

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

**FOR THE 51st 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 TUESDAY, 4TH JULY, 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.-

(1) By the Prime Minister:

Acquisition of Lands for Public Purposes (Berbice Campus of the University of Guyana) Order 2000 (No. 8 of 2000).

(To be circulated)

(2) By the Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs:

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding for the support of the Democratic Process in the Co-operative Republic of Guyana between the Government of Guyana, the Guyana Elections Commission and Donors.

(Circulated)

- (ii) Fifth Report on the Oversight Committee on Constitutional Reform (Dated May 15, 2000).

(To be circulated)

- (iii) Sixth Report on the Oversight Committee on Constitutional Reform (Dated June 13, 2000).

(To be circulated)

2.

(3) By the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (i) Inter-American Convention against Corruption, adopted at the Third Plenary Session of the Organisation of American States, held on March 29, 1996.

(To be circulated)

- (ii) Protocol VIII (Competition Policy, Consumer Protection, Dumping and Subsidies) Amending the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community. (Signed on 14th March, 2000 in St. Kitts and Nevis)

(To be circulated)

- (iii) Protocol IX (Disputes Settlement) Amending the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community. (Signed on 14th March, 2000 in St. Kitts and Nevis)

(To be circulated)

- (iv) Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on September 10, 1996, and opened for signature in New York, United States of America, on September 24, 1996.

(To be circulated)

(4) By the Minister of Health and Labour:

State Paper on the following Convention and Recommendation, which were adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 87th Session held in June 1999:

- (i) Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention 1999, No. 182
(ii) Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation 1999, No.190

(To be circulated)

(5) By the Minister of the Public Service:

Annual Report of the Public Service Appellate Tribunal for the year 1999.

(To be circulated)

3.

(6) By the Minister in the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance:

- (i) Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 1998.

(To be circulated)

- (ii) National Development Strategy (2001-2010) A Policy Framework.

(To be circulated)

- (iii) Constitutional Offices (Remuneration of Holders) Order 2000 (No. 10 of 2000).

(To be circulated)

- (iv) Ministers, Members of the National Assembly and Special Offices (Emoluments) Order 2000 (No. 11 of 2000).

(To be circulated)

(7) By the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (Mr Dunstan Barrow):

Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Public Accounts of Guyana for the year 1994.

(To be circulated)

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-**

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS -

Presentation and First Reading

(1) **ELECTION LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 8/2000**

The Minister of Agriculture and Parliamentary Affairs, on behalf of the Government, to present the following Bill:

A BILL Intituled an ACT to amend the Elections
Laws (Amendment) Act 1996.

(2) **CIVIL AVIATION BILL 2000 - Bill No. 7/2000 published 2000-06-05**

The Minister of Transport and Hydraulics, on behalf of the Government, to present the following Bill:-

A BILL intituled AN ACT to make provision
in respect of the regulation and control of
civil aviation in Guyana and for purposes
connected therewith.

PUBLIC BUSINESS**MOTIONS****1. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA, THE GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION AND DONORS**

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

WHEREAS the Government of Guyana is committed to democracy and to free, fair and transparent elections in Guyana;

AND WHEREAS the Donor Governments and Agencies are willing to support Guyana in this democratic process;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana and the Guyana Elections Commission and the Donors entered on 19th June, 2000, into a Memorandum of Understanding which constitutes the basis on which the Donors will support the democratic process in Guyana;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That this National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana –

- affirms its commitment to the conduct of free, fair and well-managed national and regional elections, and
- takes note of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Guyana and the Donor Community and sees it as an integral part of fulfilling this commitment;

And that we, the Members of the National Assembly, comprising representatives of the political parties herein, having reviewed the text of the Memorandum:

- do hereby state our full support of the Memorandum, our agreement with and support for the undertakings, obligations, and commitments entered into by the parties that are signatories to the Memorandum which we endorse with its Annexes, and our individual and collective agreement with its implementation, and
- pledge to work individually and collectively towards free, fair and transparent elections by the target date of 17th January, 2001, by supporting the enactment of legislation in a timely manner, by taking action to maintain the desired electoral climate, and by contributing to confidence building measures.

(Notice Paper No. 79 (M38 Govt34) published 2000-06-28)

***2. 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;

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)

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

***3. 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)

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

***4. 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)

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

***5. 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)

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

***6. 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;

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

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11.

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, Committee and Third Reading

***7. 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:

*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

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 Pesticide 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)

***8. 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)

***9. 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)

F. A. NARAIN

Clerk of the National Assembly

**PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown
28th June, 2000**