

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

FOR THE 82ND 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 FRIDAY, 17TH MAY, 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-

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES-

ORAL QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE-

For Oral Reply

***ERECTION OF BILLBOARD OF DESIGN OF OFFICE COMPLEX BY THE
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS IN THE HOUSTON AREA, MANDELA/ECCLES
INTERLINKED ROAD**

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

Minister Answering: The Minister of Public Works

"During the examination of the 2023 Budget, I suggested to Hon. Bishop Juan Edghill, Minister of Public Works, to erect a billboard, depicting the design of the Office Complex, and the Minister made a commitment to erect same."

1. *Could the Hon. Minister inform the National Assembly what has caused the delay in the erection of a the billboard displaying the design of the Office Complex in the Houston Area?
2. *Can the Hon. Minister give the National Assembly an undertaken when the billboard, depicting the design of the Office complex will be erected at the project site?

(Notice Paper No. 301 (Q226 Opp.226) 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-**

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS-

3.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

(i) GOVERNMENT'S BUSINESS

BILLS – Second Readings

1. **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)

2. **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)

3. **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)

/...4

4.

4. **DEFENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2024 – Bill No. 5/2024 published on 2024-05-03**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Defence Act.

(Read a first time on 2024-05-09)

5. **FUGITIVE OFFENDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2024 – Bill No. 6/2024 published on 2024-05-09**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the Fugitive Offenders Act.

(Read a first time 2024-05-09)

6. **CRIMINAL LAW PROCEDURE (PAPER COMMITTALS) BILL 2024 – Bill No. 7/2024 published on 2024-05-09**

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

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the abolition of preliminary inquiries; to provide for the procedure in respect of paper committal proceedings in criminal matters; and for matters connected thereto.

(Read a first time on 2024-05-09)

BILLS – Committee, Second and Third Readings

***7. 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)

***8. 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)

/...6

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

(ii) **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

MOTIONS

***9. 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**

7.

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)

- *10. **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;

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

11. AUTHORITY OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE TO SUMMON WITNESSES

Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P. (Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee) to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Article 2 of the Legislative Bodies (Evidence) Act, Chapter 2 of 2012 provides that “Committee” means a Committee referred to in the definition of “legislative body” and a “legislative body” means- (a) the Cabinet; or (b) any Special Select Committee of the National Assembly; or (c) any Committee of the National Assembly empowered by resolution of the Assembly to summon witnesses;

AND WHEREAS Article 223 (8)(a) of the Constitution of Guyana states that “the Public Accounts Committee” means the Public Accounts Committee established by Order 70(2) of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly; and (b) “the public accounts of Guyana” includes the accounts of – (i) all central and local government bodies and entities; (ii) all bodies and entities in which the state has a controlling interest; and (iii) all projects funded by way of loans or grants by any foreign State or organization;

AND WHEREAS Standing Order 82(1) of the Standing Orders of the National Assembly (with amendments to February 2015) states that, “There shall be a Standing Committee to be known as the Public Accounts Committee to consist of not less than six (6) or more than ten (10) Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection as soon as may be after the beginning of each National Assembly. It shall be the duty of the Committee 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 Committee for the purpose of examining the Accounts of entities, is required to invite persons to produce books, plans, or documents, to aid in the work of the Committee;

AND WHEREAS on occasions, some persons are reluctant to appear before the Committee, thus affecting the work of the Committee;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee has observed that it is not deemed a legislative body as defined in the Legislative Bodies (Evidence) Act, Chapter 2 of 2012 and is not empowered to summon persons to appear before the Committee;

AND WHEREAS the Public Accounts Committee is desirous of summoning persons to appear before the Committee to explain the use of Public Funds during their tenure,

11.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Public Accounts Committee be deemed a legislative body, as defined in the Legislative Bodies (Evidence) Act, Chapter 2 of 2012, with the power to summon persons to appear before the Committee, to produce books, plans, or documents, to aid in the work of the Committee.

(Notice Paper No. 328 (M77 Committees 21) published on 2024-03-15)

12. **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON ITS EXAMINATION OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS OF GUYANA FOR THE YEARS 2017 AND 2018**

Mr. Jermaine Figueira, 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 years 2017 and 2018, be adopted and refer the Report to the Government for consideration.

(Notice Paper No. 331 (M80 Committees 22) published on 2024-05-10)

13. **ADOPTION OF THE SECOND SPECIAL REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Minister of Human Services and Social Security (Chairperson of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services) to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Second Special Report of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Social Services be adopted.

(Notice Paper No. 332 (M81 Committees 23) published on 2024-05-10)

**S. E. ISAACS,
Clerk of the National Assembly
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12.

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

13th May, 2024.