



SPEAKERS' RULINGS – NINTH PARLIAMENT

Announcements by the Speaker

5th Sitting dated December 14, 2006

MAKING AMENDMENTS TO BILLS AND MOTIONS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Preamble

The Speaker set out seven principles as to the making of amendments to Bills and Motions.

Verbatim

The Speaker (Hari N. Ramkarran): This is an appropriate time to set out the principles which should apply in making amendments to Bills and Motions in the National Assembly.

1. Amendments must be made in writing.
2. Amendments must be presented in the usual format in accordance with the Standing Orders so as to give clear indication of (a) the words to be deleted; (b) the words to be added; and (c) the words to be substituted for words to be deleted.
3. Notice of amendment must be given in sufficient time to enable Members to consider them.
4. Simple amendments which require little or no time for consideration by Members, or for which there is no objection, will be accepted if delivered to the Clerk one hour before the convening of the National Assembly.
5. Amendments which will require some study by Members or which is likely to generate discussion, disagreement or debate must be delivered to the Clerk before 10.00 a.m. on the day on which the debate is to take place.
6. Substantial or complex amendments, as in the case of the Motion on the National Development Strategy, must be delivered to the Clerk before 10.00 a.m. on the day before the debate is to take place in the National Assembly.
7. Amendments which alter, add to or substitute resolve clauses will be permitted in accordance with our practice as occurs in many Parliaments, including the House of Commons. However, an amendment which alters the nature of the Motion or Bill will not be allowed.