



***PARLIAMENT
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO***

HOUSE PAPER NO.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[2002-2003 SESSION]

**REPORT
OF
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Ordered by the House of Representatives to be printed
Minutes of Proceedings also presented**

COMPOSITION

At a sitting of the House of Representatives held on November 15, 2002 the following members were appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve on the House Committee of the House of Representatives for the 2002-2003 session:

Mr. Kenneth Valley	-	Chairman
Mr. Colm Imbert	-	Member
Mrs. Eudine Job-Davis	-	Member
Mr. Anthony Roberts	-	Member
Dr. Adesh Nanan	-	Member
Mr. Manohar Ramsaran	-	Member

TERMS OF REFERENCE

2. In accordance with Standing Order No. 74 of the House of Representatives, your Committee had the duty of considering and advising the Speaker on all matters connected to the comfort and convenience of Members of the House and from time to time reporting to the House.

SECRETARY

3. Mrs. Jacqui Sampson Jacent, Clerk of the House, served as Secretary to your Committee for the 2002-2003 session.

MEETINGS

4. Your Committee held four (4) meetings during the session as follows:

- (i) Friday February 07, 2003
- (ii) Friday March 14, 2003
- (iii) Friday May 02, 2003
- (iv) Friday July 18, 2003

REPORT

5. Your Committee wishes to report that during the 2002-2003 session, the following matters which impact on the comfort and convenience of Members were considered by your Committee:

- (i) *The Administrative Arrangements in Constituency Offices;*
- (ii) *The Status of the Red House Restoration Project;*
- (iii) *The Proposal for the Construction of a New Parliament Building;*
- (iv) *The Terms and Conditions of Service of Members of Parliament;*
- (v) *The Retiring Allowances for Members of Parliament; and*
- (vi) *A Proposed Group Life and Medical Insurance Plan.*

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS IN CONSTITUENCY OFFICES

6. In response to concerns raised by Members of Parliament about inadequate staffing, finances, and accommodation arrangements at constituency offices, your Committee conducted several surveys to ascertain the actual extent of the problems faced.

7. As a result of the findings, recommendations were made to Cabinet for improved administrative and financial arrangements in the areas of staffing, rental accommodation, office upkeep and maintenance. Recommendations were also made for re-tooling of offices in 2004 with respect to furniture and equipment.

8. These recommendations were accepted and the requisite budgetary allocations have been requested for the financial year beginning October 01, 2003.

9. In addition, special consideration was given to constituency offices housed in government buildings where deteriorating physical conditions demand immediate repair. Steps have been taken to effect repairs on the roof of the Tabaquite office and works will commence on other deserving offices in the next session, subject to the availability of funds.

RED HOUSE RESTORATION PROJECT

10. Your Committee took note of the fact that the Red House Restoration Project had commenced and approved a strategy for the progression of works so as to minimize disruption of the work of Parliament and discomforts to Members and staff.

11. As a consequence, all parliamentary activities will be based in the north wing of the building, paving the way for the unhindered restoration of the south wing, south chamber and the rotunda.

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING

12. Your Committee took note of a proposal that a new Parliament Building be constructed and has recommended that a Management Team, headed by the Clerk of the House, meet with representatives of UDeCOTT to define a user brief for the proposed new building.

13. Your Committee will, thereafter, consider the proposal and make a comprehensive report to the House at the earliest opportunity in the next session.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

14. Pursuant to views expressed to your Committee by Members who serve on Statutory Joint Select Committees, Cabinet was asked to consider referring to the Salaries Review Commission a proposal for the introduction of a special allowance to Chairmen and Members of Statutory Joint Select Committees.

15. These recommendations were agreed to and the matter is now before the Salaries Review Commission.

REVIEW OF RETIRING ALLOWANCES FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

16. Your Committee appointed a sub-committee of its members to review the retirement allowances and benefits payable to Members of Parliament.

17. The proposals of the sub-committee have been documented and will be considered by your Committee in the next session.

GROUP LIFE AND MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN

18. The consideration of a Group Life and Medical Plan has been an item on the agenda of House Committees since 1998. Your Committee has decided to continue to pursue this matter, and will consider the usefulness of widening the ambit of the proposed plan to include members of other bodies such as the Tobago House of Assembly and Municipal Corporations.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Kenneth Valley
Chairman

Sgd.
Mr. Colm Imbert
Member

Sgd.
Mrs. Eudine Job-Davis
Member

Sgd.
Mr. Anthony Roberts
Member

Sgd.
Dr. Adesh Nanan
Member

Mr. Manohar Ramsaran
Member

September 10, 2003