

# Chamber Notes



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## Notable Achievements



In October, 28 MP's, 8 staff members and 1 consultant from the Attorney-General's Chambers participated in a workshop on Legislative Drafting and Analysis that was conducted by the UNDP at the Grand Coastal Inn, ECD. This workshop was intended for both first-time and veteran MPs from all parties. It aimed to expose MPs to the various aspects of the process of drafting and vetting legislation and situating these within the Guyanese constitutional and legal framework.

The training was carried out by experts provided by the UN Democratic Governance Group through UNDP.

Participants were exposed to the basics of legislative drafting and the process of law making from the formative stages of a Bill to its passage through the Parliament into becoming law. Techniques on compromising, negotiating and reaching consensus, and were also taught the art of bridge-building in being able to win support for various causes.

Each participant received a Certificate of Participation in recognition of their presence and contribution to the workshop's success.



National Assembly Team with the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament

As part of its parliamentary strengthening programme, the British High Commission, Georgetown, together with the British House of Commons and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association teamed up to sponsor an visit of Guyanese MPs to Westminster and the new Parliament of Scotland. The delegation was led by the Speaker and included, Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, Hon. Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P., Hon. Winston Felix, M.P., and the Hon. Ms. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P. as the lone female. Without a doubt, the team discovered why the British House of Commons is considered the source of modern parliamentarianism.

The team members were afforded an opportunity to get to know each other, and to interact with counterparts in London and Edinburgh during a packed programme that was organised by the CPA-UK Branch office. Many lessons were learned, but undoubtedly, the most valuable, was that without compromise, the practice of politics is ineffective and non-productive.

The team expressed gratitude to the sponsors of a once in a lifetime visit to the hallowed halls and Chamber of Westminster; the source of modern parliamentarianism and to Scotland, where patriotism trump narrow political and partisan interests to make their young parliament a successful one.



Rt. Hon. David Lammy, M.P. with MPs



At the Tottenham Child Care Centre



## Bills, Motions and Questions

### Bills

- Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Bill No. 26/2012 – *Presented by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs*
- Business Names (Registration) (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Bill No. 27/2012 – *Presented by the Minister of Finance*

Deeds and Commercial Registries Authority Bill 2012 – Bill No. 28/2012 – *Presented by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs*

### Motions for Debate

- Consideration of Outstanding Work of the Public Accounts Committee of the Ninth Parliament – *Mr. Carl Greenidge, M.P., Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee*
  - Public Monies on Marriot Hotel be halted until approval by the National Assembly – *Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.*
  - Preventing Honourable Clement J. Rohee
  - M.P., Minister of Home Affairs from Speaking in the National Assembly – *Brig. (Ret.'d) David Granger, M.S.S., M.P., Leader of the Opposition*
  - Adoption of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee of Guyana on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 2009 – *Mr. Carl Greenidge, M.P., Chairman of PAC*
- ### Questions Asked
- Internet Facilities at the Georgetown School of Nursing? *From Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P. - To the Minister of Health*
  - Guyana Heading for a Serious Health Crisis? *From Mrs. Valerie Garrido-Lowe, M.P. – To the Minister of Health*
  - Functioning of the Skeldon Sugar Factory? *From Dr. Vishwa Mahadeo, M.P.- To the Minister of Agriculture*



US Ambassador, Dr. Brent Hardt and Mr. Trevor Williams, M.P.

AFC Member of Parliament, Mr. Trevor Williams, along with 30 other participants from around the world, travelled to the US to take part in the US-sponsored International Visitor Leadership (IVLP) exchange programme to observe the US elections process - a Project for Young Political

Leaders, which runs from October 29th to November 19th, 2012.

The programme saw them visiting “key battleground states” such as Ohio, Michigan, North Carolina and Florida. After the elections, the participants journeyed to contrasting US states. ■



Dr. Robin James and Dr. David Ponet

An assessment of the various aspects of the committees of the National Assembly of Guyana, including, but not limited to, their

composition, their functions, the support infrastructure, capacity, procedures, privileges, and other matters relevant to their effective execution of their roles in line with Commonwealth and International standards was recently concluded by Dr. Robin James, the Deputy Principal Clerk of the British High Commission, and Dr. David Ponet, Parliamentary Specialist, of UNICEF. They are expected to share their recommendations for improvement shortly. ■

## Congratulations

to  
*Hon. Minister Priya Devi Manickchand*  
on the birth of her Baby Boy!

## November Birthdays

- 2nd - Ms. Bibi Safora Shadick, M.P.
- 7th - Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.
- 14th - Mr. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.
- 15th - Mr. Joseph Hamilton, M.P.
- 20th - Hon. Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P.
- 20th - Mr. Richard Allen, M.P.
- 23rd - Mrs. June Eula Marcello, M.P.
- 30th - Mr. Moses Nagamootoo, M.P.

## Did you know?

The Committees Division, which was established in May 2003, provides secretarial, administrative support and procedural advice to all the Committees of the National Assembly. Each Committee is provided with a Clerk and an Assistant Clerk of Committee and, where necessary, a researcher. Guyana's Committee system is unique in the English Speaking Caribbean with its features of Sectoral, and other unique Standing Committees such as the Committee on Appointments and the Oversight Committee of the Security Sector. ■