

Date :2020-11-16

**Member Giving Notice:** Ms. Geeta Chandan- Edmond

**Motion**

**APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE THE UNREST AT THE LUSIGNAN PRISON, THE SUBSEQUENT DEATHS OF AND THE INJURY OF SEVERAL PRISONERS ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2020.**

**WHEREAS**, Article 138(1) of the Constitution of the 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**, in accordance with the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03,

“The President may issue a Commission appointing one or more Commissioners and authorizing such Commissioners to inquire into any matters in which an inquiry would in the opinion of the President be for the public welfare”

**AND WHEREAS**, it has been widely reported and confirmed that several prisoners were shot by members of the Guyana Prison Services in or near the Lusignan Prison, resulting in injuries and subsequent deaths on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September, 2020;

**AND WHEREAS**, the lack of information surrounding the following matters are of public concern.

**AND WHEREAS**, the Home Affairs Minister has failed to provide answers on these matters of public importance and the public remains without credible information, after the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 as to the circumstances which led to the unrest, injuries sustained and the subsequent deaths of several prisoners. Noting as well that the family of at least one of the dead prisoners is disputing the Governments version of the events.

**AND WHEREAS**, it is important, in the public's interest to know and understand the specific facts and circumstances that led to the shooting and subsequent deaths of three prisoners so as to prevent a recurrence;


**AND WHEREAS**, as a result of the lack of information, it appears that the aforementioned matters will remain unanswered for an indefinite period.

**BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the National Assembly calls on the Government in accordance with Article 106(2) of the Guyana Constitution to accept collective responsibility to this House for the unrest and mayhem at the Lusignan Prisons and the subsequent deaths of several prisoners.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the National Assembly calls on the Government to make full disclosure on all aspects of the tragedy at the Lusignan Prisons on the 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 and to declare what actions have been and are being taken to reduce the opportunities for such situations from re- occurring:



Motion Submitted by:

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Hon. Geeta Chandan- Edmond

Motion Seconded by:

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Hon. Jermaine Figueria