



Interim Report

of the **Joint Select Committee**
Appointed to Consider and Report on the
National Statistical Institute
of Trinidad and Tobago Bill, 2018

Fifth Session (2019/2020) of the 11th Parliament

MANDATE

1. Pursuant to resolutions of the House of Representatives on Wednesday October 2, 2019 and of the Senate on Friday October 25, 2019, a Joint Select Committee was appointed to consider and report on the National Statistical Institute of Trinidad and Tobago Bill, 2018, by December 31, 2019.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

2. The following persons were appointed to serve on the Committee:
 - Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP (Chairman)
 - Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP
 - Mr. Randall Mitchell, MP
 - Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn, MP
 - Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, MP
 - Dr. Tim Gopeesingh, MP
 - Mr. Clarence Rambharat
 - Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon
 - Dr. Lester Henry
 - Mr. Taharqa Obika
 - Ms. Amrita Deonarine
 - Ms. Charrise Seepersad

CHAIRMANSHIP

3. At its First Meeting held on Friday November 15, 2019, your Committee elected Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP to be its Chairman, in accordance with House of Representatives Standing Order 112(7) and Senate Standing Order 102(7).

SECRETARIAT SUPPORT

4. The following persons provided Secretariat support to the Committee:

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| ▪ Ms. Angeliqne Massiah, Parliamentary Legal Officer | Secretary |
| ▪ Ms. Renee Batson, Procedural Officer Intern | Assistant Secretary |
| ▪ Mr. Kaleem Hosein, Legal Officer I | Legal Research Officer |
| ▪ Ms. Katharina Gokool, Graduate Research Assistant | Research Assistant |

MEETINGS

5. Since its appointment, your Committee held four (4) meetings on the following dates:

- Friday November 15, 2019;
- Wednesday November 20, 2019;
- Friday November 22, 2019; and
- Thursday November 28, 2019.

6. The Minutes of the respective Meetings are attached as **Appendix I**.

WORK TO DATE

7. At its **First Meeting** held on Friday November 15, 2019, your Committee reviewed and adopted the work completed by the Committee established during the Fourth Session, including written comments submitted by stakeholders.

8. Your Committee also agreed *inter alia*, to:

- a follow-up private hearing with the Board of Inland Revenue, the Ministry of Finance, the Central Statistical Office and the Ministry of Planning and Development to discuss the Bill; and
- request a written submission from the Ministry of Finance to determine the process for forecasting Gross Domestic Product (GDP) figures.

9. At its **Second Meeting** held on Wednesday November 20, 2019, your Committee was advised that officials of the Inland Revenue Division (IRD) were unable to attend the meeting due to the unavailability of the Chief State Counsel and the Assistant Chief State Counsel. Your Committee agreed to proceed with the meeting with officials from the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and the Ministry of the Planning and Development.

10. The officials of the Ministry of Planning and Development were requested to submit the following information to the Committee:
 - a. The type of data that would be required from registered businesses to facilitate the proper calculation of GDP; and
 - b. A copy of the Census Booklet.

11. At its **Third Meeting** held on Friday November 22, 2019 your Committee met with officials from the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and the Board of Inland Revenue, Ministry of the Finance.

12. At its **Fourth Meeting** held on Thursday November 28, 2019, your Committee acknowledged receipt of:
 - (i) a response from the Ministry of Finance; and
 - (ii) a response from the Ministry of Planning and Development. However, the Committee made a request for a more comprehensive submission. A revised response was submitted by the Ministry and was circulated to Members on Friday November 22, 2019.

REPORT

13. The Committee wishes to report that it has been unable to commence the clause by clause examination of the Bill. Additionally, due to the imminent relocation of the Parliament to the Red House, the Committee will be unable to submit its final report by December 31, 2019.

RECOMMENDATION

14. Your Committee humbly recommends that it be granted a further extension to complete its work and to submit a final report to the Parliament by **March 31, 2020**.

Respectfully submitted,

Sgd.

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP

Chairman

December 10, 2019

Appendix I

Minutes



**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BILL, 2018**

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING HELD IN THE ANR ROBINSON MEETING ROOM
(WEST), LEVEL 9, OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT, TOWER D, IWFC,
#1A WRIGHTSON ROAD, PORT-OF-SPAIN ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2019 AT 11:10 a.m.**

PRESENT

Mrs. Brigid Annisette-George, MP - Speaker of the House

Committee Members

Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP - Member
Mr. Randall Mitchell, MP - Member
Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, MP - Member
Mr. Clarence Rambharat - Member
Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon - Member
Ms. Amrita Deonarine - Member
Ms. Charrise Seepersad - Member

Secretariat

Mrs. Angelique Massiah - Secretary
Ms. Renee Batson - Assistant Secretary
Mr. Kaleem Hosein - Legal Officer
Ms. Katharina Gokool - Graduate Research Assistant

Absent/Excused

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP - Member *[Excused]*
Mr. Taharqa Obika - Member *[Excused]*
Dr. Tim Gopeesingh, MP - Member *[Excused]*
Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn, MP - Member *[Excused]*
Dr. Lester Henry - Member *[Excused]*

COMMENCEMENT

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Speaker of the House at 11:10 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

- 2.1 The Speaker informed Members that the following persons have been assigned to the Committee:
1. Mrs. Angelique Massiah, Secretary;
 2. Ms. Renee Batson, Assistant Secretary;
 3. Mr. Kaleem Hosein, Legal Officer; and
 4. Ms. Katharina Gokool, Research Officer.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

- 3.1 The Speaker advised that her role was to facilitate the election of a Chair and she invited nominations.
- 3.2 Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis was nominated by Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh for the chairmanship and this nomination was seconded by Mr. Randall Mitchell.
- 3.3 There being no further nominations, Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis was declared the duly elected Chairman.
- 3.4 The Speaker then wished the Committee success in its deliberations.

(The Speaker exited the meeting)

ELECTION OF AN INTERIM CHAIRMAN

- 4.1 In accordance with Standing Order 112 (4) of the House of Representatives and 102 (4) of the Senate, the Secretary proposed the election of a Chairman for the day in the absence of Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis and nominations were thereafter invited.
- 4.2 Mr. Randall Mitchell was nominated by Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh and this nomination was seconded by Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie.
- 4.3 There being no further nominations, Mr. Randall Mitchell was declared the duly elected Chairman for the day.

(Mr. Randall Mitchell assumed his role as Chairman for the Day)

- 4.4 The Interim Chairman took the chair at 11:13 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 5.1 The Interim Chairman advised that the following Members asked to be excused from the meeting:
- Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis;
 - Mr. Taharqa Obika;

- Dr. Tim Gopeesingh;
- Dr. Lester Henry; and
- Ms. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn.

QUORUM

- 6.1 The Interim Chairman advised that the Committee is required to establish a quorum in accordance with Standing Order 97(2) and 87(2) of the House of Representatives and the Senate respectively.
- 6.2 The Interim Chairman proposed and Members agreed to a quorum of three (3) persons, inclusive of the Chair with representation from at least one Member of each House.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 7.1 The Interim Chairman informed Members of the Committee's mandate to:
- (i) consider and report on the National Statistical Institute of Trinidad and Tobago Bill, 2018 by December 31, 2019; and
 - (ii) adopt the work of the Committee that was appointed in the Fourth Session of the Eleventh Parliament.
- 7.2 Members were then reminded that in accordance with Standing Orders 69(1) and 67(1) of the HOR and Senate respectively, any Committee to which a Bill is committed after the Second Reading shall not discuss the general merits and principles of the Bill.

DISCUSSIONS ON THE WAY FORWARD

- 8.1 Members were advised by the Interim Chairman that a copy of the Bill, the Bill Essentials and a List of the Committee Members, were circulated.
- 8.2 The Interim Chairman provided a synopsis of the work done by the Committee during the Fourth Session.
- 8.3 The Committee agreed:
- (i) that its Second Meeting should be a follow-up private hearing with the Board of Inland Revenue, Ministry of Finance and the Central Statistical Office, Ministry of Planning and Development, to discuss the BIR's issues with the Bill; and
 - (ii) that the clause by clause analysis of the Bill should commence at its Third Meeting.
- 8.4 The Committee agreed to request a written submission from the Ministry of Finance to determine the process for forecasting GDP figures.

Determination of a Meeting Schedule

- 8.5 The Interim Chairman invited discussion on proposed meeting days to facilitate the completion of the work of the Committee by December 15, 2019.

- 8.6 The Committee agreed to meet on the following days:
- i. Second Meeting - Wednesday November 20, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.; and
 - ii. Third Meeting - Friday November 22, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Excuses/Absences

- 8.7 Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon indicated that she will be out of the country on official business and asked to be excused from the Second Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- 9.1 There being no other business, the Chairman thanked Members and adjourned the meeting to **Wednesday November 20, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.**
- 9.2 The adjournment was taken at 11:42 a.m.

I certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

November 15, 2019



**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BILL, 2018**

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING HELD IN THE ANR ROBINSON MEETING ROOM
(WEST), LEVEL 9, OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT, TOWER D, IWFC,
#1A WRIGHTSON ROAD, PORT-OF-SPAIN ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2019 AT 1:30
p.m.**

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP	-	Chairman
Dr. Tim Gopeesingh, MP	-	Member
Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, MP	-	Member
Mr. Taharqa Obika	-	Member
Ms. Amrita Deonarine	-	Member
Ms. Charrise Seepersad	-	Member

Secretariat

Mrs. Angelique Massiah	-	Secretary
Mr. Kaleem Hosein	-	Assistant Secretary/Legal Officer
Ms. Katharina Gokool	-	Graduate Research Assistant
Ms. Trisha Lawrence	-	Statistician

Absent/Excused

Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP	-	Member [<i>Excused</i>]
Mr. Randall Mitchell, MP	-	Member [<i>Excused</i>]
Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn, MP	-	Member [<i>Absent</i>]
Mr. Clarence Rambharat	-	Member [<i>Absent</i>]
Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon	-	Member [<i>Out of the Country</i>]
Dr. Lester Henry	-	Member [<i>Out of the Country</i>]

COMMENCEMENT

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 1:47p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

- 2.1 The Chairman advised that the following Members asked to be excused from the meeting:
- Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP (Member was ill)
 - Mr. Randall Mitchell, MP (Member was ill)
 - Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon (Member out of the Jurisdiction)
 - Dr. Lester Henry (Member out of the Jurisdiction)

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MINUTES

- 3.1 The Committee examined the Minutes of the First Meeting held on Friday November 15, 2019.
- 3.2 There being no amendments, the motion for the confirmation of the Minutes of the First Meeting was moved by Ms. Amrita Deonarine and seconded by Ms. Charrise Seepersad.

MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 Per **Item 8.4**, the Interim Chairman informed Members that:
- (i) the Secretariat sent a written request to the Ministry of Finance;
 - (ii) the Ministry acknowledged receipt of same; and
 - (iii) a response is expected by Thursday November 21, 2019.

PRE STAKEHOLDER/TECHNOCRAT DISCUSSIONS

- 5.1 The Chairman reminded Members that the Committee was to meet with the Inland Revenue Division (IRD) and the Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD). Members were thereafter informed that the Chairman, IRD advised that the IRD was unable to attend the meeting due to the unavailability of the Chief State Counsel and the Assistant Chief Counsel.
- 5.2 The Committee agreed to proceed with meeting with the MoPD and the CPC.
- 5.3 The Secretariat was asked to determine whether taxpayer offices in other jurisdictions produce aggregate data or final user data.
- 5.4 The meeting was suspended at 2:05p.m.

STAKEHOLDER/TECHNOCRAT DISCUSSIONS

Representatives of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and Ministry of the Planning and Development were invited to join the meeting at this time

- 6.1 The meeting resumed at 2:09p.m.

- 6.2 The Chairman welcomed representatives of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC) and Ministry of Planning and Development (MoPD) and introductions were made.
- 6.3 Representing the Ministry of Planning and Development were:
- | | | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Mrs. Joanne Deoraj | - | Permanent Secretary |
| Mr. Sean O'Brien | - | Director of Statistics |
| Mr. Andre Blanchard | - | Assistant Director of Statistics |
| Ms. Andrea Julien | - | Senior State Counsel |
| Ms. Cherrie Ann Joseph | - | Change Manager |
| Mrs. Ava Mahabir-Dass | - | Senior Statistician |
- 6.4 Representing the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel were:
- | | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Ms. Veronica Sahadeo | - | Senior Parliamentary Counsel |
| Ms. Lorraine John | - | Deputy Chief Parliamentary Counsel (Ag.) |
- 6.5 The Chairman requested that the representatives of the MoPD submit the following information to the Committee:
- (i) The type of data that would be required from registered business to facilitate the proper calculation of GDP; and
 - (ii) A copy of the Census Booklet.
- 6.6 For the comments made by the relevant stakeholders during this engagement, please see the Verbatim Notes.
- 6.7 The Chairman suspended the meeting at 3:31p.m.

OTHER MATTERS

- 7.1 The Meeting resumed at 3:41p.m.
- 7.2 The Committee agreed to invite the Inland Revenue Division to its Third Meeting scheduled for November 22, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.
- 7.3 In relation to the Committee's Third Meeting, it was decided that:
- (i) officials of the CPC will be invited;
 - (ii) the clause by clause analysis of the Bill shall commence; and
 - (iii) there was no need to invite the Ministry of Planning and Development.

ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 There being no other business, the Chairman thanked Members and adjourned the meeting to **Friday November 22, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.**
- 8.2 The adjournment was taken at 3:43 p.m.

I certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

November 21, 2019



**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BILL, 2018**

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING HELD IN THE ANR ROBINSON MEETING ROOM
(WEST), LEVEL 9, OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT, TOWER D, IWFC,
#1A WRIGHTSON ROAD, PORT-OF-SPAIN ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2019 AT 10:19 a.m.**

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP	-	Member
Mr. Randall Mitchell, MP	-	Member
Dr. Tim Gopeesingh, MP	-	Member
Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, MP	-	Member
Mr. Taharqa Obika	-	Member
Ms. Amrita Deonarine	-	Member
Ms. Charrise Seepersad	-	Member
Dr. Lester Henry	-	Member

Secretariat

Mrs. Angelique Massiah	-	Secretary
Ms. Renee Batson	-	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Kaleem Hosein	-	Legal Officer I
Ms. Katharina Gokool	-	Graduate Research Assistant

Absent/Excused

Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP	-	Member [<i>Excused</i>]
Mr. Clarence Rambharat	-	Member [<i>Excused</i>]
Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon	-	Member [<i>Out of the Country</i>]
Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn, MP	-	Member [<i>Excused</i>]

COMMENCEMENT

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10:19 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

- 2.1 The Chairman advised that the following Members asked to be excused from the meeting:
- Mr. Clarence Rambharat
 - Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon (Member out of the jurisdiction)

- Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP (Member was ill)

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING

- 3.1 The Committee examined the Minutes of the Second Meeting held on Wednesday November 20, 2019.
- 3.2 There being no amendments, the motion for the confirmation of the Minutes of the Second Meeting was moved by Ms. Charrise Seepersad and seconded by Mr. Taharqa Obika.

MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 The Chairman informed Members that:
- Per Item 4.1:**
 - A follow-up request to the Ministry of Finance would be sent later that day.
 - Per Item 5.3:**
 - The Secretariat commenced research and Members will be in receipt of same soon.
 - Per Item 6.5:**
 - A request for additional information from the Ministry of Planning would be sent later that day.

PRE STAKEHOLDER/TECHNOCRAT DISCUSSIONS

- 5.1 The Chairman reminded Members that the Committee invited the Chairman, Board of Inland Revenue (BIR) and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC) to discuss concerns with the Bill.
- 5.2 The Committee agreed that the Chairman will lead off discussions with the stakeholder.
- 5.3 The meeting was suspended at 10:25 a.m.

STAKEHOLDER/TECHNOCRAT DISCUSSIONS

Representatives of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and Board of Inland Revenue, Ministry of the Finance were invited to join the meeting at this time

- 6.1 The meeting resumed at 10:26 a.m.
- 6.2 The Chairman welcomed the representatives of BIR and CPC and introductions were made.

Representing the Board of Inland Revenue were:

Mrs. Mary Allison Raphael	-Chairman
Ms. Shahista Khan	-Ag. Commissioner, Legal/Objection/Research
Ms. Rohonie Ramkissoon	-Ag. Commissioner, Audit/Compliance

Ms. Candace Lopez

-State Counsel I

Representing the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel were:

Ms. Lorraine John

-

Deputy Chief Parliamentary Counsel (Ag.)

Ms. Veronica Sahadeo

-

Senior Parliamentary Counsel

- 6.3 The Chairman BIR gave an undertaking to provide the type of data that the BIR shared with CSO in 2008.
- 6.4 The comments and submissions on the Bill from stakeholders and technocrats proceeded as outlined in **Appendix I** to these Minutes.
- 6.5 The Chairman suspended the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

OTHER MATTERS

- 7.1 The Meeting resumed at 11:50 a.m.
- 7.2 In relation to the Fourth Meeting the Committee decided that:
- (i) The clause by clause analysis of the Bill will commence at its next meeting on November 28, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.;
 - (ii) Officials of the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Council would be invited to assist with the clause by clause analysis.

ADJOURNMENT

- 9.1 There being no other business, the Chairman thanked Members and adjourned the meeting to **Thursday November 28, 2019 at 3:00p.m.**
- 9.2 The adjournment was taken at 12:10 p.m.

I certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

November 27, 2019

**Comments/Issues and Concerns Raised with the Board of Inland Revenue
on the National Statistical Institute of Trinidad and Tobago Bill, 2018**

Second Meeting – Wednesday November 20, 2019

- **The BIR concerns and solutions to the NSITT, Bill 2018**
 - The BIR and the CSO had discussions concerning the type of information. However, the BIR reiterated that consideration must be given to Section 4 of the Income Tax Act Chapter 75:01;
 - Although the BIR is willing to assist it remains conscious that the disclosure of information must be beneficial to the board;
 - With respect to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), this is still under consideration;

- **The information required by the CSO that was allowed prior to 2008**
 - The information provided by the BIR to the CSO was VAT;
 - Recently, the CSO requested individuals, company names, addresses and financial information specifically for each person, however, the BIR did not provide such information;
 - The BIR is able to provide global information to the CSO;
 - The BIR is unaware of an MOU/signed agreement with the CSO prior to 2008;

- **Whether the information from the BIR would assist in providing better statistics in terms of international ratings**
 - The information the BIR has can be obtained from other places;
 - CSO has the authority to go to any business or to obtain the required information including from individuals;

- **The authority request for information must come from**
 - Section 4 of the Income Tax Act Chapter 75:01 was amended to include the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU);
 - Requests for information must come from the Head of the FIU or the Head of the Police Service;

- **Whether the BIR has to be notified that the Head of the FIU or Police is seeking information**
 - The authority does not have to be notified if the FIU requires information;
 - Currently, the BIR does not have the authority under the Income Tax Act Chapter 75:01 to provide information to the CSO;

- **Whether the inclusion of the CSO under Section 4 of the Income Tax Act Chapter 75:01 will assist the BIR moving forward**
 - According to the Chairman, BIR, the inclusion of the CSO under section 4 would not prevent breaches;

- The BIR does not have the ability to determine whether the CSO has the necessary safeguards/security system as required by the BIR;
- **Whether the BIR is aware of the reason the CSO is requesting information on individuals from BIR**
 - The BIR is aware that the CSO is requesting the information on individuals to avoid double counting;
 - The BIR confirmed that there are issues with the MOU with CSO and cannot provide the requested information such as company names, individual data;
 - However, the BIR confirmed that it can provide trade classification data;
- **Whether the BIR is aware of any examples of other Tax Offices that produce aggregated data to a Statistical Office and in so doing protect the data of individuals**
 - BIR has not engaged in any research to determine examples of other tax offices that produce aggregated data to a statistical office;
 - Classifications are done on CSO codes example trade class;
 - The information BIR provides to the CSO is based on the CSO's codes that were given to the BIR;
- **Whether the BIR's sole objection to sharing disaggregated data to CSO is the law**
 - BIR confirmed that the law is one aspect;
 - The whole concept of taxation is voluntary compliance. The BIR gives the assurance to individuals that information will remain confidential and according to the Chairman, BIR, this can be compromised if the data is shared with the CSO;
 - The BIR will want to examine the CSO's information technology safeguards;
- **Whether the BIR and the CSO will have to work together to secure information if the CSO does not have the sufficient level of safeguards to prevent leakage and ensure security infrastructure is in place**
 - BIR is always willing to assist;
 - The BIR is unaware of what is required;
 - CSO is not working in isolation;
- **The arrangement between the CSO and BIR prior to 2008**
 - BIR was given the classification codes in 1990 and has accordingly providing the information;
- **Whether the BIR would be willing to accept the changes to classification codes**
 - The BIR would be willing to accept the changes to classification codes;
 - The BIR's issues concern the law, security and privacy of individual taxpayers; and
- **Whether the BIR did any poll or study or has evidence that the entire system will be undermined**
 - Personal information pose a problem with respect to compliance.

November 22, 2019



**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BILL, 2018**

**UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING HELD IN THE ANR ROBINSON
MEETING ROOM (WEST), LEVEL 9, OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT, TOWER D, IWFC,
#1A WRIGHTSON ROAD, PORT-OF-SPAIN ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2019 AT 3:32 p.m.**

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mr. Randall Mitchell, MP	-	Member
Dr. Tim Gopeesingh, MP	-	Member
Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, MP	-	Member
Mr. Taharqa Obika	-	Member
Ms. Amrita Deonarine	-	Member
Ms. Charrise Seepersad	-	Member

Secretariat

Mrs. Angelique Massiah	-	Secretary
Ms. Renee Batson	-	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Kaleem Hosein	-	Legal Officer
Ms. Katharina Gokool	-	Graduate Research Assistant

Absent/Excused

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP	-	Member
Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP	-	Member [<i>Excused</i>]
Mrs. Cherrie-Ann Crichlow-Cockburn, MP	-	Member [<i>Excused</i>]
Mr. Clarence Rambharat	-	Member [<i>Excused</i>]
Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon	-	Member [<i>Out of the Country</i>]
Dr. Lester Henry	-	Member

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN FOR THE DAY

- 1.1 In accordance with Standing Order 112 (4) of the House of Representatives and 102 (4) of the Senate, the Secretary proposed the election of a Chairman for the day in the absence of Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis and nominations were thereafter invited.
- 1.2 Mr. Randall Mitchell was nominated by Dr. Tim Gopeesingh and this nomination was seconded by Ms. Amrita Deonarine.

- 1.3 There being no further nominations, Mr. Randall Mitchell was declared the duly elected Chairman for the day.

(Mr. Randall Mitchell assumed his role as Chairman for the Day)

COMMENCEMENT

- 2.1 The meeting was called to order by the Interim Chairman at 3:32 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 3.1 The Interim Chairman advised that the following Members asked to be excused from the meeting:
- Mr. Clarence Rambharat
 - Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon (Member out of the jurisdiction)
 - Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP (Member was ill)

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING

- 4.1 The Committee examined the Minutes of the Third Meeting held on Friday November 22, 2019.
- 4.2 There being no amendments, the motion for the confirmation of the Minutes of the Third Meeting was moved by Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie and seconded by Ms. Amrita Deonarine.

MATTERS ARISING

- 5.1 The Interim Chairman brought the following matters to the attention of Members:
- i. **Per Item 4.1 (i):**
 - The Ministry of Finance submitted a response to the request for information and same was circulated to Members on November 22, 2019.
 - ii. **Per Item 4.2 (ii):**
 - The Secretariat was asked to update the research.
 - iii. **Per Item 4.1 (iii):**
 - The Ministry of Planning submitted a response to a request for information. However, the Secretariat was instructed to request that the Ministry of Planning re-submit a comprehensive document.
 - vi. **Per Item 6.5:**
 - The Chairman, Board of Inland Revenue (BIR) submitted a response to the request for the type of data shared with the Central Statistical Office in 2008.

PRE STAKEHOLDER/TECHNOCRAT DISCUSSIONS

- 6.1 The Interim Chairman reminded Members that the Committee invited the Chairman, BIR and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC) to discuss concerns with the Bill.
- 6.2 The Committee agreed that the clause by clause examination will be deferred to the next meeting date.

OTHER MATTERS

- 7.1 In relation to the Fourth Meeting the Committee decided that:
- (i) The clause by clause examination of the Bill will commence at its next meeting on December 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.; and
 - (ii) Officials of the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Council would be invited to assist with the clause by clause analysis.

ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 There being no other business, the Interim Chairman thanked Members and adjourned the meeting to **Tuesday December 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.**
- 8.2 The adjournment was taken at 4:20 a.m.

I certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

December 7, 2019