

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

**FOR THE 47TH SITTING OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
(1998-2000) OF THE SEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA TO BE HELD**

AT 2.00 P.M.

ON MONDAY, 10TH APRIL, 2000

IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

BUSINESS FOR SITTING

PRAYERS

OATH OF A NEW MEMBER-

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT-

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER-

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS-

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND REPORTS, ETC.-

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS-

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS-

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS-

**REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY
ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE ASSEMBLY
AND MOVED BY A MINISTER**

Suspension of Standing Orders Nos. 46(2), 46(3) and 61(6)

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Orders Nos. 46(2), 46(3) and 61(6) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Monday, 10th April, 2000, with the second reading and the remaining stages of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2000 - Bill No. 5 of 2000.

(Notice Paper No. 78 (M37 Govt 33) published 2000-04-07)

2.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS -

PUBLIC BUSINESS

BILL - Second Reading, etc.

1. **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 5/2000**

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL Intituled AN ACT to alter the
Constitution in accordance with
article 66 and 164.

(Read a first time on 2000-04-07)

MOTIONS

2. **BUDGET FOR 2000 - MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE FOR 2000**

Assembly to resolve itself into Committee of Supply to consider the Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2000.

*3. **CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL PAPER NO. 1/2000**

Assembly to resolve itself into Committee of Supply.

In Committee of Supply

The Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance to signify the recommendation or consent of the Cabinet to move the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this Assembly approve of the proposals set out in Financial Paper No. 1/2000 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital totalling \$924,847,947, for the period ended 31st December, 1999 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(Paper presented on 2000-04-03)

1...3

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

BILLS - Second Reading

- *4. **CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT FUND BILL 1999 - Bill No. 11/1999 published 1999-07-03**

The Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to give effect
to the Agreement establishing the
Caribbean Investment Fund and to
provide for matters connected therewith.
(Read a first time on 1999-07-01)

- *5. **THE NEW BUILDING SOCIETY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 1/2000 published 2000-01-20**

The Minister of Housing and Water to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend the
New Building Society Act.
(Read a first time on 2000-02-10)

- *6. **INCOME TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 2/2000 published 2000-01-20**

The Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Income Tax Act.
(Read a first time on 2000-02-10)

/...4

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

***7. DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2000 –
Bill No. 3/2000 published 2000-02-12**

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Drainage and Irrigation Act.

(Read a first time on 2000-02-10)

***8. BUSINESS NAMES (REGISTRATION) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2000 - Bill
No. 4/2000 published 2000-02-12**

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to amend
the Business Names (Registration) Act.

(Read a first time on 2000-02-10)

MOTIONS

***9. RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE
22 OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) was signed in 1978 with the functions of the Secretariat being performed on a Pro Tempore basis;

AND WHEREAS at the fifth meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the ACT countries held in Lima in 1995, a decision was taken to establish a Permanent Secretariat which would be located in Brasilia;

/...5

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

AND WHEREAS on December 14, 1998, the eight member countries signed the Agreement to amend Article 22 via which the Pro Tempore Secretariat was created;

AND WHEREAS for the establishment of the Permanent Secretariat all the member countries are required to formally endorse (ratify) "Amendment Protocol";

AND WHEREAS three countries (Bolivia, Brazil and Peru) have already ratified the Amendment Protocol, and the others have initiated the process of doing so;

AND WHEREAS Guyana stands to benefit from its participation in the Treaty from access to information packages, regional data bases and collaboration with other member countries in the areas of Science and Technology, Energy, Environment, Tourism, Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure, Education and Indigenous Affairs;

AND WHEREAS Guyana has benefitted from its membership of the Treaty via (funded) participation in Regional Meetings/Training Workshops in areas such as Science, Technology, Environment, Ecotourism, Ecological and Economic Zoning, Forestry, Small Scale Production of fruits and vegetables, Geographical Information Systems, an ACT Web page, etc.;

AND WHEREAS the benefits to growth and development of Guyana which will be obtained from participation in the Treaty justify the annual contribution of US\$22,792.00 by this country to the annual budget of the Permanent Secretariat;

AND WHEREAS Cabinet has approved the recommendation to ratify the Protocol of Amendment of Article 22 of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty:

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly endorses the decision to ratify the Protocol of Amendment of Article 22 of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.

(Notice Paper No. 72(M31 Govt 27) published 2000-02-02)

***10 RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL IV WHICH AMENDS THE TREATY
ESTABLISHING THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Protocol IV Amending the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community signed at Chaguaramas on 4 July 1973 was signed by nine (9) Heads of Governments at the Twentieth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community which was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago during the period July 4-7, 1999;

AND WHEREAS the said Protocol IV was signed by the Honourable Clement J. Rohee, Minister of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Government of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS the said Protocol provides for a Trade Policy for the Caribbean Community within the context of the Single Market and Economy;

AND WHEREAS Protocol IV Amending the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community has as its principal objective the establishment of a Trade Policy which would promote sustained growth of intra-community and international trade among Member States and between the community and the third States;

AND WHEREAS Guyana like its CARICOM counterpart remains committed to the full integration of the National Markets of all Member States of the Community into a single unified and open market area;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly hereby agrees to the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community being informed of Guyana's Intention to ratify the said Protocol IV by the deposit of an appropriate Instrument of Ratification.

(Notice Paper No. 75 (M34 Govt30) published 2000-04-04)

/...7

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

***11. RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL VI WHICH AMENDS THE TREATY
ESTABLISHING THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Protocol VI Amending the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community signed at Chaguaramas on 4 July 1973 was signed by ten (10) Heads of Government at the Twentieth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community which was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad during the period July 4-7, 1999;

AND WHEREAS the said Protocol VI was signed by the Honourable Clement J. Rohee, Minister of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Government of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS the said Protocol provides for a Transport Policy for the Community within the context of the Single Market and Economy;

AND WHEREAS Protocol VI Amending the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community has as its primary goal the provision of adequate, safe and internationally competitive transport services for the development and consolidation of the CARICOM Single Market Economy;

AND WHEREAS Guyana recognizes the vital importance of land, air and maritime transportation for mastering economic, social and cultural linkages;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly hereby agrees to the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community being informed of Guyana's intention to ratify the said Protocol VI by the deposit of an appropriate Instrument of ratification.

(Notice Paper No. 76 (M35 Govt 31) published 2000-04-04)

/...8

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

***12. RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL VII WHICH AMENDS THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Protocol VII Amending the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community signed at Chaguaramas on 4 July 1973 was signed by ten (10) Heads of Government at the Twentieth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community which was held in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago during the period July 4-7, 1999;

AND WHEREAS the said Protocol VII was signed by the Honourable Clement J. Rohee, the Minister of Foreign Affairs on behalf of the Government of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS this Protocol seeks to specifically address Disadvantaged Countries, Regions and Sectors within the context of the Single Market and Economy;

AND WHEREAS Protocol VII Amending the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community aims to establish effective mechanisms to assist disadvantaged countries, regions and sectors within the framework of the Treaty as well as a special regime for the less development countries in order to enhance their prospects for successful competition within the Community, and redress, to the extent possible, any negative impact of the establishment of the CSME;

AND WHEREAS Guyana remains aware that the presistence of disadvantage, may impact adversely on economic and social cohesion in the Caribbean Community;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly hereby agrees to the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community being informed of Guyana's intention to ratify the said Protocol VII by the deposit of an appropriate Instrument of Ratification.

(Notice Paper No. 77 (M36 Govt 32) published 2000-04-04)

/..9

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

***13. VENEZUELA'S CLAIM TO THE TERRITORY OF ESSEQUIBO**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS on February 2, 1897, the governments of Britain and Venezuela signed a treaty in Washington, in which they agreed to establish an Arbitral Tribunal for the purpose of determining the boundary between the former Colony of British Guiana, now the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the United States of Venezuela;

AND WHEREAS on October 3, 1899, the Arbitral Tribunal handed down a unanimous decision which in accordance with Article XIII of the abovementioned 1897 Treaty of Washington, the contending parties accepted as being a full, perfect and final settlement of all the questions referred to the Arbitrators;

AND WHEREAS the boundary, which was demarcated in accordance with the Arbitral Award and the report of the findings of a Venezuelan/British Mixed Boundary Commission between the years 1901 and 1905, had been accepted and recognised by both sides as well as the international community for six decades following the demarcation, and is still so accepted and respected by Guyana and the international community;

AND WHEREAS from 1962, and in breach of the Treaty of Washington, the untenable contention by successive Venezuelan Governments that the Arbitral Award is null and void, has been accompanied by numerous attempts to deny Guyana the right to develop its territory within secure boundaries free from the threats and other forms of intimidation;

AND WHEREAS the aforesaid acts constitute a real and continuing threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS Guyana became a party to the Geneva Agreement of 1966 between Venezuela and the United Kingdom which established a Guyana/Venezuela Mixed Commission charged with "the task of seeking satisfactory solutions for the practical settlement of the controversy between Venezuela and the United Kingdom which has arisen as a result of the Venezuelan contention that the Arbitral Award about the frontiers between British Guiana and Venezuela is null and void" and that the Good Offices of the United Nations Secretary General has been sought to facilitate this process within the context of Article IV (2) of the Geneva Agreement;

/...10

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

AND WHEREAS October 3, 1999 marked 100 years since the international Arbitral Award was handed down;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly:

- (i) affirm its continuing resolve to be in rejecting Venezuela's claim and to maintain the existing internationally recognised border between Guyana and Venezuela;
- (ii) condemn any and all acts of aggression against Guyana;
- (iii) reaffirm the continued commitment of Guyana to the Good Offices process of the United Nations Secretary General;
- (iv) direct the Government of Guyana, to pursue a continuous and coordinated programme of diplomatic and other initiatives to secure the territorial integrity of Guyana and its rights to develop its territory, within the context of good neighbourliness, free from threats and intimidation;
- (v) further direct the Government of Guyana to take whatever measures are necessary to maintain the continued involvement and support of all parliamentary and other political parties, social partners and other socio-economic groupings throughout the length and breadth of Guyana in their national rejection of Venezuela's claim to Guyana territory.

(Notice Paper No. 71 (M30 Govt 26) published 6.12.99)

BILLS - Second Reading

***14. TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BILL 1999 -
Bill No. 3/1999 published 23.1.99**

The Minister of Education to move the second reading of the following Bill:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to provide for the promotion of technical and vocational education and training, and for purposes connected therewith.

(Read a first time on 3.2.99)

/...11

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

***15. PESTICIDES AND TOXIC CHEMICALS CONTROL BILL 1998 -
Bill No. 12/1998 published 15.10.98**

The Assembly to proceed upon the further stages of the following Bill, after the Select Committee has reported thereon:

A BILL intituled AN ACT to regulate the manufacture, importation, transportation, storage, sale, use and disposal of pesticides and toxic chemicals, and to provide for the establishment of the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Control Board, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Read a first time on 29.10.98)

(Read a second time and committed to a Select Committee on 30.11.98)

***16. SUMMARY JURISDICTION (LAY MAGISTRATES) BILL 1999 - Bill No. 5/1999
published 6.2.99**

The Assembly to proceed upon the further stages of the following Bill, after the Select Committee has reported thereon:

A BILL intituled AN ACT for the constitution of lay magistrates' courts; for the appointment of lay magistrates; for the regulation of their jurisdiction, practice and procedure and for other like purposes.

(Read a first time on 3.2.99)

(Read a second time and committed to a Select Committee on 18.3.99)

F. A. NARAIN

Clerk of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,

Public Buildings,

Georgetown

7th April, 2000