



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON

**THE REPRESENTATION OF THE
PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2)
BILL, 2020**
INTERIM REPORT

FIRST SESSION (2020/2021) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT



Committee Mandate

Pursuant to resolutions of the House of Representatives on Monday November 09, 2020 and of the Senate on Tuesday November 17, 2020, a Joint Select Committee was established to consider the Representation of the People (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2020.

Committee Membership

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP	Chairman
Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	Member
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	Member
Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP	Member
Mr. Davendranath Tancoo, MP	Member
Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP	Member
Mr. Clarence Rambharat	Member
Mr. Nigel de Freitas	Member
Mr. Randall Mitchell	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	Member
Mr. Paul Richards	Member
Mr. Deoroop Temal	Member

Secretariat Support

Ms. Chantal La Roche, Senior Legal Officer	Secretary
Ms. Sharla Elcock, Legal Officer I	Assistant Secretary
Mrs. Susannah Gittens, Business Operations Assistant II	Administrative Support

Contact

Secretary

The Joint Select Committee on the Representation of the People (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2020
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Date Laid in HOR:

HOR Paper No.:

PARL No.: 14/3/86

Date Laid in Senate:

Senate Paper No.:

CHAIRMANSHIP

1. At its First Meeting on Wednesday November 18, 2020, your Committee elected Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP to be its Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order 97(3) of the House of Representatives and Standing Order 87(3) of the Senate.

SECRETARIAT

2. Ms. Chantal La Roche, Senior Legal Officer, was assigned as Secretary to the Committee and Ms. Sharla Elcock, Legal Officer I, as Assistant Secretary.

MEETINGS

3. Since its appointment, your Committee has held two (2) meetings on the following dates:
 - Wednesday November 18, 2020; and
 - Friday November 27, 2020.
4. The Minutes of the Meetings are attached at **Appendix I**.

WORK TO DATE

5. During preliminary discussions your Committee agreed that in an effort to ensure citizen engagement in the Committee's process, a call for submissions from the public would be published on the Parliament Channel, Parliament social media platforms and the daily newspapers.
6. Your committee also agreed to issue written invitations to stakeholders in the education, business, political, trade union and media sectors.

REPORT

7. The Committee wishes to report that it intends to embark upon a clause by clause analysis of the Bill as well as the thorough consideration of all submissions received from stakeholders and an examination of stakeholders.
8. However, due to time constraints and the voluminous nature of documents and submissions to be analysed, additional time is required by the Committee to properly review the Bill along with submissions and to compile proposed amendments. As such, the Committee is unable to submit its final report by the deadline of December 31, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION

9. Your Committee humbly requests a further period of six (6) months to complete its work and to submit a final report to Parliament by **June 30, 2021**.
10. During the period of the extension, the Committee proposes to review the submissions received by the public and stakeholders, as well as review the Bill before submitting a final report to Parliament.

Respectfully submitted,

Sgd.

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP

Chairman

December 15, 2020

Appendix I
Attendance Record and
Minutes of Meetings

ATTENDANCE RECORD

JSC on the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2020
First Session (2020/ 2021) Twelfth Parliament

Meetings	Mr. Colm Imbert,	Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis	Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds	Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe	Mr. Saddam Hosein	Mr. Davendranath Tancoo	Mr. Randall Mitchell	Mr. Clarence Rambharat	Mr. Wade Mark	Mr. Paul Richards	Mr. Deeroop Teemal	Mr. Nigel de Freitas
First Meeting 17.11.20	EXCUSED	✓	EXCUSED	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Second Meeting 27.11.20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	EXCUSED	✓	✓	ABSENT	EXCUSED	✓



**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 2020**

**MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO PLATFORM
ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2020 AT 12:15 P.M.**

PRESENT

Mrs. Christine Kangaloo - President of the Senate

Committee Members

Mr Nigel De Freitas - Member
Mr. Clarence Rambharat - Member
Mr. Randall Mitchell - Member
Mr. Wade Mark - Member
Mr. Paul Richards - Member
Mr. Deeroop Teemal - Member
Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP - Member
Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP - Member
Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP - Member
Mr. Davendranath Tancoo, MP - Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche - Secretary
Mr. Kaleem Hosein - Legal Officer I

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP - Member
Mr. Colm Imbert, MP - Member

COMMENCEMENT

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the President of the Senate at 12:16 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

2.1 The President of the Senate informed Members that Ms. Chantal La Roche would serve the Committee as Secretary and Ms. Sharla Elcock as Assistant Secretary.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

3.1 The President of the Senate explained that her role was to facilitate the election of a Chairman and invited nominations.

3.2 Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe nominated Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis 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 Chairman. The President of the Senate wished the Members productive and cooperative deliberations.

(The President of the Senate exited the meeting and Mrs. Robinson-Regis assumed her role as Chairman)

3.4 The Chairman thanked Members for electing her to serve as the Chairman.

QUORUM

4.1 Following a brief discussion it was agreed that pursuant to the Standing Orders, the quorum for meetings would be three (3) persons, inclusive of the Chairman with representation from each House.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

5.1 The Chairman reminded Members of the Committee's mandate to consider and report on the Representation of the People (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2020, and of its reporting deadline of December 31, 2020.

DISCUSSIONS ON THE WAY FORWARD

6.1 The Chairman provided an overview of the Bill, and advised that the following matters would be discussed at the Committee's Second Meeting:

- *Presentation on the overview of the Bill by Technocrats*
- *Expert Assistance/Support for the Committee*
- *Stakeholder Engagement*
- *Public Engagement*

6.2 The Chairman directed the Secretariat to circulate all documents which are relevant to the Bill and would assist Members with their deliberations.

6.3 Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the Committee's Second Meeting would be held on Friday 27 November, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 The Chairman advised that all Members will be issued a State-issued iPad Pro tablet device. Members were also informed that all parliamentary documents will be uploaded into the web-based e-repository from which Members will have access to supporting documents.

ADJOURNMENT

8.1 There being no other business, the Chairman thanked Members and adjourned the meeting to Friday November 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

8.2 The adjournment was taken at 12:30 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

November 18, 2020

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2) BILL, 2020

MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO PLATFORM ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2020 AT 10:00 A.M.

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP	-	Member
Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP	-	Member
Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP	-	Member
Mr. Davendranath Tancoo, MP	-	Member
Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	-	Member
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	-	Member
Mr Nigel De Freitas	-	Member
Mr. Clarence Rambharat	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Mr. Kaleem Hosein	-	Legal Officer I

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mr. Paul Richards	-	Member <i>[Absent]</i>
Mr. Randall Mitchell	-	Member <i>[Excused]</i>
Mr. Deeroop Teemal	-	Member <i>[Excused]</i>

COMMENCEMENT

- 1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 10:16 a.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

- 2.1 The Chairman advised that the following Members asked to be excused from the day's meeting:

- Mr. Randall Mitchell *[conflicting schedule]*
- Mr. Deeroop Teemal *[conflicting schedule]*

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING

- 3.1 The Committee examined the Minutes of the First Meeting held on Wednesday November 18, 2020.
- 3.2 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes of the First Meeting was moved by Mr. Wade Mark and seconded by Mr. Nigel de Freitas.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 4.1 Per item **6.1** the Chairman advised that at the next meeting, technocrats from the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and the Law Reform Commission would present on the Bill.

DISCUSSION ON THE WAY FORWARD

Stakeholder Engagement

- 5.1 The Committee agreed to invite written responses and submissions from Stakeholders and the deadline for the receipt said submissions is **Sunday December 27, 2020**.

Public Engagement

- 5.2 The Committee agreed to circulate an advertisement, on social media and in a daily newspaper, inviting written comments from the public. The deadline for the receipt of comments is also **Sunday December 27, 2020**.

ADJOURNMENT

- 6.1 There being no other business, the Chairman thanked Members and adjourned the meeting to **Tuesday December 08, 2020** at **9:00 a.m.**
- 6.2 The adjournment was taken at **10:45 a.m.**

I certify that these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

November 27, 2020