

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 28TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION

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

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON THURSDAY, 10TH JUNE, 2021

IN THE DOME OF THE ARTHUR CHUNG CONFERENCE CENTRE,

LILIENDAAL, GREATER GEORGETOWN

PRIVATE MEMBERS' SITTING

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 Prime Minister:

Annual Reports of the Public Utilities Commission for the years 2018 and 2019.

(To be Circulated)

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2.

(2) By the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance:

Mortgage Finance Agreement between the Government of Guyana and the Bank of Baroda (Guyana) Inc.

(To be Circulated)

(3) By the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance:

Annual Report of the Police Complaints Authority for the year 2019.

(To be Circulated)

(4) By the Minister of Public Works:

Audited Financial Statements of the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority for the years 2012 to 2016.

(To be Circulated)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. CONTRACTED EMPLOYEES IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND WATER

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

1. Can the Honourable Minister provide the designation of each person employed on contract in the Ministry of Housing and Water from August 2, 2020?

3.

2. Can the Honourable Minister provide the emoluments (salaries and other benefits) for each of the persons employed on contract from August 2, 2020?
3. Can the Honourable Minister advise if allowances for these employments were in Budget 2020 and, if so, under which Line Item are they being paid?

(Notice Paper No. 55 (Q36 Opp.36) published on 2021-02-18)

2. COVID-19 RELIEF DISBURSEMENT

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Human Services and Social Security

On Monday, December 28, 2020, the National Assembly approved an additional sum of \$2.5B, “provision for payment of the COVID-19 Relief for Household Initiative.”

1. Can the Honourable Minister state what percentage of the \$2.5B has been paid out to households in the Demerara-Mahaica Region between December 28, 2020 to December 31, 2020?
2. Can the Honourable Minister state the areas in Demerara-Mahaica still to be serviced with the COVID-19 disbursement?
3. Can the Honourable Minister provide a specimen of the “pre-assessment form” being used by the COVID-19 Relief teams for the disbursements of the \$25,000.00 per household?
4. Can the Honourable Minister provide a copy of the schedule for the COVID-19 disbursements in Central Georgetown, Demerara- Mahaica Region?

(Notice Paper No. 58 (Q39 Opp.39) published on 2021-02-18)

4.

3. **ALLOCATIONS OF HOUSELOTS MADE PRE AUGUST 2, 2020**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

Can the Honourable Minister provide information on the following:

1. Number of house lots for housing purposes in the following areas:
 - Prospect, Providence, Little Diamond and Great Diamond – East Bank Demerara;
 - Cummings Lodge, Mon Repos, Annandale, La Bonne Intention, Vigilance, Blandenhall and Strathspey – East Coast Demerara;
 - Experiment – Mahaica-Berbice; and
 - Hampshire, Williamsburg, Fort Ordinance, No.75 and No.79?
2. Is the Central Housing and Planning Authority refusing to accept payments from allottees who were allocated lands in areas listed above pre-August 2, 2020?
3. If so, when will allottees who were allocated lands pre-August 2, 2020, be allowed to make their payments?
4. Can the Honourable Minister provide the total number of persons who paid for their house lots in full up to the end of the year 2020 and are yet to receive their respective Certificate of Title?
5. Can the Honourable Minister provide the total number of persons who paid for their house lots in part up to the end of the year 2020, and are yet to receive their respective Agreement of Sale?

5.

6. Can the Honourable Minister provide the total number of persons who paid for their house lots in full up to the end of the year 2020, and are yet to receive their respective Agreement of Sale?
7. After allottees are allocated their house lots and paid in-part, how long, in terms of days, months or years does it take the Central Housing and Planning Authority to give allottees their respective Agreement of Sale?
8. After allottees are allocated their house lots and paid in-full, how long, in terms of days, months or years does it take the Central Housing and Planning Authority to give allottees their respective Agreement of Sale?
9. After allottees receive their Agreement of Sale, how long in terms of days, months or years does it take the Central Housing and Planning Authority to give allottees their respective Certificate of Title?

(Notice Paper No. 59 (Q40 Opp.40) published on 2021-02-18)

4. **INFRASTRUCTURAL WORKS**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

On Monday, December 28, 2020, the National Assembly approved an additional sum of \$2B, “Infrastructural Development and Buildings” for the infrastructural works in new areas.

1. Can the Honourable Minister state what percentage of the \$2B has been expended between December 28, 2020 to December 31, 2020?

6.

2. Can the Honourable Minister provide a detailed list of where infrastructural development and building works are being done, the amount expended, and the percentage of works done for each activity as at January 14, 2021?
3. Can the Honourable Minister provide a list of the eighteen (18) areas where developmental works are taking place and the status of each?

(Notice Paper No. 60 (Q41 Opp.41) published on 2021-02-18)

5. **FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE NEW ROAD LINKAGE FROM DIAMOND TO ECCLES, EAST BANK DEMERARA**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Housing and Water

Can the Honourable Minister provide the following:

1. When was the project conceived?
2. Is there a Feasibility Study for the project? If so, kindly state the duration of the Feasibility Study?
3. What procurement method was used for procuring the services of a Consultant or Consulting Firm? Kindly provide copies of the published advertisement.
4. What is the cost of the Feasibility Study and how was the study funded? Kindly provide copies of the completed report.
5. Was the funding catered for in the 2020 National Budget? If yes, kindly indicate the Line Item.

(Notice Paper No. 56 (Q37 Opp.37) published on 2021-03-08)

6. PROGRAMME 131 – POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

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

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

1. Can the Hon. Minister provide a list of the vacant positions that are currently existing within Programme 131 – Policy Development and Administration?
2. From the details of the current expenditure 2021, Programme 131 – Policy Development and Administration – Other Goods and Services Purchased, line item 6284 (other), there is an allocated sum of \$8M. Can the Hon. Minister please provide a breakdown for this sum?
3. From the details of the current expenditure 2021, Programme 131 – Policy Development and Administration – Other Operating Expenses, line item 6294 (other), there is an allocated sum of \$4.5M. Can the Hon. Minister please provide a breakdown for this sum?
4. For Programme 131 – Policy Development and Administration, a sum of \$2.8M is approved for training (including scholarships). Can the Hon. Minister say what training course will be offered and which category of staff will benefit from the training, including scholarship?
5. Can the Hon. Minister provide a list of the designations of all the employees in his Ministry whose salaries are currently being withheld?

(Notice Paper No. 69 (Q45 Opp.45) published on 2021-03-30)

8.

7. PROGRAMME 134 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT

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

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

1. From the details of the current expenditure 2021, Programme 134 – Local Government Development – Staffing Details, there is an increase from 28 to 33. Can the Hon. Minister please provide the designations of the 33 employees in this programme, their salaries and other benefits?
2. From the details of the current expenditure 2021, Programme 134 – Local Government Development, Line item 6211 (Expenses Specific to the Agency), can the Hon. Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the approved \$285M and can the Hon. Minister specify the salaries, stipend, and all other financial benefits of the 10 Regional Chairpersons, 10 regional Vice Chairpersons, 10 Regional Executive Officers, 10 Mayors, 10 Deputy Mayors, NDC Chairpersons and Overseers?
3. With an approved sum of \$19.7M under Programme 134 – Local Government Development for the year 2021 as shown in the Details of Current Expenditure for 2021, can the Hon. Minister provide a list of the roads, bridges, drainage, and irrigation works and other infrastructure to be maintained? Can the Hon. Minister specify the location of the roads, bridges, drainage, and irrigation works and other infrastructure, along with the specific cost attached to each project?
4. From the details of the current expenditure 2021, Programme 134 – Local Government Development, can the Hon. Minister provide a detailed breakdown of Line Item 6294 (other) which has an approved sum of \$534M?

9.

5. From the details of the current expenditure 2021, Programme 134 – Local Government Development, Line Item 6312 has an approved sum of \$132.894M. Can the Hon. Minister provide a list of the Local Authorities that will receive a subvention from the Ministry and the amount of subvention associated to each Local Authority?

(Notice Paper No. 70 (Q46 Opp.46) published on 2021-03-30)

8. HAAGS BOSCH LANDFILL SITE

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

1. Can the Hon. Minister specify the type of work expected to be done along with the cost for each type of work at the Haags Bosch Landfill site?
2. Can the Hon. Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the operational cost of Haags Bosch Landfill site for 2021?
3. Can the Hon. Minister state what is the cost attached to the completion of Cell 2 at Haags Bosch Sanitary Landfill site?

(Notice Paper No. 71 (Q47 Opp.47) published on 2021-03-30)

9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS AND COMMISSION

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

1. Can the Hon. Minister say what awareness programme will the Ministry be engaged in as it relates to educating our nation on Local Government Elections?

10.

2. Can the Hon. Minister say when will the Local Government Commission be fully constituted and functioning and what intervention will he make concerning the current Secretary of the Commission directing and instructing Local Authorities in the absence of the Commission?
3. Can the Hon. Minister say what are the salaries and other benefits of members of the Local Government Commission, including the Secretary of the Commission?
4. Can the Hon. Minister say in which month is the Government anticipating the holding of Local Government Elections?

(Notice Paper No. 72 (Q48 Opp.48) published on 2021-03-30)

10. SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD ENTREPRENEURIAL (SLED) PROJECTS

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

1. The Ministry spent \$105M from the 2020 Budget on Sustainable Livelihood and Entrepreneurial Projects (SLED). Can the Hon. Minister state the type of projects, where the projects are located, the cost of each project and what systems are in place to ensure the sustainability of the projects?
2. Can the Hon. Minister say how much money from the \$180M approved in Budget 2021, Capital Expenditure (Project Code 1904300 – Regional Economic Transformation) will be spent on Sustainable Livelihood Entrepreneurial Development (SLED) projects?

(Notice Paper No. 73 (Q49 Opp.49) published on 2021-03-30)

11. CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT- GUYANA POLICE FORCE

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

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

- A. Can the Honourable Minister state whether the recently established Corporate Communications Unit was created in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Guyana Police Force? If yes, can the Honourable Minister indicate which section was amended. If no, can the Honourable Minister state under which authority was the Unit established?

- B. Can the Honourable Minister state whether the positions of the Director and Deputy Director were advertised and what criteria were used in selecting these individuals?

- C. Can the Honourable Minister provide copies of the terms of the contracts for the appointments of the Director and Deputy Director of the Corporate Communications Unit? Also, can the Honourable Minister provide their duties and responsibilities and state if other allowances and benefits are afforded to the Director and Deputy Director, which are not included in their contracts?

- D. Can the Honourable Minister state what additional costs, if any, are attached to the services render by the Director and Deputy Director for which the Government of Guyana and, by extension, taxpayers are responsible?

- E. Can the Honourable Minister state whether the roles of these new employees overlap those of Police Officers who have been trained and assigned to perform these tasks?

12.

F. Can the Honourable Minister indicate, other than the Director and Deputy Director, if they are other civilians attached to this Unit? If yes, what are their salaries, and allowances? Can the Honourable Minister also state if the positions were advertised and what criteria were used in selecting these individuals?

G. Can the Honourable Minister indicate, if any, how many Police Officers operate within this Unit?

H. Can the Honourable Minister state how many staff are assigned to this Unit?

(Notice Paper No. 106 (Q80 Opp.80) published on 2021-05-06)

12. GUYANA ONLINE ACADEMY OF LEARNING (GOAL) INITIATIVE

Member Asking: Ms. Tabitha Sarabo-Halley, M.P.

Minister Answering: The Minister of the Public Service

1. The Ministry of the Public Service has opened the application process for scholarships under its GOAL initiative in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Can the Honourable Minister of the Public Service state whether recipients under this programme will be contractually obligated to the Government of Guyana?
2. Can the Honourable Minister of the Public Service state whether beneficiaries of this programme will be required to join the Public Service upon completing their studies?
3. Can the Honourable Minister of the Public Service please state whether a formal needs assessment was completed to inform on the current and future skills needed for the Public Service and the country?

13.

4. Can the Honourable Minister of the Public Service provide this National Assembly with any document that establishes the number and break down of Public Servants by skillset as well as the current needs of the Public Service in particular and Guyana in general by sector?
5. Can the Honourable Minister of the Public Service furnish this National Assembly with any document that clearly outlines how the programmes being offered for scholarships were decided on and by whom?
6. Can the Honourable Minister of the Public Service provide an outline of the process being used to ensure that there is equity and equality in the awarding of scholarships under the GOAL programme?
7. Can the Honourable Minister of the Public Service explain the process and office holders that will determine who the recipients of the GOAL scholarships will be?

(Notice Paper No. 107 (Q81 Opp.81) published on 2021-05-06)

For Oral Replies

*13. **AURORA GOLD MINE/ZIJIN MINING**

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

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Labour**

- (A) *Can the Honourable Minister inform the House how many Guyanese and Foreigners are presently employed at the former Guyana Goldfield Operations at Aurora, that is now managed as AGM/ZIJIN?

14.

- (B) *Can the Honourable Minister further inform the House whether they are sub-contractors employed by AGM/ZIJIN? If yes, please provide the names of those sub-contractors and the number of Guyanese they employ.
- (C) *Can the Honourable Minister also inform the House whether the Guyanese workers directly employed with AGM/ZIJIN are permanent or contracted for a period? Please provide the numbers for each category and state the length of contract in each instant.
- (D) *Is the Minister in a position to advise this House whether the employers referred to in (B) and (C) are in compliance with the National Insurance Scheme Act?
- (E) *Can the Honourable Minister additionally inform the house how many Guyanese employees covered in B & C, if any, contracted COVID-19 during 2020-2021 were negatively affected by non-remittance of their NIS contributions by their employer, when they sought to make sickness benefit claims?
- (F) *Can the Honourable Minister also inform the house how his Ministry plans to assist those Guyanese employees, if any, that contracted COVID-19 at their place of employment AGM/ZIJIN, and were not paid either by NIS or their employer when they were off the job attending to their illness?

(Notice Paper No. 91 (Q65 Opp.65) published on 2021-04-12)

***14. UPGRADING OF SPORTS GROUNDS**

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

Minister Answering: **The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports**

- (A) *Can the Honourable Minister inform the House which sports grounds (name & region) will be upgraded in 2021?

15.

- (B) *Can the Honourable Minister inform the House what selection process was utilized to identify the sports grounds and at what cost? Given that there is a sum of \$186,400M in the 2021 Estimates under project code 4506400.
- (C) *Can the Honourable Minister additionally inform the house whether any of the grounds to be upgraded will be for a specialized sport discipline?
- (D) *Can the Honourable Minister inform the House if the facilities will be improved to be unsterilized under any weather to accommodate play day, or night?
- (E) *If yes, please identify the sports discipline, the ground, and the cost.
- (F) *Can the Honourable Minister inform this House how much of the \$186,400M was spent as at, 31st March 2021?

(Notice Paper No. 92 (Q66 Opp.66) published on 2021-04-12)

***15. CONSTRUCTION OF MINI SPORTS STADIUMS**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports

- (A) *Can the Honourable Minister inform the House which areas in Regions 10, 6 & 2 will mini sports stadiums be built in 2021, how were these sites selected, cost per stadium and proposed contract length? Given that a sum of over one billion dollars was identified in the 2021 Budget at REF 220, Volume 1.

16.

(B) *Can the Honourable Minister inform the House in what way building of mini stadiums in regions (10 & 6) complement or augment ongoing construction of semi stadiums with synthetic tracts in Regions 10 & 6? Given the conceptual design of the latter.

(Notice Paper No. 93 (Q67 Opp.67) published on 2021-04-12)

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. SUMMARY JURISDICTION (OFFENCES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 – Bill No.
6/2021**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Offences)
Act.

2. CIVIL LAW OF GUYANA (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 – Bill No. 7/2021

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Civil Law of Guyana Act.

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PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

MOTIONS

**1. NATURAL GAS FLARING AT THE ESSO EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION
GUYANA LIMITED**

Mr. David Patterson, M.P. to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited (EEPGL) was on June 1, 2017, granted an Environmental Permit, No. 20160705-EEDPF, to undertake Phase 1 of the Liza Development Project (Liza 1) which included, the use of a Floating Production, Storage, and Offloading (FPSO) vessel “to process, store and offload the recovered oil during production operations within the Stabroek Block”;

AND WHEREAS the Liza 1 Permit (Clause 1.10) enjoined the Permit Holder, EEPGL, to “Employ effective operational and maintenance systems on all aspects of the facility whose failure could impact the environment...”;

AND WHEREAS the Liza 1 Permit (Clause 3.6) expressly prohibits flaring and venting; with exceptions being made for “tank flashing emission, standing/working/breathing losses” and flaring related to the startup of the FPSO, emergencies or during periods of maintenance;

AND WHEREAS EEPGL has routinely been engaged in flaring in direct contravention of the terms of the Liza 1 Permit issued and acknowledged, and as a result, has caused, and is causing substantial damage to the environment and the credibility of the Liza 1 Development Project;

AND WHEREAS calculations based upon reported EEPGL’s production data shows that zero flaring, except for the small amount allowed for pilot flaring, may be achieved by reducing oil production by approximately 15,000 bopd;

AND WHEREAS according to Clause 13.1 in the Liza 1 and Liza 2 Permits, “The Environmental Protection Agency reserves the right to review and amend the conditions attached to this Permit”,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly expresses its dissatisfaction, that all reasonable measures have not been taken or are being taken to prevent the flaring of gas as currently exists, and which reported by EEPGL to be 16 million cubic feet, per day (mcf) at the designed maximum safe oil production limit of 120,000 barrels oil, per day (bopd).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly calls on the Government of Guyana:

1. To direct Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited to abide by the terms and conditions of the Liza 1 Permit issued on June 1, 2017;
2. To request that the Environmental Protection Agency takes all reasonable measures to ensure compliance including, EEPGL achieving zero flaring at the Liza 1 Project through reduction of oil production rates; and suspension of same Liza 1 Permit if zero flaring is not met, until it is satisfied that all reasonable and lawful efforts are being made to ensure that there is no flaring of gas as has occurred over the past several weeks; and
3. To request that the Liza 1 and Liza 2 Permits be immediately amended by the EPA to become consistent with the updated conditions in the Payara Permit, relative to flaring.

(Notice Paper No. 63 (M22 Opp. 4) published on 2021-02-26)

2. **LOCATION OF GUYANA SHORE BASE SERVICES**

Mr. David Patterson, M.P. to move the following motion:

WHEREAS successive Governments of Guyana have approved three Development Plans for ExxonMobil (Liza I, Liza II and Payara) and additionally, the company has announced its intention to apply for a 4th Development Plan (Yellowtail) before the end of 2021;

AND WHEREAS the Guyana Shore Base Inc., is located on the Demerara River, which is the busiest river in the country;

AND WHEREAS ExxonMobil has recently issued a Request for Information to identify contractors who can provide fully functional, fit for purpose shore base facilities, to support their needs of future projects, starting 2023,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly advises the Government to establish a Multi-Agency Taskforce to prepare a Land Use Policy, specifically for the location of the Oil and Gas Sector and present their Report to this Assembly, as early as possible, but within six (6) months;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Government advises the Taskforce that it is the preference of this National Assembly for future onshore bases to be in the Counties of Berbice and Essequibo to ensure parity in development of the Oil and Gas Industry and the equal-able development across Guyana for the benefit of all Citizens;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Government of Guyana advises ExxonMobil and all other Oil and Gas Operators that they should suspend their RFI until the Taskforce completes its Report on the Land Use Policy, which should be completed within six (6) months; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Government of Guyana informs ExxonMobil and all other Oil and Gas Operators that all future shore bases shall be State-Owned but leased to private operators so as to ensure the maximum benefit for all Guyanese.

(Notice Paper No. 68 (M24 Opp. 5) published on 2021-03-26)

*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 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;

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

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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;

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)

(ii) GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

MOTION

4. REMOVAL OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and Government Chief Whip to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee met on December 28, 2020, under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Speaker of the National Assembly where Mr. David Patterson, M.P., was nominated and declared the Chairperson;

AND WHEREAS at the Sixth Meeting of the Public Accounts Committee, on February 1, 2021, following certain exposures during the examination of the 2016 Auditor General's Report, a motion was moved by Minister Gail Teixeira calling for Mr. David Patterson to resign as Chairperson while remaining as a member of the Committee and that another member of the Opposition be elected as the Chairperson; the motion was put in accordance with Standing Orders 26 (Admissibility of Motions) and 30 (h) Exemption from Notice;

AND WHEREAS the Chairperson having not agreed to resign, the motion was then moved and supported by the majority of the members for the removal of the Chairperson;

AND WHEREAS the Chairperson having not “put” the motion to a vote as required by the Standing Orders, the Clerk of the National Assembly was invited into the meeting to provide guidance;

AND WHEREAS the Clerk advised the Committee that the Regional Group of Clerks in the Caribbean had agreed that any member could move a motion for the Chairperson to step aside and that “no notice was required for a motion to be brought in a committee and the motion should be “put”, and if a division was called, it should be voted on;”

AND WHEREAS on the departure of the Clerk, the Chairperson did not “put” the motion but instead vacated the chair while remaining in the room and invited other members of the Opposition to take the chair whereby they declined; resulting in their being no Chair and the meeting being aborted;

AND WHEREAS the Seventh Meeting was summoned by the Chairperson on March 15, 2021, with the “Motion for the removal of the Chairperson” not listed as an item on the Agenda;

AND WHEREAS at the said Meeting, a motion was moved to amend the agenda to include, as the first item, “the Motion for the removal of Mr. David Patterson as Chairperson of the PAC”; this motion to amend the agenda was put to a vote and carried; and again, the Chairperson did not put the motion for his removal;

AND WHEREAS the Clerk of the National Assembly was again invited to the meeting and advised that the Clerk of the Committee could conduct an election for a temporary Chair for the day’s meeting; it was also noted that the Chairperson, according to SO 102(3), has “no original vote but in the event of an equality of votes shall have a casting vote”; therefore, the Chairperson

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although personally involved could occupy the Chair and “put” the motion; the Chairperson did not comply and again vacated the Chair; there was no Chairperson in place to “put” the motion to a vote once again; it was then agreed that the Clerk of the National Assembly would seek legal advice from a lawyer who was “not politically aligned” on the interpretation of the Standing Orders;

AND WHEREAS the Clerk of the National Assembly formally circulated the legal advice he received dated March 23, 2021 “on whether SO 95(4) overrides SO 82(2)” to the Chairperson and Members of the Committee and called for a meeting to be held on March 31, 2021, no meeting was held, however, until April 12;

AND WHEREAS at the April 12th Meeting, the legal opinion was listed as Item #1 and “Motion for the removal of the Chairperson” as Item # 2 on the Agenda;

AND WHEREAS the Chairperson refused to allow a motion for the adoption of the legal opinion circulated by the Clerk and repeatedly ignored and refused to allow motions to go to Item 2 on the agenda and “put” the “Motion for the removal of the Chairperson” instead he overrode every effort to do so and moved to other items on the Agenda;

AND WHEREAS a Committee Meeting was convened for April 19, at which Item # 1 “Motion for the removal of Mr. David Patterson as Chairperson” was asterisked by the Chairperson on the Agenda; the meeting was subsequently cancelled;

AND WHEREAS on May 3, 2021, the Speaker of the National Assembly wrote the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, copied to all members of the Public Accounts Committee, in which he stated that i) as Speaker he could intervene in a committee related issue in “ very serious and special circumstances;” (ii) the Chairperson of a Committee does not have the authority to place an asterisk against a Member’s motion, only the mover could; (iii) this action by the Chairperson was a “gross violation of the Standing Orders and tantamount to bullying,” and, iv) he compelled the Chairperson to “put” the motion;

25.

AND WHEREAS to date Mr. David Patterson has demonstrated that he has no respect for the Speaker of the National Assembly and, it would appear, in the absence of a response to the Speaker's letter he is unprepared to obey the Speaker's instruction; he has disregarded the advice of the Clerk of the National Assembly on several occasions with regard to the Standing Orders and is resolute in his refusal, using all forms of subterfuge, to allow the motion for his removal to be "put" to the vote;

AND WHEREAS Mr. David Patterson has consistently and openly violated the Standing Orders and has introduced a level of bullyism unbefitting of a Member of Parliament, and, in doing so, bringing the image of the National Assembly into disrepute,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That as a result of Mr. David Patterson's conduct as Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee with respect to his open violation of the Standing Orders, among other things, in particular since February 1, the majority of the members of the Public Accounts Committee have lost confidence in him as the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly approves the removal of Mr. David Patterson as the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee.

(Notice Paper No. 116 (M26 Govt 16) published on 2021-06-03)

BILLS – Second Reading

5. 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:

/...26

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

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

BILLS – Committee, Second and Third Readings

***6. 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)

***7. 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)

/...27

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

(ii) **COMMITTEES' BUSINESS**

MOTIONS

8. **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;

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)

9. **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:

28.

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)

10. OUTSTANDING WORK OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security 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;

AND WHEREAS the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services, a Sectoral 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 during that Session,

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services of the National Assembly of the First Session of the Twelfth Parliament adopt all outstanding work of the previous Committee.

(Notice Paper No. 90 (M25 Committee 5) published on 2021-03-30)

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

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

4th June, 2021.