

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 70TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION

(2020-2023) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 10.00 A.M.

ON TUESDAY, 19TH DECEMBER, 2023,

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-

2.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Written Replies

1. **PENSIONERS BENEFITTING FROM WATER AND ELECTRICITY
SUBSIDIES**

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

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

- (a) Could the Hon. Minister provide the National Assembly with a disaggregated list, as per region, of the number of pensioners who are benefitting from both water and electricity subsidies as of May, 2023?
- (b) Could the Hon. Minister also inform the National Assembly what is the total cost per month this measure has on the treasury?

(Notice Paper No. 297 (Q222 Opp.222) published on 2023-10-30)

2. **MEN ON MISSION PROJECT**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance and
Government Chief Whip

"During the consideration of budget 2023 estimates, the sum of \$500M was approved under the Office of the President for "**Men on Mission**".

3.

1. Could the Hon. Minister provide the National Assembly with a list, as per region, of the number of projects, sums expended per project, and beneficiaries from the expenditure, as of June 17, 2023?
2. Can the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly what is the balance of the sum as of June 17, 2023?

(Notice Paper No. 302 (Q227 Opp.227) published on 2023-10-30)

3. MECHANISMS IN LAW USED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE DISBURSEMENT OF SUBVENTION TO MUNICIPALITIES

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

Minister Answering: The Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Can the Hon. Minister inform this House what mechanisms in Law were used by the Ministry/ Central Government to ascertain whether a municipality qualifies for subvention and how much subvention, by cash transfer, each municipality is entitled to?

(Notice Paper No. 313 (Q238 Opp.238) published on 2023-10-30)

4. NAMES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD DEMOCRATIC COUNCILS THAT RECEIVED SUBVENTIONS FROM THE GOVERNMENT

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

Minister Answering: The Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development

Can the Hon. Minister inform this House of the names of each Neighborhood Democratic Council that received subvention (in the form of cash transfer) from the Ministry of Local Government, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, and up to June 2023, and state the amount that was received, per year, by each of the Council?

(Notice Paper No. 314 (Q239 Opp.239) published on 2023-10-30)

4.

5. THE NUMBER OF BUSINESS VISAS ISSUED

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Home Affairs

Can the Minister indicate the number of business visas issued for the period 1st September, 2020 to 30th June, 2023 and the total number per nationality?

(Notice Paper No. 321 (Q246 Opp.246) published on 2023-10-30)

For Oral Replies

6. *MECHANISM IN PLACE TO FACILITATE A 100% CENSUS SURVEY

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

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

The Guyana National Population and Housing Census 2022 was launched on August 22, 2022, and the National Assembly approved the sum of \$2B via Supplementary Paper on August 8, 2022.

*Can the Hon. Senior Minister inform the National Assembly whether arrangements are in place to facilitate or accommodate persons who were not at home, at the time visits were made by enumerators?

(Notice Paper No. 288 (Q218 Opp.218) published on 2023-06-09)

7. ***NUMBER OF ENUMERATORS AND STIPEND PAID FOR CENSUS 2022**

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

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

The Guyana National Population and Housing Census 2022 was launched on August 22, 2022, and the National Assembly approved the sum of \$2B via Supplementary Paper on August 8, 2022.

*Can the Hon. Senior Minister, inform the National Assembly of the total number of enumerators and the stipend paid to each enumerator for Census 2022?

(Notice Paper No. 289 (Q219 Opp.219) published on 2023-06-09)

8. ***PROJECTION DATE OF NATIONAL CENSUS EXERCISE**

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

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

The Guyana National Population and Housing Census 2022 was launched on August 22, 2022, and the National Assembly approved the sum of \$2B via Supplementary Paper on August 8, 2022.

*Can the Hon. Senior Minister, inform the National Assembly when the 2022 Census Exercise is likely to be completed and the final report laid in the National Assembly?

(Notice Paper No. 290 (Q220 Opp.220) published on 2023-06-09)

6.

9. *SKILLS GAP ANALYSIS OF THE LOCAL LABOUR MARKET

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Labour

*Can the Hon. Minister inform the House whether the Ministry of Labour has conducted a skills gap analysis of the local labour market at any time between 2020 and June 16, 2023?

(Notice Paper No. 306 (Q231 Opp.231) published on 2023-10-30)

10. *MODERNIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT RECRUITMENT AGENCIES

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Labour

*Can the Hon. Minister state whether there has been any modernization of the government recruitment agencies to be able to respond to changing trends in the labour market? If yes, please state the modernization policy and or practice?

(Notice Paper No. 307 (Q232 Opp.232) published on 2023-10-30)

11. *ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Labour

*Can the Hon. Minister state whether the Ministry of Labour has established and implemented a labour market information system (LMIS)? If yes, please state when and, if no, please state why not?

(Notice Paper No. 308 (Q233 Opp.233) published on 2023-10-30)

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7.

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'S BUSINESS**

MOTIONS

**1. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 4/2023 – CURRENT AND
CAPITAL ESTIMATES**

Assembly to resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance to signify the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 4/2023 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) – Advances made from the Contingency Fund totalling \$1,899,647,334 for the period 2023-10-01 to 2023-12-08.

(Notice Paper No. 325 (M74 Govt 38) published on 2023-12-11)

(Paper presented on 2023-12-11)

8.

2. CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 5/2023 – CURRENT AND CAPITAL ESTIMATES

Assembly to resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance to signify the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet and to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

Financial Paper No. 5/2023 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$24,044,095,908 for the period ending 2023-12-31

(Notice Paper No. 326 (M75 Govt 39) published on 2023-12-11)

(Paper presented on 2023-12-11)

BILLS – Second Readings

***3. ARBITRATION BILL 2023 – Bill No. 18/2023 published on 2023-12-08**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to facilitate domestic and international arbitrations by encouraging the use of arbitration as a method of resolving disputes; and for connected purposes.

(Read a first time on 2023-12-11)

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

***4. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (PLEA DISCUSSION, PLEA AGREEMENT AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT) BILL 2023 – Bill No. 19/2023 published on 2023-12-11**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to establish a system of plea discussions and plea agreements in criminal procedure and for matters connected thereto.

(Read a first time on 2023-12-11)

BILLS – Committee, Second and Third Readings

***5. EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022 – Bill No. 3/2022 published on 2022-04-06**

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 Evidence Act.

(Read a first time on 2022-04-13 and referred to a Special Select Committee on 2022-05-17)

***6. NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY BILL 2023 – Bill No. 5/2023 published on 2023-04-17**

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 establish the body known as the National Intelligence and Security Agency as the Agency to further enhance the State's

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

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defence and security policy stated in article 197A of the Constitution, to provide for the Agency to be responsible for the coordination of the State's defence and law enforcement activities relating to national intelligence and security, and to provide national intelligence and security advice to the President, Cabinet and entities in the security sector, and for connected matters.

(Read a first time on 2023-04-24)

(Referred to a Special Select Committee on 2023-05-10)

(ii) PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTIONS

7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023 –

Bill No. 10 of 2023

Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order No. 52(1), grants leave for the introduction and first reading of the Local Government Commission (Amendment) Bill 2023 – Bill No. 10 of 2023 -

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Local Government Commission Act.

(Notice Paper No. 260 (M64 Opp. 11) published on 2023-05-18)

If leave is granted, the Clerk shall read aloud the title of the Bill.

8. **RESCISSION OF RESOLUTION NO. 35 OF 2022 – AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDER NO. 82 (PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE)**

Mr. Ganesh Mahipaul, M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was established in British Guiana in 1957 by Standing Order 70 (2) and is now provided for by Standing Order 82 of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) derives its mandate from Article 223(5-8) of the Constitution of Guyana (2003) and Standing Order (82) of the National Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) exercises supervisory oversight of the functioning of the Audit Office in accordance with the Rules, Policies, and Procedures Manual, the Audit Act, and any other Law;

AND WHEREAS the duty of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is to examine the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by the Assembly to meet Public Expenditure and such other accounts laid before the Assembly as the Assembly may refer to the Committee together with the Auditor General's Report thereon;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) examines the economy and the efficiency of the administration of these public expenditures by: a) All central and local government bodies and entities; b) All bodies and entities in which the state has a controlling interest; and c) All projects funded by way of taxes, loans or grants by any foreign state or organization;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) exercises powers in keeping with the Legislative Bodies Evidence Act, Chapter 1:08, allowing, for the summoning of witnesses to give evidence and or provide documents to the Committee;

AND WHEREAS Resolution No. 35 of the National Assembly of Guyana passed on Wednesday, 13th April, 2022, amended Standing Order 82 by inserting immediately after paragraph (3), the following paragraph - "(4) A quorum shall be five (5) members, two (2) representing the Government, two (2) representing the Opposition and the Chairperson;

AND WHEREAS before Resolution No. 35, a quorum for the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was in keeping with Standing Order 95 (6) which states, "Unless the Assembly otherwise direct, three (3) Members shall be the quorum. In ascertaining whether there is a quorum present, the Member in the Chair shall not be excluded.";

AND WHEREAS since the existence of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), its work has always gone unhindered up until Resolution No. 35 of the National Assembly of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is yet to complete the examination of the Auditor General Reports for the years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is yet to submit reports to the National Assembly for the financial years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021;

AND WHEREAS since Resolution No. 35, eleven (11) meetings of the Public Accounts Committee have been canceled due to the lack of a quorum;

AND WHEREAS on all eleven (11) occasions it was due to no member of the Government side showing up for the Public Accounts Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly rescinds Resolution No.35 which was passed by the National Assembly on Wednesday, 13th April, 2022.

(Notice Paper No. 261 (M65 Opp. 12) published on 2023-06-08)

9. **ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THE SCOURGE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN GUYANA**

Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Domestic Violence continues to ravage our society.

AND WHEREAS Domestic Violence has become prevalent in our Society where in many cases, women become the fatal victim;

AND WHEREAS the Domestic Violence Act, Chapter 11:09, was passed in 1996 for, “the protection in cases involving domestic violence by the granting of a protection order, to provide the police with powers to arrest where a domestic violence offence occurs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”;

AND WHEREAS in August 2013, the A Partnership For National Unity (APNU) tabled a motion to address the scourge of “Interpersonal Violence” and sought for a Special Select Committee of the National Assembly to examine the situation and make recommendations to the National Assembly for implementation;

AND WHEREAS it was reported by the United Nations Women Caribbean in its Report in November, 2019, that, “Guyana has a relatively high incidence of domestic violence with roughly one out of every two women between ages 15 and 60 have been abused by their husbands, spouses or partners at some stage in their lives.”.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly appoints a Special Select Committee of the National Assembly headed by the Minister responsible for the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security, to review the present situation, approaches of perpetrators, and the factors leading to these vicious acts of Domestic Violence and make recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That on completion of the work of the Special Select Committee, a detailed report be submitted to the National Assembly for the implementation of the recommendations to be adopted by the Ministry of Human Services and Social Security.

(Notice Paper No. 262 (M66 Opp. 13) published on 2023-06-08)

10. **ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW CHARGES FOR HOUSE LOTS FOR GUYANESE**

Ms. Annette Ferguson, M.P., to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Article 26 of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana states that, “every citizen has the right to proper housing accommodation”;

AND WHEREAS the size of Guyana is 83,0000 square miles with a population of over 750,000 persons, of which an average of five persons make up a family size;

AND WHEREAS, the Central Housing and Planning Authority was established in 1948, with its core principle to provide housing for working-class people;

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AND WHEREAS, lands for housing purposes are acquired from several state agencies, paid by the Central Housing and Planning Authority;

AND WHEREAS, prices are determined by the Government Valuation Department in many cases after surveys are conducted for housing areas;

AND WHEREAS, many Guyanese who are allocated house lots find it challenging to commence construction because of financial constraints. Additionally, in most instances, the persons are unable to provide 20% of the required loan amount requested by the banks as a qualifying factor to qualify for a loan;

AND WHEREAS, since Guyana is an oil-producing nation with a production of over 200,000 barrels per day, it is evident that housing can become easily accessible for Guyanese who are earning salaries below \$200,000.00.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly approves of a Special Select Committee headed by the Minister of Housing and Water to examine this grave issue of unaffordability by engaging civil society, financiers, and other Stakeholders to submit proposals and make recommendations that may be adopted by the Government to assist Guyanese.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Special Select Committee, on completion of its work, submits to the National Assembly a detailed report with its recommendations and asks that the House approves of the Ministry of Housing and Water to incorporate them into its Policy.

(Notice Paper No. 263 (M67 Opp. 14) published on 2023-06-08)

***11. 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;

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

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)

*12. **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;

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;

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

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)

(iii) **COMMITTEES BUSINESS**

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

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

13th December, 2023.