

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

## NOTICE PAPER

No. 13 (Q11 Opp 11)

Published on 2006-11-13

### QUESTION

#### POLICY REGARDING THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF GUYANESE CITIZENS

What is the Government of Guyana's policy regarding the protection of the rights of Guyanese citizens living in sister CARICOM States?

### ANSWER

The Government of Guyana is committed to a policy of protecting fully the welfare of its citizens wherever they may reside. On receiving reports of the infringement of the rights of Guyanese citizens living in a sister CARICOM country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs pursues the matter through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in that Member State in an effort to ensure that the just entitlements of these citizens are safeguarded.

In the cases where the Government of Guyana is represented by Honorary Consuls, in these territories for example in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, these officials often act on behalf of the Government of Guyana in an effort to resolve any problems that may be encountered.

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## NOTICE PAPER

**No. 14 (Q12 Opp 12)**

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### **QUESTION**

### **COMPLAINTS OF UNFAIR AND/OR UNLAWFUL TREATMENT RECEIVED FROM GUYANESE LIVING IN CARICOM STATES**

For the period January 1, 2005 to October 30, 2006, how many complaints of unfair and/or unlawful treatment have been received from Guyanese living in CARICOM states by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and what has been the response and action taken in each case?

### **ANSWER**

Guyana has received twelve (12) formal complaints of unfair and/or unlawful treatment from Guyanese living in CARICOM States.

In each case, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guyana immediately approached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the respective countries requesting that their Immigration Department provide Guyana with reasons for the denial of entry of our Guyanese nationals.

Exchanges have taken place between the Immigration Department of Guyana and those of other CARICOM countries with a view to establishing more cooperative arrangements to deal with the problem.

At the highest level of CARICOM, Guyana continues to protest the ill-treatment of our travelling population.

It may also be added that very few complaints are received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Most of the reports are hearsay and carried in the media. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs can only act in cases where detailed information is provided.