

ORDER PAPER
FOR THE 56TH 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, 23RD OCTOBER, 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-

- (1) By the Minister of Local Government:

Annual Report of the Ministry of Local Government for the year 1999.

(To be Circulated)

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

- (i) Financial Paper No. 3/2000 - Supplementary Estimates (Current and Capital) totalling \$899,061,230, for the period ended 5th October, 2000 - Advances made from the Contingencies Fund.

(To be Circulated)

- (ii) Current and Capital totalling \$5,160,155,540, for the period ending 31st December, 2000

(To be Circulated)

The Minister to name the day for the consideration of the Financial Papers.

- (iii) The following Loan Agreements:-

Agreements (4) between the International Development Association and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:-

- (a) Development Credit No 2746-3 GUA dated June 9, 1977 for the Private Sector Development Adjustment Credit;
- (b) Development Credit No. 2746-4 GUA dated December 17, 1997 for the Private Sector Development Adjustment Credit;
- (c) Development Credit No. 3139-GUA dated November 12, 1998 for the El Nino Emergency Assistance Project; and
- (d) Development Credit No. 3290-GUA dated November 17, 1999 for the Financial and Private Sector Institutional Development Project.

Agreements (8) between the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:-

- (a) Loan Contract No. 985/SF-GY dated May 16, 1997 for the Social Impact Amelioration Program (SIMAP)- Stage II;
- (b) Loan Contract No. 986/SF-GY dated June 5, 1997 for the Electricity Sector Program;
- (c) Loan Contract No. 999/SF-GY dated March 18, 1998 for the Main Road Rehabilitation Programme Phase II - Bridge Rehabilitation;
- (d) Loan Contract No. 1007/SF-GY dated August 21, 1998 for the Urban Development Program;
- (e) Loan Contract No. 1021/SF-GY dated March 13, 1999 for the Urban Development Program;
- (f) Loan Contract No. 1035/SF-GY dated June 10, 1999 for the preparation of the Low-income Settlement Program (GY-0057);
- (g) Loan Contract No. 1042/SF-GY-1 dated February 4, 2000 for the Hybrid Program for Air Transport Reform (Policy Component); and
- (h) Loan Contract No. 1042/SF-GY-2 dated February 4, 2000 for the Hybrid Program for Air Transport Reform (Investment/Technical Cooperation Components).

Agreement (1) between the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:-

- (a) Loan Contract No. 13/SFR-GU dated September 9, 1988 for the Poor Rural Communities Support Services Project.

Agreements (2) between the Commodity Credit Corporation, an agency of the United States of America and the Government of Guyana as detailed below:-

- (a) Loan Contract PL 480 FY-1998 dated December 2, 1997 for the sales of Agricultural Commodities; and
- (b) Loan Contract PL 480 FY-1999 dated August 2, 1999 for the sales of Agricultural Commodities.

Bilateral Agreement on the Rescheduling of Bilateral Debt between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Government of Guyana signed on October 14, 1999 in accordance with the fifth Paris Club Agreed Minute of June 25, 1999.

(To be Circulated)

- (3) 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 years 1995,1996,1997 and 1998.

(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-**

Suspension of Standing Order No. 46(2) and (3)

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That Standing Order No 46(2) and (3) be suspended to enable the Assembly to proceed at its sitting on Thursday, 19th October, 2000, with the second reading and remaining stages of the Constitution (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2000 - Bill No. 11 of 2000.

(Notice Paper No. 89(M48 Govt 43) published 2000-10-13)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Presentation and First Reading

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 3) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 11/2000

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

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS

MOTION

1. **SYMPATHY ON DEATH OF THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE HON. DEREK C. JAGAN, OR, CCH, SC, JP, MP**

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

BE IT RESOLVED:

That we the Members of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana, at this Sitting of the Assembly held on Monday, 23rd October, 2000-

- place on record our shock and profound grief at the great loss to the Parliament of Guyana by the sudden death on Sunday, 15th October, 2000, of the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Hon. Derek Chunilall Jagan, OR, CCH, SC, JP, MP.
- pay tribute to the long and distinguished service which he rendered to Guyana and to its Parliament, and
- direct that an expression of our heartfelt sympathy be conveyed to his sorrowing widow, children and relatives.

(Notice Paper No. 91 (M50 Govt 45) published 2000-10-17)

BILL - Second Reading, Committee and Third Reading

2. **CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)(NO. 3) BILL 2000 - Bill No. 11/2000**

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 articles 66 and 164.

3. **RATIFICATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN CONVENTION
AGAINST CORRUPTION**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Inter-American Convention against Corruption was signed on March 29, 1996 at the Specialized Conference on the Inter-American Convention against Corruption in Caracas, Venezuela;

AND WHEREAS the Convention was signed by the Honourable George Fung-On, Minister of the Public Service on behalf of the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana;

AND WHEREAS Article 22 of the said Convention makes provision for the deposit of the Instrument of Ratification with the General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States;

NOW THEREFORE the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana having considered the Convention hereby confirms and ratifies the same and undertakes faithfully to perform and carry out all the stipulations therein, subject to the following Reservation herein after expressed, "The Cooperative Republic of Guyana does not consider itself bound to extend the actions of seizure or forfeiture of property envisaged under Article XV of the present Convention, to the extent that such actions violate the provisions of Article 142 (1) of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, which prohibits the compulsory acquisition of property without the payment of compensation.";

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly agrees to the General Secretariat of the Organisation of American States being informed of Guyana's intention to ratify the said Inter-American Convention against Corruption and for Guyana to formally ratify the said Convention by the deposit of an Instrument of Ratification.

(Notice Paper No. 82 (M41 Govt36) published 2000-07-27)

4. **RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL VIII WHICH AMENDS THE TREATY
ESTABLISHING THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Protocol VIII amending the Treaty Establishing the Caribbean Community signed at Chaguaramas on 4 July 1973 was signed by Eleven (11) Heads of Government at the Eleventh Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community which was held in Saint Kitts and Nevis from March 13-14, 2000;

AND WHEREAS Protocol VIII was signed by His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo, President of Guyana on behalf of the Government of Guyana in Saint Kitts and Nevis;

AND WHEREAS the said Protocol provides for a Competition Policy, Consumer Protection, Dumping and Subsidies for the Community within the context of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME);

AND WHEREAS Protocol VIII which amends the Treaty that established the Caribbean Community aims primarily at ensuring “that the benefits expected from the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)” are not frustrated by anti-competitive business conduct;

AND WHEREAS Guyana remains firmly committed to the principles of free and fair competitive trade within the context of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly hereby agrees to the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community being notified of Guyana’s intention to ratify Protocol VIII by depositing the appropriate Instrument of Ratification.

(Notice Paper No. 83 (M42 Gov137) published 2000-07-27)

5. **RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL IX WHICH AMENDS THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS Protocol IX amending the Treaty which established the Caribbean Community signed at Chaguaramas on 4 July 1973 was signed on March 14 by Eleven (11) Heads of Government at the Eleventh Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community held in Saint Kitts and Nevis from March 13-14, 2000;

AND WHEREAS Protocol IX “Disputes Settlement” was signed by His Excellency Bharrat Jagdeo, President of Guyana on behalf of the Government of Guyana in Saint Kitts and Nevis;

AND WHEREAS the said Protocol IX has as its primary objective the promotion of “peaceful expeditious and effective settlement of disputes in the Community and, in particular, in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) by recourse to the internationally accepted modes of disputes settlement;

AND WHEREAS the said Protocol allows for the creation of the Caribbean Court of Justice;

AND WHEREAS Guyana strongly endorses the view that a transparent and authoritative system of disputes settlement within CARICOM will ultimately enhance the “economic”, social and other forms of activity in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) thereby creating a stable climate for investment;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly hereby agrees to the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community being advised of Guyana’s intention to ratify Protocol IX by depositing the appropriate Instrument of Ratification.

(Notice Paper No. 84 (M43 Govt38) published 2000 07-27)

6. **RATIFICATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST-BAN TREATY**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) 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;

AND WHEREAS Cabinet recently approved of Guyana signing the Treaty and the said Treaty will be signed by Honourable Clement J. Rohee, Minister of Foreign Affairs, on behalf of the Government of Guyana during the 55th United Nations General Assembly in September 2000;

AND WHEREAS the said Treaty provides for, inter alia, the cessation of the arms race, nuclear disarmament and complete disarmament under strict and effective control;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Guyana supports the international effort to halt the further testing of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosions leading to the eventual elimination of the war weapons of mass destruction. The practice of testing nuclear weapons not only threatens international peace and security, but also threatens the existence of mankind, health and the environment;

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the National Assembly hereby agrees to the Secretary General of the United Nations being informed of Guyana's intention to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty and for Guyana to formally ratify the said Treaty by the deposit of an appropriate Instrument of Ratification.

(Notice Paper No. 85 (M44 Govt39) published 2000-07-27)

7. **ENDORSEMENT OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the motion at Appendix I attached.

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

The Minister of Foreign Affairs to move the following motion:

WHEREAS on February 2, 1987, 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 Co-operative 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, had been accompanied by numerous attempts to deny Guyana the right to develop its territory within secure boundaries free from 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;

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*Not to be proceeded with at this sitting

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;

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

***9. 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)

***10. 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

16th October, 2000

MOTION

**ENDORSEMENT OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC STATES AND THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

Motion to be moved by the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

WHEREAS the Government of Guyana became a State Party to the Georgetown Agreement, which on June 6, 1975 established the Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific States that is referred to as the ACP Group; and

WHEREAS Guyana, as a member of the ACP Group, has been a signatory to and beneficiary of the various Trade and Aid Cooperation Agreements known as the LOME Conventions negotiated between the ACP Group and European Community (EC) since 1975, with the Fourth Lome Convention, known as LOME IV, concluded for a period of ten years from March 1, 1999 to February 29, 2000; and

WHEREAS this National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana considered a Motion by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, vide Notice Paper No. 66 (M25 Govt 21), Published July 22, 1999 and entitled "The ACP-EU Negotiations on a Post-Lome IV Agreement" and endorsed the preparations of the ACP Group for the ACP-EU Negotiations for a post-Lome IV Agreement; and

WHEREAS the final negotiations between the ACP and the European Union (EU) for a post Lome IV Agreement was held in Brussels on February 1-3, 2000 with the successor arrangement to be entitled the "Partnership Agreement Between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Community and its Member States" (abbreviated ACP-EU Partnership Agreement); and

APPENDIX I

WHEREAS the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement was signed in Cotonou, Benin on June 23, 2000; and

WHEREAS the key elements of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement are indicated hereunder:

(a) **New Trading Arrangements:**

- i. In order to facilitate a transition to new WTO-compatible trading arrangements, the non-reciprocal trade preferences applied under Lome IV will be maintained during a preparatory period (2000 – 2007) in keeping with the Trade Regime which appears as Annex V to the main text of the Partnership Agreement and entitled “Trade Regime applicable during the Preparatory Period referred to in Article 36 (1).”
- ii. (Regional) Economic partnership agreements shall be negotiated during the preparatory period which shall end by December 2007. Formal negotiations of the new trading arrangements shall start in September 2002 and the new arrangements shall enter into force on January 1, 2008. The preparatory period shall also be used for capacity-building in the ACP public and private sectors, including measures to enhance competitiveness, for strengthening regional organizations and for support to regional trade integration initiatives, where appropriate with assistance to budgetary adjustment and fiscal reform, as well as for infrastructure upgrading and developments, and for investment promotion
- iii. **Caricom's Strategy:** The Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM) has undertaken a study of the trade options which the region could consider for an economic partnership agreement with the EU. The study will examine a sui generis

model – a combination of reciprocal and non-reciprocal instruments – which will meet the criteria of phased reciprocity and WTO-compatibility at the same time. This study is expected to be available in June/July 2000, for examination by regional officials and experts shortly thereafter. The Caribbean will consult and collaborate closely with the other ACP groups in Africa and the Pacific which are taking similar approaches.

(b) **Development Financing:**

- i. The financial resources provided for in the agreement will apply to a wide number of areas such as debt and structural adjustment support, support in cases of short-term fluctuations in export earnings, support for sectoral policies, micro-projects and decentralised cooperation, humanitarian and emergency assistance, and investment and private sector development support.
- ii. A financial envelope of 15.2 billion Euros have been earmarked. Of this amount the European Investment Bank (EIB) will receive an allocation of 1.7 billion Euros which will be supplemented by its own resources for on-lending to ACP enterprises. Additionally, approximately 9 billion Euros of uncommitted European Development Funds (EDF) will be transferred to the 9th EDF. These combined sums will cover the preparatory period from 2000 - 2007. The EU has underlined its determination to quicken the pace of disbursement through its new programming. This would materially enhance ACP benefits.
- iii. **Investment Facility:** One of the more innovative mechanisms in the new Partnership Agreement is the Investment Facility. The Facility will be managed by the EIB and available to ACP private sector entities, including commercially run public sector entities

including revenue generating economic and technological infrastructure critical for the private sector.' 2.2 billion Euros is reserved for this facility at an interest rate subsidy (to ACP beneficiaries) not exceeding 3%.

- iv. With respect to the **rice and rum** sectors which are of major interest to Guyana (and in which Guyana is a leading ACP exporter) the agreement sets out substantial sector-specific development programmes, which will be financed by the EU with funds including unallocated resources from the European Development Fund (EDF). In the case of each sector (rice and rum) the financial resources available would approximate ECU 100 million. The Programme for **rice** will include:
- Improvement of conditions of production and enhancement of quality through action in the areas of research, harvesting and handling;
 - Transport and storage;
 - Enhancing the competitiveness of existing rice exporters;
 - Assisting ACP rice producers to meet environmental and waste management standards and other norms in the international markets, including the EU;
 - Marketing and trade promotion;
 - Programmes designed to develop value-added by-products

The programme for **rum** will include the following measures

- Enhancing the competitiveness of existing exporters of rum
- Assist in creation of rum marques or brands by ACP region or country;
- Enabling marketing campaigns to be designed and implemented;
- Assist ACP rum producers to meet environmental and waste management standards and other norms in the international

- markets including the EU;
- Assist the ACP rum industry to move out of bulk commodity production into higher value branded rum products.

The two sides also agreed to establish separate joint Working Parties which will meet regularly to examine developments in the ACP rice and rum industries including market access conditions the EU. This leaves open the possibility for addressing improved market access.

- v. **Caricom's Strategy:** The Regional Negotiating Machinery has requested the EC to provide technical assistance to the region's National Authorising Officers (NAO) to understand the compendia to the Agreement as well as the procedures for accessing the new facilities.
- vi. The existing arrangements for trading **sugar** into Europe remain unchanged. The Sugar Protocol, which gives a guaranteed price related to EU internal prices for an indefinite duration, will be annexed to the new Partnership Agreement exactly as it stands in the old Lome Agreement. In Article 13 of Chapter 2 of the "Trade Regime Applicable during the Preparatory Period" the following '**Special Undertaking on Sugar**' is stated as follows:
 "In accordance with Article 25 of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lome signed on 28 February 1975 and with Protocol 3 annexed thereto, the Community has undertaken for an indefinite period, notwithstanding the other provisions of this Annex, to purchase and import, at guaranteed prices, specific quantities of cane sugar, raw or white, which originates in the ACP States producing and exporting cane sugar and which those States have undertaken to deliver to it...The conditions for the

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implementation of the aforementioned Article 25 have been laid down by Protocol 3 referred to in paragraph 1. The text of the Protocol is attached to this Annex as Protocol 3.”

- (c) The duration of the new trading arrangements after the preparatory period will be 20 years.

WHEREAS in an overall sense, the agreed package represents a successful outcome for the ACP as a whole and particularly so for the Caribbean’s leadership and input in the ACP’s strategy throughout the negotiations. For example:

- (i) The EU retreated from its hardline position that the ACP must choose the alternative trade model and identify same in the Framework Agreement itself.
- (ii) The European Commission (EC) withdrew its insistence that in the preparatory (or transition) period the ACP should only consider REPAs and no other alternative trade option. The ACP countries have maintained their right to consider other options – including a non-reciprocal model based on phased liberalization (consistent with WTO conditions).
- (iii) The ACP secured a preliminary period of 2 ½ years (to September 2002) before formal negotiations begin on the post-2007 trade regime. The EU wanted to start in 2000.
- (iv) The non-inclusion of good governance as an ‘essential element’ which would have attracted sanctions or suspension of benefits at the determination of the EU. The two sides agreed to include the issue of good governance as a ‘fundamental element’ which would trigger sanctions only in cases of corruption including ‘acts of bribery leading to corruption’ The Caribbean, nevertheless, was not the main target of the EU in this regard.
- (v) A joint ACP-EU Ministerial monitoring mechanism will oversee the 8-year preparatory period to build ACP capacity and protect ACP development interests.

WHEREAS nevertheless, while the agreement reached in Brussels delivered most that the ACP sought, substantially less was achieved in the important areas of market access and transitional periods.

- In the area of market access the EU refused to grant improved preferential market access to ACP exports during the transition period from 2000 – 2007. The EU's initial position was that the commodity protocols, for example, were quickly becoming inconsistent with the trend of WTO-compatibility and, therefore, need to be revised. The EU's concern in the matter, however, boiled down to its desire to protect its own agriculture sector in the specific areas.
- The issue of transition period is two-fold. **First**, the transition period before the successor arrangement is implemented. The proposed minimum 10 - year period which was sought by the ACP (from 2000-2009) to make the necessary adjustments was derived from consultations with the various ACP private sectors. The agreed 8 year transition (from 2000-2007) represents both a loss and gain for the ACP. A loss in the sense that it is less than the evaluated minimum ten years needed by the ACP's private sectors to adjust to a more competitive environment, and a gain of three years more than the five years which the EU had misrepresented throughout that was the maximum allowable by the WTO. **Second**, the transition of the successor agreement into a fully reciprocal or free trade arrangement. The ACP had sought 30 years (more realistically 25 years, bearing in mind other negotiations in the WTO and F1AA) The EU agreed to only 20 years.

WHEREAS the ACP's Negotiating Strategy held together on the principle of ACP solidarity which was articulated by the Caribbean Group. The Caribbean's preparations for the negotiations was strengthened with the establishment of the Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM) in April 1997 by Caricom Heads of Government. This allowed the Caribbean to play a lead role in the shaping of the ACP's negotiating Strategy and

Mandate. The Caribbean was also entrusted by ACP Heads of Government to lead the negotiations in the critical trade area..

WHEREAS in the development of the Caribbean's Strategy **Guyana** was given Ministerial responsibility in the commodity protocols of vital interest to the Caribbean mainly rice and rum. The Banana Protocol was already the subject of discussion in relation to the WTO ruling on the EU Banana import regime. Sugar is of a separate regime and was not to be part of the negotiations. The Caribbean insisted on this aspect in relation to sugar as the initial indications from the EU suggested otherwise. The Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB) together with the Caribbean Rice Association (CRA) developed the ACP's proposal on rice and the local industry was vigilant in its representation in Brussels throughout the negotiations. In the case of rum, the Demerara Distillers Limited played a leading role in the West Indies Rum and Spirits Producers Association (WIRSPA) which developed the ACP's rum proposal. The DDL is Guyana's only and one of the ACP's largest exporters of bulk rum to the European Union (EU). GUYSUOCO, the largest ACP Caribbean producer and exporter of sugar to the EU maintained oversight on the sugar matter.

WHEREAS Guyana's preparation for and participation in the negotiations was coordinated by the National Advisory Committee on External Negotiations (NACEN), under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

WHEREAS the conclusion of the ACP-EU Partnership Agreement represents the first phase in the ACP-EU post-Lome IV negotiations -- the roll-over of the current Lome preferences until 2007 and the agreed Framework Agreement for the post-2007 Partnership Arrangements. The second phase, which will be extremely critical for Guyana and the Caribbean Community, will be the negotiations from 2002-2007, during the transition or preparatory period, for the successor trade arrangements to be implemented in 2008.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that this National Assembly of the Parliament of Guyana endorses the “**Partnership Agreement Between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the European Community and its Member States.**”

(Notice Paper No. 86 (M45 Govt40) published 2000-07-27)

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SUPPLEMENTARY ORDER PAPER
FOR THE 56TH 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, 23RD OCTOBER, 2000
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS FOR SITTING

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

(This item will be taken immediately after Prayers).

F.A. NARAIN
Clerk of the National Assembly

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,
Public Buildings,
Georgetown.

23rd October, 2000