

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

Tree Crops Development Authority Bill, 2019 Passed by Parliament

On Monday, December 2, 2019, Parliament passed the Tree Crops Development Authority Bill. It is expected that the President will assent to it before it becomes law.

The clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill on the floor of Parliament happened from November 27 to December 2, 2019, as MPs took particular interest and made some changes, before it was *read the third time* and *Passed*.

Highlights of Major Changes to the Bill

- There was a long debate on the Floor of Parliament on a proposal to add mango and coconut to the list of tree crops captured under the law. This was in variance with the policy direction and principles of the Bill submitted by the Executive branch of government.
- After several debates the House agreed that mango and coconut be part of the tree crops as defined in the bill, defeating the position of some MPs who cited the financial implications, the value of their exports and disease control as some of the reasons why they must not be added.
- Critical observation has been made of the usage of “Tree Crops Development Bill, 2019” and “Tree Crops Development Authority Bill, 2019” interchangeably, both in Parliament and by some Stakeholders. The

Food, Agriculture and Cocoa Affairs Committee’s report for example, had its title referred to the former, even though in the same report’s concluding remarks, it referred to the latter.

- The Bill as it was passed on the Floor of Parliament is however, “**Tree Crops Development Authority Bill, 2019**”.

Conclusion

The passage of the Bill marks a milestone achieved within the tree crop sectors as stakeholders have advocated for passage of such law in order to develop the sector.

In order for Stakeholders to appreciate the changes that were made by parliament to the original Bill submitted, our next **Legislative Alert**, which will be the final in the series on this particular Bill, will include a Bill Tracker.

We look forward to sharing this Tracker with you on Monday, December 9, 2019, thanks to the funding support of GIZ/ComCashew and its partners – SECO, the European Union among others.

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