

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF THE FOURTH SITTING OF THE
2000 SESSION TO BE HELD IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, RED HOUSE,
PORT OF SPAIN ON MONDAY OCTOBER 23, 2000 AT 1.30 P.M.**

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER PAPER

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

2. **WHEREAS** the Constitution (Amendment) Act, Act No. 29 of 1999, *inter alia* amended the Constitution to provide for the establishment of Joint Select Committees to investigate and report to Parliament on the powers and functioning and criteria adopted by Government Ministries, Municipal Corporations, Statutory Authorities, Service Commissions and by enterprises owned or controlled by or on behalf of the State or funded by the State to the extent of two-thirds of their annual income:

AND WHEREAS section 4 of the said Constitution (Amendment) Act, 1999 provides for the Act to come into force when Standing Orders are made to give effect to section 66A:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House adopt the proposed amendments to the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives

(By the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs)

**D. DOLLY
AG. CLERK OF THE HOUSE**

*House of Representatives' Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN
October 23, 2000*

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Standing Orders of the House of Representatives are amended by inserting after Standing Order 79A, the following Standing Order:

"Joint Select Committees Relating to Government Ministries, Municipal Corporations and other Bodies"

79B(1) Subject to paragraph (3), the House of Representatives shall appoint members to sit with members of the Senate as joint Select Committees to inquire into and report to it in respect of -

- (a) Government Ministries;
- (b) Municipal Corporations;
- (c) Statutory Authorities;
- (d) Service Commissions; and
- (e) enterprises owned or controlled by or on behalf of the State or which receive funding from the State of more than two-thirds of their total income in any one year.

(2) A Joint Select Committee referred to in sub-paragraph (1), shall be empowered to study and report on all matters relating to the mandate, management and operations of the Ministry or body which is assigned to it by the House. In general, the Committee shall be severally empowered to review and report on -

- (a) the statute law relating to the ministry/body assigned to it;
- (b) the program and policy objectives of the ministry/body and its effectiveness in the implementation of same;
- (c) other matters, relating to the management, organisation or operation of the ministry/body, as the Committee deems fit.

(3) The House of Representatives shall appoint not more than six members to any joint Select Committee appointed for the purpose of this Standing Order.

(4) A Joint Select Committee may, by resolution, authorize its Chairman or Vice Chairman to continue meetings in order to receive evidence if it appears that a quorum can no longer be sustained, except that a quorum shall be required whenever a vote, resolution or other decision is taken.

(5) within ten days following the appointment of Members to serve on joint Select Committees, the Speaker of the House shall summon a meeting of each committee and the first business to be transacted thereat shall be the election of a Chairman and a Vice Chairman and the determination of a quorum. If at such meeting a Chairman is not elected, the Speaker shall appoint a Member of the Committee to be the Chairman.

(6) Every Joint Select Committee established under this Standing Order shall have the power to appoint Sub-Committees and to delegate to any such subcommittee all or any of its powers except the power to report directly to the House of Representatives.

(7) In addition to powers granted by these Standing Orders, each Joint Select Committee shall also have the following powers, namely

- (a) to send for persons, papers and records;
- (b) to sit notwithstanding any adjournment of the House of Representatives;
- (c) to adjourn from place to place;
- (d) to report from time to time;

- (e) to appoint specialist advisers either to supply information which is not otherwise readily available, or to elucidate matters of complexity within the Committee's or the Sub Committee's order of reference ;
- (f) to communicate with any Committee of Parliament on matters of common interest;
- (g) to meet concurrently with any other Committee for the purposes of deliberating, taking evidence or considering draft reports.

(8) The specialist advisers referred to in paragraph (7) (e), with the approval of the Committee or Sub-Committee, may question persons appearing before such Committee or Sub-Committee.

(9) Except the House directs otherwise, every member of a joint Select Committee appointed under this Standing Order shall continue to be a member of that Committee for the duration of the life of the Parliament.

(10) Standing Orders 78; 79; 79A(3); 80, except paragraph (2); 81 and 82 shall apply to every joint Select Committee or a Sub-Committee appointed under this Standing Order.

(11) The provisions of this Standing Order are in addition to and without prejudice to any other powers of the House with respect to joint Select Committees.

(12) Meetings of each joint Select Committee appointed under this Standing Order and of any sub-committee appointed under paragraph (6) of this Standing order shall be held in public, unless the Committee or both Houses otherwise resolve.

(13) The Minister responsible for the ministry/body under review shall, not later than ninety days after a report from a Joint Select Committee, relating to tile ministry/body, has been laid upon the Table, present a paper to the House responding to any recommendations/comments contained in the report which are addressed to it. All such papers presented by the ministry/body shall be ordered to be laid upon the Table without question put, and any motion for the printing thereof as a House Paper shall be determined without amendment or debate.

(14) If the period of ninety days referred to in this Standing Order expires on a day when Parliament is in recess or the House is adjourned, the Minister referred to in paragraph (13) shall present to the House, the paper responding to the recommendations/comments, no later than the third sitting day following that recess or adjournment.