

MOTION ON ADJOURNMENT.

Madam Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 10 (6) and 10 (7) I wish to raise a matter of National Importance.

Madam Speaker thank you allowing me to raise this matter.

Madam Speaker I had reason to attend the Emergency Room at the George Town Hospital last night to seek attention for my seven month old daughter.

I arrived at the Emergency room at approximately 7:45 pm and was promptly attended to by the clerk, a young man who was very professional and respectful, not only with me but other patients who came after me.

I was seen by the triage nurse promptly with five minutes of completing the registration process. The nurse was also very professional and respectful.

When I returned to a seat in the waiting room I inquired of a friend seated next to me how long she had been waiting and her response shocked me, when she replied about an hour but the lady with a four month old child said she had been there since 5 pm.

There were six patients (two adults and four children) in the waiting room when I arrived.

The first hour passed, and although it was obvious to me that certain children were in pain and not a single patient was seen by a doctor. There was no communication by any doctor or nurse as to the cause of the delay.

During the second hour two children were seen by the doctor, the lady who had waited since 5 pm and my friend.

During the next half hour another patient was called to see the doctor.

I left the Emergency room after waiting two and one half hours without seeing the doctor as the indication by the speed at which the doctors were seeing patients I would have to wait another hour and a half as there was still three patients in front of me.

Now Madam Speaker this in my opinion is highly unsatisfactory as this is not the 1970s when there were only three doctors at the hospital and they took turns being on call. Even in those lean times the target for treating walk in emergency patients was fifteen minutes.

Yesterday the Premier as Minister of Health tabled the 2012 accounts for the Health Services authority which manages and operates the George Town Hospital which contained some information that was shocking to me. The accounts say the HAS is spending \$ 90 million plus to operate a 120 bed hospital or CI \$750,000.00 per bed so there can be no excuses for poor service concerning lack of resources. The HAS is spending \$

Almost \$50 million on staff or \$416,000 per bed in a hospital that is only spending \$10 million on Medical and Surgical supplies.

Madam Speaker something is alarming about these figures, but as you are aware under the Standing Orders that govern this house I cannot ask questions of clarity or otherwise when these financial reports are laid on the table by Ministers.

Madam Speaker I am asking the Government to investigate the reason for the long delay in receiving treatment at the Emergency Room at the George Town Hospital and a commitment to require the HSA Board to reduce this waiting time to something more acceptable to the public utilizing this facility.

Madam Speaker I raised this matter on the adjournment some four years ago and unfortunately it appears to have gotten worse.