

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 78TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION

(2020-2024) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD

AT 10.00 A.M.

ON WEDNESDAY, 31ST JANUARY, 2024,

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-

The Speaker deferred the answers to the following questions until the conclusion of the consideration of the 2024 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure:

For Written Replies

***1. NAMES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD DEMOCRATIC COUNCILS THAT DID NOT RECEIVE 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 Neighbourhood Democratic Councils that were not given a subvention (in the form of cash transfer) from the Ministry of Local Government, for the years 2020, 2021 , 2022, and up to June 2023?

(Notice Paper No. 315 (Q240 Opp.240) published on 2023-10-30)

***2. MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION THAT ACCOMPANIED HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. MOHAMED IRFAAN ALI ON OVERSEAS TRIPS**

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

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

Can the Hon. Minister provide a detailed list to the National Assembly, of the persons who accompanied the President on overseas trips, from August 2, 2020 to May 17, 2023?

(Notice Paper No. 322 (Q247 Opp.247) published on 2023-10-30)

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

3.

***3. MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WHICH ACCOMPANIED HON. BHARRAT JAGDEO. M.P., VICE-PRESIDENT, ON OVERSEAS TRIPS**

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

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

Can the Hon. Minister provide a detailed list to the National Assembly, of the persons who accompanied Hon. Bharrat Jagdeo, M.P., Vice-President, on overseas trips, from August 2, 2020, to May 17, 2023?

(Notice Paper No. 323 (Q248 Opp.248) published on 2023-10-30)

For Oral Replies

***4. *FULL DIMENSION OF THE PLOT OF LAND FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE OFFICE COMPLEX IN THE HOUSTON AREA FOR THE MANDELA/ECCLES INTERLINKED ROAD**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Works

"During the consideration of Budget 2023 under the Ministry of Public Works, program - "Policy Development and Administration, Project code 214800 — Government Buildings a contract for the sum of \$15,874,143,300, was awarded to Caribbean Green Building Incorporated for the construction of an office complex in the Houston area on the Mandela/Eccles interlinked road."

*Can the Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly the full dimension of the plot of land in the Houston area where the complex is to be constructed?

(Notice Paper No. 298 (Q223 Opp.223) published on 2023-10-30)

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

4.

***5. *PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL ALLOCATED SPENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE OFFICE COMPLEX IN THE HOUSTON AREA, MANDELA/ECCLES INTERLINKED ROAD**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Works

"During the consideration of Budget 2023 under the Ministry of Public Works, program – "Policy Development and Administration, Project code 214800 — Government Buildings a contact was awarded the sum of \$15,874,143,300, to Caribbean Green Building Incorporated for the construction of an office complex in the Houston area on the Mandela/Eccles interlinked road."

*Could the Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly what percentage of the total sum allocated for the construction of the Office Complex has been spent as of June 16, 2023?

(Notice Paper No. 299 (Q224 Opp.224) published on 2023-10-30)

***6. *PERCENTAGE OF THE WORK COMPLETED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE OFFICE COMPLEX IN THE HOUSTON AREA, MANDELA/ECCLES INTERLINKED ROAD**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Works

"During the consideration of Budget 2023 under the Ministry of Public Works, program – "Policy Development and Administration, Project code 214800 — Government Buildings – the sum of a contract for \$15,874,143,300, was awarded to Caribbean Green Building Incorporated for the construction of an office complex in the Houston area on the Mandela/Eccles interlinked road."

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

5.

*Could the Honourable Minister inform the National Assembly what percentage of work has been completed as of June 16, 2023?

(Notice Paper No. 300 (Q225 Opp.225) published on 2023-10-30)

***7. *SKILLS AUDIT OF VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Labour

*Can the Hon. Minister indicate whether the Ministry of Labour has conducted a skills audit of Venezuelan migrants at any time between 2020 and June 16, 2023?

(Notice Paper No. 309 (Q234 Opp.234) published on 2023-10-30)

***8. *CODIFICATION OF THE LABOUR REGULATIONS AND LEGISLATION**

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 commenced the codification of the labour regulations and legislation under one code for reference?

(Notice Paper No. 310 (Q235 Opp.235) published on 2023-10-30)

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-**

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

6.

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY AND
MOVED BY A MINISTER-**

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS

MOTION

**1. BUDGET SPEECH 2024 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES
OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2024**

Assembly to resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2024.

(Moved by the Senior Minister in the Office of the President with Responsibility for Finance on 2024-01-15)

BILLS – Second Readings

***2. FISCAL ENACTMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2024 – Bill No. 2/2024 published
on 2024-01-26**

The Senior Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance and the Public Service to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Income Tax Act, the Value-Added Tax Act, the Customs Act, the Natural Resource Fund Act, the External Loans Act and the Public Loan Act.

(Read a first time on 2024-01-26)

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

7.

***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)

***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)

***5. SEA AND RIVER DEFENCE BILL 2023 – Bill No. 21/2023 published on 2023-12-13**

The Minister of Public Works to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to repeal and replace existing legislation on sea and river defence, to make provision for protection from inundation from the sea or rivers and to provide for the establishment, construction and maintenance of sea and river defences, natural defences and to provide for related matters.

(Read a first time on 2023-12-19)

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

8.

BILLS – Committee, Second and Third Readings

***6. 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)

***7. 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 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)

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

(ii) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

MOTIONS

***8. 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.

***9. 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;

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

10.

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)

*10. **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.”.

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

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)

***11. 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;

/...14

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

14.

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)

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***12. 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;

/...16

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

16.

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)

***13. 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;

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

18.

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.**

30th January, 2024.