



PARLIAMENT
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

SECOND SESSION OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT (2016/2017)

THIRD INTERIM REPORT
OF
THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE
APPOINTED TO CONSIDER AND REPORT ON THE GAMBLING (GAMING AND BETTING)
CONTROL BILL, 2016

Ordered to be printed

TOGETHER WITH THE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

PARL: 14/3/70

HOR PAPER NO: / 2017

SENATE PAPER NO: /2017

MANDATE

1. Pursuant to resolutions of the House of Representatives on Friday February 3, 2017 and Senate on Tuesday February 7, 2017, a Joint Select Committee was established:

“to consider and report on a Bill entitled the “Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control Bill, 2016”; and...to report within six weeks, that is to say, on or before March 17, 2017.”

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

2. The following persons were appointed to serve on the Committee:

- Mr. Colm Imbert, MP
- Mr. Faris Al-Rawi, MP
- Mr. Stuart Young, MP
- Ms. Nicole Olivierre, MP
- Mr. Ganga Singh, MP
- Mr. Rudranath Indarsingh, MP
- Ms. Melissa Ramkissoon
- Mr. Foster Cummings
- Mr. W. Michael Coppin
- Mr. Wade Mark
- Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon
- Mr. Paul Richards

SECRETARIAT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

3. Ms. Chantal La Roche, Legal Officer II, is assigned as Secretary to the Committee and Ms. Vahini Jainarine, Legal Officer I, Assistant Secretary.

INTERIM REPORTS

4. The Committee’s First Interim Report was adopted in the House of Representatives on Wednesday March 15, 2017 and in the Senate on Tuesday March 21, 2017. Your Committee requested and was granted a ten (10) week extension to May 19, 2017 in order to complete its work.
5. The Committee’s Second Interim Report was adopted in the House of Representatives on Friday May 19, 2017 and in the Senate on Tuesday May 23, 2017. Your Committee requested and was granted a six (6) week extension in order to complete its work. This extension expires on June 30, 2017.

MEETINGS

6. Since the adoption of the Interim Report, your Committee held one (1) meeting on Friday May 26, 2017.
7. The Minutes of the Meeting is attached at **Appendix I**.

WORK TO DATE

8. At its Fifth meeting held on Friday May 27, 2017, your Committee reviewed and discussed the stakeholder submissions received. To date, written submissions on the Bill have been received from twenty (20) stakeholders and eight (8) members of the public. Your Committee also received assistance from representatives of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel on the legal analysis of stakeholder submissions as well as similar provisions from other jurisdictions.
9. During discussions, your Committee agreed that there was need to engage an expert in the gaming and gambling sector as a consultant to provide expert advice on the regulatory, legal and commercial framework that governs the gambling and gaming sector. Although expressions of interest have been received, the Committee has not had the opportunity to engage an expert.

REPORT

10. The Committee wishes to report that the consideration of stakeholder submissions on the Bill and draft Regulations is still in progress.
11. However, due to the intensity of the schedule of Parliamentary sittings since its last report, the work of the Committee has not progressed as expected.
12. As such, the Committee requires additional time to complete this exercise, commence a clause by clause analysis of the Bill, to engage an expert consultant and to compile its proposed amendments, and is therefore unable to submit its final report by the deadline of Friday June 30, 2017.

RECOMMENDATION

13. Your Committee humbly requests a further period of eleven (11) weeks to complete its work and to submit a final report to Parliament by **Friday September 15, 2017**.
14. During this period, the Committee proposes to continue its work by meeting with stakeholders and commencing the clause by clause analysis of the Bill in collaboration with the expert consultant and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel Department of the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Respectfully submitted,

SGD
Mr. Colm Imbert, MP
Chairman
June 30, 2017

APPENDIX I



**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE GAMBLING (GAMING AND BETTING)
CONTROL BILL, 2016**

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING HELD IN THE A.N.R ROBINSON MEETING
ROOM (WEST), LEVEL 9, PARLIAMENT, TOWER D, PORT OF SPAIN
INTERNATIONAL WATERFRONT CENTRE, #1A WRIGHTSON ROAD, PORT OF
SPAIN ON FRIDAY MAY 26, 2017 AT 10:00A.M.**

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	-	Chairman
Mr. Ganga Singh, MP	-	Member
Mr. Rudranath Indarsingh, MP	-	Member
Mr. Paul Richards	-	Member
Mr. W. Michael Coppin	-	Member
Ms. Melissa Ramkissoon	-	Member
Mr. Stuart Young, MP	-	Member
Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member
Mr. Foster Cummings	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Ms. Vahini Jainarine	-	Assistant Secretary

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mr. Faris Al-Rawi, MP	-	Vice-Chairman
Ms. Nicole Olivierre, MP	-	Member

COMMENCEMENT

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10:21a.m.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 2.1 The Committee considered the Minutes of the Forth Meeting held on Wednesday April 5, 2017.
- 2.2 There being no corrections, the motion for the confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Mr. Paul Richards and seconded by Mr. Rudranath Indarsingh and the Minutes were confirmed by the Committee.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 3.1 As per Item 3.4 the Chairman informed the Committee that written submissions were received from the following stakeholders:
 - Instant Winner's Members Club;
 - Commissioner of Police of Trinidad and Tobago; and
 - The Banker's Association of Trinidad and Tobago
- 3.2 As per Item 4.4 the Chairman informed the Members that an expert consultant has not yet been engaged to assist the Committee.
- 3.3 The Chairman directed the Secretariat to advertise for an expert consultant both locally, regionally and internationally via the local newspapers, Parliament Facebook page and/or any other social media platform.
- 3.4 The Chairman further directed the Secretariat to contact the relevant gambling regulating authorities in Las Vegas, London, Ireland and Puerto Rico to request assistance in the engagement of an expert consultant to assist the Committee.
- 3.5 The Chairman informed the Members that the advertisement shall be published via various social media platforms for a period of two (2) weeks. Following which an expert consultant shall be engaged within a further two (2) week period.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 4.1 Discussion ensued on the way forward in relation to the consideration of submissions received from stakeholders including the invitation of entities to appear before the Committee.
- 4.2 The Chairman informed the Committee that Members are expected to submit their views and/or comments on the final compilation of stakeholder comments as circulated.
- 4.3 The Chairman directed Members to submit their respective available dates and times from June 1, 2017 to August 31, 2017 in order to facilitate public hearings with the various stakeholders.

- 4.4 The Committee agreed after Members have indicated their availability, the Committee shall agree by round robin the dates and times for the public hearings with the stakeholders.
- 4.5 The Chairman invited the Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC), Mr. Ian Macintyre to request CPC's assistance in simplifying and explaining the stakeholder submissions from a legal aspect and also to provide references to other jurisdictions with similar provisions.
- 4.6 The Chairman requested that CPC complete its work by June 9, 2017.
- 4.7 The Chairman undertook to provide a copy of the following document on or before Monday May 29, 2017-
- Vulnerabilities of Casinos and Gaming Sector-March 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

- 5.1 The Chairman thanked Members and adjourned the meeting to a date to be determined.
- 5.2 The adjournment was taken at 10:44 a.m.

I certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

May 26, 2017