



Request for Leave to Move the Adjournment of the Assembly on Definite Matters of Urgent Public Importance

8th Sitting dated January 19, 2007

APPLICATION OF THE VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT)

Preamble

A request by Mr. Raphael Trotman, M.P., to seek leave to move the adjournment of the Assembly to discuss a matter concerning application of the Value-Added Tax (VAT) was disallowed by the Speaker because it did not fall under the aegis of Definite Matters of Urgent Public Importance.

Verbatim

Mr. Raphael G. C. Trotman: Mde. Speaker, I rise to ask that we consider a matter, which I had written you about, that is pertaining to the introduction of the Value-Added Tax (VAT) which myself and colleagues consider to be a matter of public urgent importance and which we believe a discussion of which would please this nation because it would elucidate the many issues surrounding the application of this tax in Guyana. I trust, Mde. Speaker, that you have had sufficient time to consider my request which has been made in writing as to the Standing Orders in a letter dated 17th January, 2007, and which, I believe, speaks for itself. If Madame wishes me to refer to any aspects of the letter, I am prepared to do so. But the Motion is before this House and is so moved by me for an adjournment to discuss the issue of the Value-Added Tax.

Thank you.

The Speaker (Hari N. Ramkarran): Thank you, Hon. Member Mr. Trotman. I did have your Motion and I did stop to consider whether it fell under the aegis of Definite Matters of Urgent Public Importance.

Firstly, the Value-Added Tax has been implemented since 2nd January, 2007 and the issues you raised in your Motion begun almost immediately thereafter. There has been a previous Sitting of this National Assembly on 11th January of this year, at which Sitting that Motion should have been correctly brought if you wanted it to fit under the umbrella of being very urgent. So although it is a current issue and it is still of public importance, the issue was not brought in a timely fashion.



Secondly, the Government has signalled its intention to bring remedial proposals in the form of a substantive bill and I think that is the Value-Added Tax (Amendment) Bill 2007, Bill No. 2/2007 which is on a Supplementary Order Paper for today. At that time when the Bill is going to be heard, the issues of concern that you raised could be properly ventilated. I will, therefore, for these reasons, disallow this Motion at this time.

Mr. Trotman: Mde. Speaker, if it pleases you, I, of course, will abide by your decision, respect it. I had hoped that there would have been a departure from the very strict and narrow interpretation put on the Standing Order, but nonetheless I abide by your order. Suffice to say, however, matters known today or known on the 17th January were not matters known on the 11th January and even though there was a Sitting, I accept, on the 11th January, there are matters which have arisen since, particularly a full page advertisement issued by the Private Sector Commission which was not available on the 11th January, but if that is the ruling, as your humble Parliamentarian, I abide.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Yes, that is my ruling.

Government Business - Motions

10th Sitting dated January 23, 2007

RIGHT TO REPLY - STANDING ORDER NO. 39 (2)

Preamble

An attempt by the Prime Minister to conclude the debate on the motion, in accordance with Standing Order No. 39 (2), was disallowed by the Speaker.

Verbatim

Hon. Samuel Hinds: Mde. Speaker, I would like to have the right of reply here, under Standing Order No. 39 (2) [*Pause*]

Mr. Basil Williams: I would like to oppose that application, respectfully. Mde. Speaker, if I can respectfully refer you to the relevant Standing Order No. 39 (2), my simple contention is that the discretion is entirely within your domain. [*Uproar*]