performance in the last three (3) months?

(Notice Paper No. 36 (Q18 Opp.18) published on 2021-02-01)

2. COMPLAINTS MADE BY PRISON INMATES

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

1. What is the investigation process for complaints lodged by prison inmates on mistreatment in prison?
2. How many of such complaints have the Guyana Prison Service received since the 2nd August, 2020?
3. Of these, how many are repeated complaints and how many have been found to be justified?
4. In the justified cases: what action has the Guyana Prison Service taken?
5. What independent avenues are there for prison inmates to lodge such complaints?
6. Has the Government considered setting up independent oversight mechanisms to investigate and address these complaints?

(Notice Paper No. 37 (Q19 Opp.19) published on 2021-02-01)

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3.

3. **TRAFFICKING IN ILLEGAL DRUGS**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

From 2nd August, 2020 to 31st December, 2020:

- a. How many persons were arrested for Trafficking in illegal drugs?
- b. How many have been prosecuted?
- c. How many resulted in convictions?

(Notice Paper No. 38 (Q20 Opp.20) published on 2021-02-01)

4. **SOLEMN CRIMES**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

1. What is the number of serious crimes that have been investigated since 2nd August, 2020?
2. How many persons have been prosecuted for the aforementioned period?
3. What is the number of convictions broken down by the different types of crimes reported from 2nd August, 2020 to present?

(Notice Paper No. 39 (Q21 Opp.21) published on 2021-02-01)

5. **THE GUYANA POLICE FORCE STRATEGY ON ROAD SAFETY AND THE ROAD TRAFFIC LEGISLATION**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

1. What is the Guyana Police Force strategy to raise greater public awareness of road safety and reduce traffic accidents amongst both road users?
2. Are there plans to review and strengthen the present Road Traffic legislation?

4.

3. If yes, what are the timelines for the review and strengthening of the Road Traffic legislation?
4. If no, why not?

(Notice Paper No. 40 (Q22 Opp.22) published on 2021-02-01)

6. AGREEMENT WITH CORMAC GROUP LLC

Member Asking: Ms. Amanza Walton-Desir, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation

The Government of Guyana through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on December 28, 2020 entered into a six-month Agreement with Cormac Group LLC to provide lobbying services on behalf of the Government and by extension the people of Guyana. The Contract was signed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of the Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Ms. Elizabeth Harper.

In this connexion:

1. Can the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs provide the criteria used for the selection of the Cormac Group LLC?
2. Can the Minister map the various foreign policy scenarios that informed the choice of the specific firm?
3. Can the Minister indicate the procurement process utilized to hire Cormac Group LLC?
4. Can the Minister indicate whether other firms/groups were considered, the names of those groups/firms and indicate also the considerations which gave Cormac Group LLC the competitive advantage over the other firms/groups?

5.

5. Can the Minister indicate to what extent will there be overlap with the functions of foreign service personnel, particularly personnel in Washington D.C?
6. Can the Minister state whether our Mission in Washington D.C is equipped to adequately represent Guyana's interests? If it is so, why did the Government deem it necessary to hire Cormac Group LLC? If not, what are the actions being taken to equip the Washington Mission with the required resources?
7. Given that the terms of the contract indicate that representation is being made on behalf of Guyana, can the Minister say what reporting mechanism has been established to inform the people of Guyana on the progress with the tasks assigned (save those with national security implications)?
8. Given that the Legislature is a branch of Government, what mechanisms are being put in place to ensure that the Opposition Parties in the National Assembly are engaged in this process with Cormac Group LLC?
9. Can the Minister undertake to update the Foreign Relations Sector Committee on Quarterly basis on the progress made by the Group?

(Notice Paper No. 53 (Q35 Opp.35) published on 2021-02-02)

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

**1. BUDGET SPEECH 2021 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES
OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2021**

Assembly to resume the debate on the motion for the approval of the Estimates of
Expenditure for the financial year 2021.

**(Moved by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance
on 2021-02-12)**

BILLS – Second Reading

***2. ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 – Bill No. 3/2021
published on 2021-02-11**

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security to move the second reading
of the following Bill:

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

(Read a first time on 2021-02-11)

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

BILLS – Committee, Second and Third Readings

***3. NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES (CONTROL)
(AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 – Bill No. 2/2021 published on 2021-01-28**

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 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act.

(Read a first time and referred to a Special Select Committee on 2021-01-28)

***4. HIRE-PURCHASE BILL 2020 – Bill No. 14/2020 published on 2020-11-10**

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 make provision for the regulation of hire-purchase, credit sale and conditional sale agreements; and for related purposes.

(Read a first time on 2020-12-23 and referred to a Special Select Committee on 2021-02-11)

(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTION

***5. 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:

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

8.

WHEREAS, Guyanese citizens, Joel Henry, Isiah Henry and Haresh 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;

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;

9.

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

MOTIONS

***6. OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

Mr. David Patterson, M.P. (Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee) to move the following motion:

WHEREAS, in accordance with Standing Order No. 104(1), every Committee shall before the end of the Session in which it was appointed, make a report to the Assembly upon matters referred to it;

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

10.

AND WHEREAS, the Public Accounts Committee, a Standing Committee of the National Assembly of the First Session of the Eleventh Parliament, was unable, owing to the dissolution of Parliament on 30th December, 2019, to conclude the work that was referred to it in that Session,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Public Accounts Committee of the National Assembly of the First Session of the Twelfth Parliament take into account all outstanding work of the previous Committee.

(Notice Paper No. 28 (M14 Committee 1) published on 2021-01-06)

***7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON ITS EXAMINATION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF GUYANA FOR THE YEAR 2015**

Mr. David Patterson, M.P. (Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee) to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on its examination of the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 2015, be adopted and refer the Report to the Government for consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 31 (M15 Committee 2) published on 2021-01-18)

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

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

22nd February, 2021.

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

