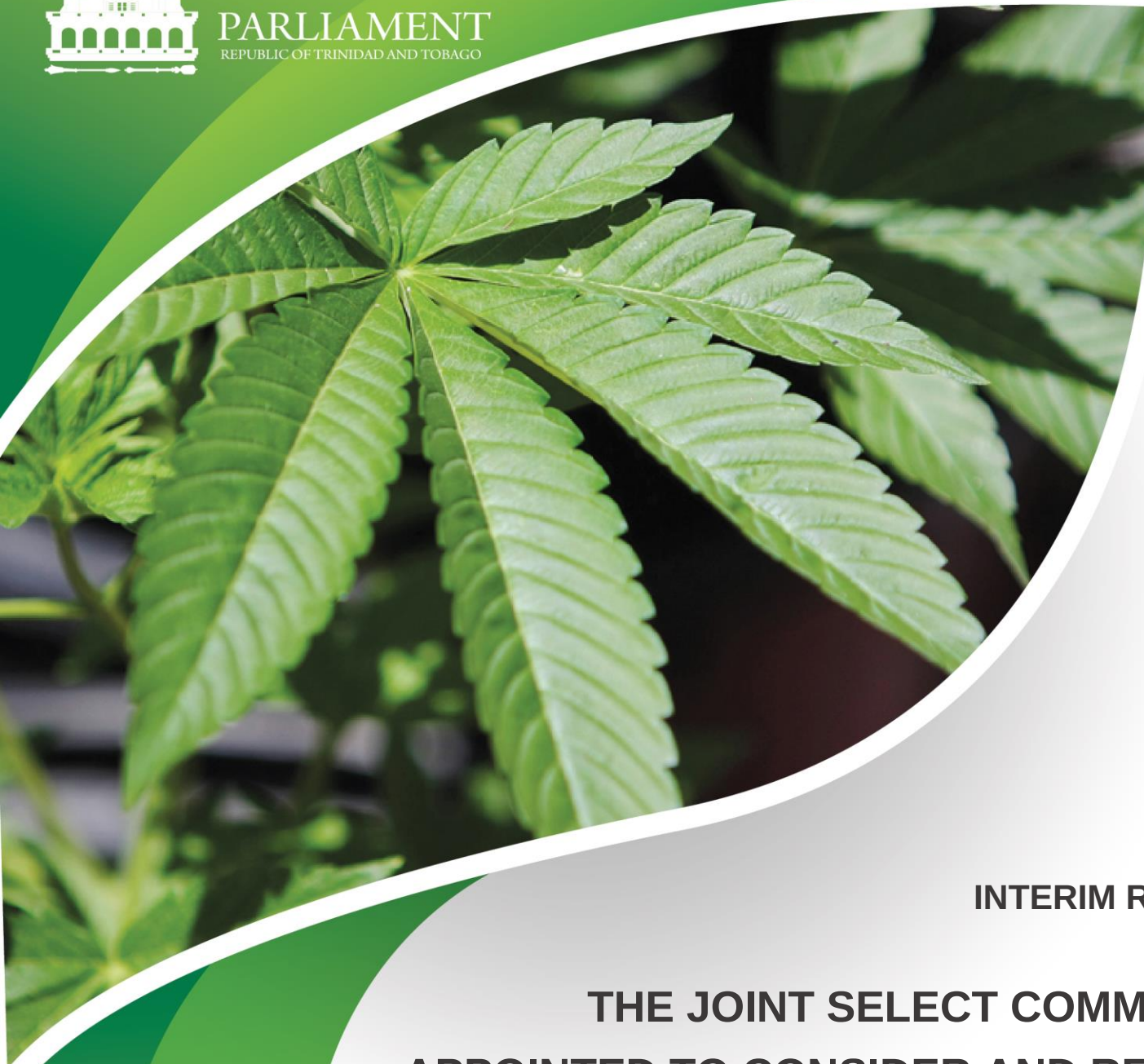




PARLIAMENT
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



**INTERIM REPORT
OF THE
THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE
APPOINTED TO CONSIDER AND REPORT
ON THE CANNABIS CONTROL BILL, 2020**

FIRST SESSION (2020/2021) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

Mandate

Pursuant to resolutions of the House of Representatives and Senate on Wednesday 14 October, 2020 and Friday 23 October, 2020 respectively, a Joint Select Committee was appointed to consider and report on the Cannabis Control Bill, 2020, by December 31, 2020.

Membership of the Committee

The following persons were appointed to serve on the Committee:

Mr. Faris Al Rawi, MP	-	Chairman
Mr. Stuart Young, MP	-	Member
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	-	Member
Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP	-	Member
Mr. Rushton Paray, MP	-	Member
Dr. Rai Ragbir, MP	-	Member
Mr. Clarence Rambharat	-	Member
Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon	-	Member
Mr. Paul Richards	-	Member
Mrs. Renuka Sagrarsingh-Sooklal	-	Member
Ms. Jayanti Lutchmedial	-	Member
Mr. Evans Welch	-	Member

Secretariat Support

Mrs. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel	-	Secretary
Mr. Julien Ogilvie	-	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Renee Batson	-	Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Krystle Gittens	-	Researcher
Ms. Krystle Murray	-	Administrative Assistant

Publication

An electronic copy of this report can be found on the Parliament website using the following link:

Contact

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Date Presented in HOR:

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HOR Paper No.:

Senate Paper No.:

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CHAIRMANSHIP

1. At its First Meeting on Wednesday November 18, 2020 your Committee elected Mr. Faris Al Rawi, MP to be its Chair, in accordance with House of Representatives Standing Order 97(3) and Senate Standing Order 87(3).

MEETINGS

2. Your Committee held three meetings, on Wednesday November 18, 2020, Thursday November 26, 2020 and Thursday December 3, 2020.

3. The Minutes of the Meetings are attached at **Appendix I**.

WORK TO DATE

4. At the three meetings, your Committee embarked on a clause-by-clause examination of the Bill but was unable to reach very far given the complexity of the Bill. Your Committee agreed to use reference material from the records of the previous Committee appointed in the 11th Parliament including a matrix comprising the comments of stakeholders¹. Members continue to review and familiarise themselves with this material.

ASSISTANCE TO THE COMMITTEE

5. Mr. Ian Macintyre, S.C., Chief Parliamentary Council, has been assisting your Committee in its work.

REPORT

6. Your Committee therefore reports that it would be unable to submit a final report by December 31, 2020, as mandated given that it has a significant amount of work yet to be completed.

7. Your Committee therefore requests a further period of **three (3) months** to complete its work.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Faris Al Rawi, MP
Chairman
December 14, 2020

¹ <http://www.ttparliament.org/reports/p11-s5-J-20200626-CANN-IR3.pdf>

APPENDIX I

Minutes of Meetings

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON THE CANNABIS CONTROL BILL, 2020 HELD
ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2020 at 11:30 AM**

This meeting was held virtually via ZOOM

PRESENT

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

Mr. Faris Al Rawi, MP	-	Chairman
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	-	Member
Dr. Rai Ragbir, MP	-	Member
Mr. Rushton Paray, MP	-	Member
Mr. Clarence Rhambharat	-	Member
Ms. Paula Gopee-Scoon	-	Member
Mrs. Renuka Sagrarsingh-Sooklal	-	Member
Mr. Paul Richards	-	Member
Mrs. Jayanti Lutchmedial	-	Member
Mr. Evans Welch	-	Member

Secretariat

Mrs. Jacqui Sampson Meiguel	-	Secretary
Mr. Brian Caesar	-	Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)
Mr. Julien Ogilvie	-	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Renee Batson	-	Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Krystle Gittens	-	Researcher

EXCUSED/ABSENT

Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP	-	Member
Mr. Stuart Young, MP	-	Member

COMMENCEMENT

- 1.1 The Speaker called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. and welcomed members present. She explained that, in accordance with Standing Orders 110 (2) of the House of Representatives and 100 (2) of the Senate, her role at the meeting was to facilitate the election of the Chairman.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

2.1 The Speaker invited nominations for the post of Chairman and indicated that the nomination required a seconder.

2.2 Mr. Faris Al Rawi was nominated by Ms. Paula Gopee-Scoon and the nomination was seconded by Mr. Rushton Paray.

2.3 There being no further nominations, the Speaker declared Mr. Faris Al Rawi the Chairman of the Committee.

2.4 The Speaker then wished the Committee success in its deliberations and invited the Chairman to take the Chair.

(The Speaker exited the meeting)

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

3.1 The Chairman took the Chair and thanked members for their support.

3.2 The Chairman informed the Committee of the following staff assignments:

- a) Mrs. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel, Clerk of the House- Secretary
- b) Mr. Julien Ogilvie, Procedural Clerk- Assistant Secretary
- c) Ms. Renee Batson, Procedural Officer (Intern)- Assistant Secretary; and
- d) Mrs. Krystle Gittens-Researcher

QUORUM

4.1 The Committee agreed that the quorum should be three (3) Members inclusive of the Chair, with representation from each House.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 5.1 The Chairman reminded Members of the Committee's terms of reference:
- to consider the Cannabis Control Bill, 2020 and report by December 31, 2020.

DETERMINATION OF DATE AND TIME OF BUSINESS MEETING

6.1 It was agreed that Thursdays at 2:30pm should be reserved for meetings of this Committee.

6.2 The Chairman indicated that significant work had been completed by the Committee appointed to consider the former Bill in the Eleventh Parliament. He indicated that the Bill before the current Committee took into account some of the recommendations made by the former

Committee in its last report submitted prior to the dissolution of the Parliament. He was of the view that members would find the records of the former Committee to be quite beneficial. There was agreement with this view.

- 6.3 The Committee therefore agreed on the following preliminary work plan:
- i. Review of the work of the Joint Select Committee on the Cannabis Control Bill, 2019 and the matrices compiled during the Eleventh Parliament; and
 - ii. A clause-by-clause examination of the Bill.

6.4 The Secretary of the Committee was instructed by the Chairman to ensure that Members had access to the full records of the former Committee.

DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

7.1 The Chairman informed Members that committee documents would be uploaded to the Parliament's web-based e-repository for easy access and use. He advised that for this purpose each Member will be issued with an Apple iPad Pro device very shortly.

7.2 Staff of the Committee were directed to assist Members in this regard.

ADJOURNMENT

8.1 The Chairman proposed and the Committee agreed that its Second meeting would be held on **Thursday November 26, 2020 at 2:30pm.**

8.2 The adjournment was taken at 11:52 a.m.

I certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

November 20, 2020

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CANNABIS CONTROL BILL, 2020, (IN CAMERA) HELD ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2020 at 2:30 PM

This meeting was held virtually via ZOOM

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mr. Faris Al Rawi, MP	-	Chairman
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	-	Member
Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP	-	Member
Mr. Stuart Young, MP	-	Member
Mr. Rai Ragbir, MP	-	Member
Mr. Clarence Rhambharat	-	Member
Mrs. Renuka Sagrarsingh-Sooklal	-	Member
Mr. Paul Richards	-	Member
Mrs. Jayanti Lutchmedial	-	Member
Mr. Evans Welch	-	Member

Secretariat

Mrs. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel	-	Secretary
Mr. Julien Ogilvie	-	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Renee Batson	-	Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Krystle Gittens	-	Graduate Research Assistant

EXCUSED/ABSENT

Ms. Paula Gopee-Scoon	-	Member
Mr. Rushton Paray, MP	-	Member

COMMENCEMENT

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 2:51 p.m.

1.2 The Chairman indicated that Mr. Rushton Paray and Ms. Paula Gopee-Scoon asked to be excused from the day's proceedings.

1.3 The Chairman also welcomed Mr. Ian Macintyre, SC, Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC) of the Legislative Drafting Department.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 18, 2020

2.1 The Committee considered the Minutes of the First meeting held on Wednesday November 18, 2020.

2.2 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Mr. Paul Richards and seconded by Dr. Rai Ragbir, MP.

2.3 The Minutes of the First meeting was confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING

3.1 **Paragraph: 6.2 & 6.3:** The Chairman confirmed that the following essential documents would be used to guide the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill:

- The Cannabis Control Bill, 2020; and
- The Matrix of Stakeholder's Comments of the former Committee.

The Committee agreed with this suggestion.

3.2 There was also agreement that following the Committee's clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill, the decision would be made whether further stakeholder engagement is necessary.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CANNABIS CONTROL BILL, 2020

4.1 The Chairman gave an overview of the intent and purpose of the Bill and a synopsis of the policy considerations.

4.2 The Committee commenced its examination of the Bill together with pages 1-10 of the [Matrix of Stakeholder's Comments](#).

4.3 Discussions ensued on Clause 3 – Interpretation.

4.4 The issues identified and decisions taken are outlined in the **Appendix** to these Minutes.

4.5 There was consensus that in the interest of time further consideration of the definitions set out in the Interpretation Clause (3) should be undertaken along with pertinent clauses contained in the Bill, in order to arrive at appropriate definitions within context.

OTHER BUSINESS

Next Meeting

5.1 The Committee agreed to next meet on **Thursday December 3, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.** when it will continue with its clause-by-clause examination of the Bill from Part II.

5.2 Noting that some Members indicated that they had challenges retrieving the relevant working documents in time for this meeting, the Chairman urged all Members to get possession of a copy of the Matrix of Stakeholders' Comments and acquaint themselves with it as the work of the Committee progresses.

5.3 There was consensus that –
(a) Thursdays at 2:30 pm is the preferred day and time for Committee meetings; and
(b) The duration of a meeting should be two (2) hours minimum.

ADJOURNMENT

6.1 The adjournment was taken at 4:01 p.m.

I certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

December 1, 2020

Cannabis Control Bill, 2020
Consideration of Matrix of Stakeholders' Comments
Clauses considered at 2nd Meeting held 26Nov20

Clauses	Issues Identified	Decision
1. Short title	None	None
2. Commencement	None	None
3. Interpretation	NOTE: CPC to examine stakeholder's recommendations on definitions and comment where applicable. Definitions should not be confined to technical specificity. If the definition is a matter of policy, the Committee will deliberate.	
	"Cannabis." - Whether the definition of Cannabis should include "Cannabidiol"	Ministry of Health: To provide guidelines
	"Cannabidiol" - Whether the use of the word "receptors" creates a loophole, if so, how can this be prevented/addressed.	

	“Handling” - Whether doctors/pharmacist should be trained and certified to prescribe/administer Cannabis for medical use. - Should the Medical Board Act, Chap 29:50 be amended to capture this requirement or should same be included in subsidiary legislation?	CPC to advise
	“Visitor” - Defined but not used in the Bill	CPC to advise
	The terms ‘nutraceuticals’ and ‘pharmaceuticals’ referred to in the definition of ‘medicinal, therapeutic or scientific purposes’ should be defined in the definition section of the Act.	CPC to advise
	3(2) What is meant by a “company, firm or other entity regulated by the Authority” ?	CPC to advise

MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CANNABIS CONTROL BILL, 2020, (IN CAMERA) HELD ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 3, 2020 at 2:30 PM

This meeting was held virtually via ZOOM

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mr. Faris Al Rawi, MP	-	Chairman
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	-	Member
Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP	-	Member
Mr. Rai Ragbir, MP	-	Member
Mr. Rushton Paray, MP	-	Member
Ms. Paula Gopee-Scoon	-	Member
Mrs. Renuka Sagrainsingh-Sooklal	-	Member
Mr. Paul Richards	-	Member
Mrs. Jayanti Lutchmedial	-	Member
Mr. Evans Welch	-	Member

Secretariat

Mrs. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel	-	Secretary
Mr. Julien Ogilvie	-	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Renee Batson	-	Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Krystle Gittens	-	Graduate Research Assistant
Mr. Jean Marc Morris	-	Legal Officer I

EXCUSED/ABSENT

Mr. Stuart Young, MP	-	Member
Mr. Clarence Rambharat	-	Member

COMMENCEMENT

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 2:35 p.m.

1.2 The Chairman indicated that Mr. Stuart Young, MP and Mr. Clarence Rambharat asked to be excused from the day's proceedings.

1.3 The Chairman also welcomed Mr. Ian Macintyre, SC, Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC) of the Legislative Drafting Department.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 26, 2020

- 2.1 The Committee considered the Minutes of the second meeting held on Thursday November 26, 2020.
- 2.2 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Mr. Paul Richards and seconded by Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP.
- 2.3 The Minutes of the second meeting was confirmed.

MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 **Paragraph: 4.2:** The Chairman informed Members that the Matrix of stakeholder's comments was updated with the Chief Parliamentary Counsel's (CPC) comments and uploaded to the e-repository.

CONSIDERATION OF THE CANNABIS CONTROL BILL, 2020

- 4.1 There was a brief discussion during which some Members indicated that they were either unable to download the reference documents from the e-repository or had not yet reviewed them due to competing demands and heavy workloads.
- 4.2 There was agreement that additional time was needed for Members to review the following documents –
- (a) the Bill; and
 - (b) the updated stakeholder's Matrix with comments from the CPC.
- 4.3 The Committee therefore postponed its resumption of the clause-by-clause examination of the Bill to the next meeting.

Next Meeting

- 5.1 The Committee agreed to next meet on **Tuesday December 15, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** when it will resume with its clause-by-clause examination of the Bill, beginning at Part II.

ADJOURNMENT

- 6.1 The adjournment was taken at 2:56 p.m.

I certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary