

GUYANA

COUNTY OF DEMERARA

**In the matter of the WITHDRAWAL of
Bill number 21 of 2007:
Forest Bill 2007**

PETITION

**TO: The National Assembly of the
Co-operative Republic of Guyana
Public Buildings
Georgetown.**

THE HUMBLE PETITION of the undersigned citizens of Guyana against the reading, consideration and passage of the Bill Number 21 of 2007: Forest Bill 2007 and its retraction and invalidation/withdrawal.

Viz:

Pastor Sewnauth Punalall

**57 Good Hope
East Coast Demerara**

Rev. Fr. Compton Merabux

c/o The Roman Catholic Presbytery

Rev. Fr. Malcolm Rodrigues

c/o The Roman Catholic Presbytery

Rev Fr. Harold Wong

c/o The Roman Catholic Presbytery

Respectfully submit: -

- 1. That your Petitioners are citizens of Guyana**
- 2. That your Petitioners are desirous of promoting a motion to retract and/or otherwise invalidate and annul the provisions of the Legislation Bill No. 21 of 2007: Forest Bill 2007, scheduled for its second hearing in the National Assembly of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana on the 8th November, 2007 and apparently on days thereafter.**
- 3. Whereas the National Assembly should ensure that the key natural resources of our country, on which the future sustainable development of Guyana hinges, are managed as required by Article 36 of the National Constitution, so as to maximize our country's net social benefit.**
- 4. And Whereas a revised forest law should include wording which responds to forest provisions in the UN Framework Convention for the Conservation of Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which Guyana has signed and ratified, and maintain simplicity and clarity of language like the present Forests Act 1953 rather than the convoluted and unclear wording of the Forest Bill 2007; and be in harmony with other laws of Guyana, thus avoiding duplication, and removing inconsistencies which have the obvious advantages in harmonizing forestry and mining laws, especially as regards administration of concessions;**
- 5. And Whereas these attributes were met in part through the draft Forest Bill of 2004 which draft was widely circulated and commented on and found broadly acceptable, although not now conforming to best international practices; but which draft has had its provisions massively and systematically culled and excised of most participatory process, oversight and best practice;**
- 6. Now therefore be it resolved that your Petitioners implore that this National Assembly: -**
 - i. Provides a law more appropriate to current and foreseeable needs in the forest and related sectors in Guyana, making use of appropriate United Nations conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements, and conforming to best international practices.**

Petition calling for the Withdrawal of Bill No. 21 of 2007

- ii. That such law would be set in a framework of greater integration of laws, regulations and procedures concerning this sector, especially as regards to integrated land use planning, an integrated hinterland road network, and Amerindian/indigenous rights;
 - iii. That such law would also minimize administrative discretion, prescribe criteria where discretion is necessary, and enact for a public appeals process, so as to guide conduct in the forest sector;
7. **Your Petitioners therefore pray** that this Members of this National Assembly consider the negative implications of Bill No. 21 of 2007, and thereafter vote for its retraction and invalidation/withdrawal of the Bill No. 21 of 2007; and,
8. **Further pray for** its replacement by a full revision having due regard to but not limited to the Draft Forest Bill of 2004, or a further refinement thereof, through a Select Committee.
9. That your petitioners in order not to infringe the Parliamentary powers of the Select Committee, generally do not offer specific replacement wording, but having secured the cooperation and the voluntary services of Member of Parliament Khemraj Ramjattan who has agreed to present this Petition to the National Assembly and to provide such aid if the Select Committee would find this helpful.
10. Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray that the National Assembly would be pleased to accept their Petition and permit due process for the withdrawal of Bill No, 21 of 2007.

AND YOUR PETITIONERS IN DUTY BOUND WILL EVER PRAY

Pastor Sewnauth Punalall

Sewnauth Punalall
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Rev. Fr. Compton Merabux

Compton Merabux
.....

Rev. Fr. Malcolm Rodrigues

Malcolm Rodrigues
.....

Rev Fr. Harold Wong

Harold Wong
.....

Dated this 7th Day of November, 2007

Petition calling for the Withdrawal of Bill No. 21 of 2007

1	Kennelyn Nurse	K Nurse
2	M. Mittelholzer	M. Mittelholzer
3	Delmar Blouie	D Blouie
4	Richard Blement	R. Blement
5	Mitchell Bullada	M. Bullada
6	Kevin Hardy	K Hardy
7	Sharogadeen Baichan	S Baichan
8	Grafton Duff	G - Duff
9	Christopher Davis	C. Davis
10	RANKUMAT	
11	Nickel Becker	N. Becker
12	Gyorgy Akamid	G. Akamid
13	Sanit Singh	Sanit Singh
14	Babbieban Bheedia	B. Bheedia
15	Andrew Tassard	A. Tassard
16	Rudolph Somwar	R. Somwar
17	Keith Lewis	K. Lewis
18	Wardell	
19	Amornath Rametaitor	Amornath Rametaitor
20	Ian Williams	I. Williams
21	Deonattie Dhiwhesont	Deonattie Dhiwhesont
22	Noirine Dat Harrichen	Noirine Dat Harrichen
23	Neil Pearson	Neil Pearson

Petition calling for the Withdrawal of Bill No. 21 of 2007

24	KRISHNADAT DIARAM	K Diaram
25	JOEL BARRY	J Barry
26	Natalie Smith	N. Smith
27	Rajkumar Ingle	R. Ingle
28	Suraj Lal	S. Lal
29	Deorishi Babulall	Babulall
30	Khomraj Bhograndin	Bhograndin
31	Richard Singh	R. Singh
32	GEORGE CHIN	G. Chin
33	Sulian Krellman	S. Krellman
34	Larry Schwarz	L. Schwarz
35	Rockelle Whyte	R. Whyte
36	Malcolm Stephens	M. Stephens
37	Samuel	S. Samuel
38	Surujnauth Arjune	Surujnauth Arjune
39	Reginald Andrews	R. Andrews
40	h. p	
41	Leeckhan Perard	L. Perard
42	Bishant Korhan	B. Korhan
43	Wilton Morrison	W. Morrison
44	Estace Marshall	E. Marshall
45	Bismuth Mabel	B. Mabel
46	Dandranie Jacot	D. Jacot

Petition calling for the Withdrawal of Bill No. 21 of 2007

47	RAMKUMAR SINGH	R. SINGH
48	Emsan Aziz	E Aziz
49	Lavin Griffith	L Griffith
50	Lennon Dick	L Dick
51	Ouelit Pasaud	O Pasaud
52	MEELAP TAYARAM	M. Tayaram
53	Genev Kowall	G. Kowall
54	Leon Lobhan	L. Lobhan
55	JACOB RICHARDS	Jacob Richards
56	Adwin Daniels	A Daniels
57	Ernest Kobotas	E. Kobotas
58	Paramdee Ragnauth	P. Ragnauth
59	GOPAL SHIVSHANKER	G. Shanker
60	Betha Femads	Betha Femads

Petition calling for the Withdrawal of Bill No. 21 of 2007

64	Mahase Pentab	Mal Jemal
65	SHEIK ALLY	[Signature]
66	Lestic Sobers	Juli Sobers
67	CEENAUTY PUNALALL	Sannath Punalay
68	Lotkinin - [Signature]	[Signature]
69	Cravin Hope	[Signature]
67	RONALD BULKAN	Thomas Juman
68	RUSTUM BULKAN	[Signature]
69	HOWARD BULKAN	John Juman
70	G.A. Sylvester	C.A. SYLVESTER
71	V.A. SYLVESTER	VASylvester.