



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

HOUSE PAPER NO.

MP PARL:NO. 14/3/15

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[2002-2003 SESSION]

THIRD SPECIAL REPORT

OF THE

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO CONSIDER AND
REPORT ON THE POLICE SERVICE REFORM BILLS, to wit:**

- “(i) The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2002;**
- (ii) The Police Service Bill, 2002; and**
- (iii) The Police Complaints Authority Bill, 2002”.**

Ordered by the House of Representatives to be printed

REPORT

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. At a sitting held on Friday November 15, 2002, the House of Representatives agreed to the following Resolution ¹:

“**BE IT RESOLVED** that this House appoint the following five members:

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis

Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds

Mr. Anthony Roberts

Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar

Ms. Gillian Lucky

to sit with an equal number from the Senate as a Joint Select Committee to consider and report on the undermentioned Bills:

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2002;

The Police Service Bill, 2002; and

The Police Complaints Authority Bill, 2002.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Committee be mandated to publish these Bills for public comment, receive public comments on the Bills over the next six weeks, to consider such public comments and report back to the Parliament no later than February 21, 2003 and be empowered to send for persons, papers and records, sit in public if it so desires and receive expert advice and assistance”.

2. On Tuesday November 19, 2002, the Senate agreed to a similar resolution and appointed the following five members to serve on the Joint Select Committee²:

Mrs. Glenda Morean Phillip

Ms. Christine Kangaloo

Mr. Rennie Dumas

Mr. Wade Mark

Prof. Ramesh Deosaran

¹ Hansard (House of Representatives Meeting of Friday November 15, 2002)

² Hansard (Senate Meeting of Tuesday November 19, 2002)

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

3. Your Committee elected Mrs. Glenda Morean Phillip as Chairman of the Committee at its first meeting held on Wednesday November 27, 2002. At that meeting, your Committee also agreed that a quorum would constitute six (6) members, with at least two (2) members from each House, including the Chairman.

SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE

4. Mr. Neil Jaggassar, Parliamentary Clerk II was appointed to serve as Secretary to your Committee.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

5. Your Committee received a total of fifty-three (53) written submissions from various organisations and individuals.

MEETINGS

6. To date, your Committee has held a total of nine (9) meetings and one (1) informal meeting as follows:

- **Wednesday November 27, 2003 – Committee Room No. 4, Parliament, Red House, Port of Spain;**
- **Friday January 17, 2003 – Committee Room No. 4, Parliament, Red House, Port of Spain;**
- **Friday January 24, 2003 – Committee Room No. 4, Parliament Red House, Port of Spain;**
- **Monday February 03, 2003 – Council Chamber, City Hall, Harris Promenade, San Fernando;**
- **Wednesday February 05, 2003 – Borough Hall, Chaguanas Borough Corporation, Chaguanas;**
- **Monday February 10, 2003 – Works Lecture Room, Works Division, Scarborough, Tobago;**
- **Wednesday February 12, 2003 – Parliament Chamber, Red House, Port of Spain;**
- **Thursday February 20, 2003 – Committee Room No. 4, Parliament, Red House, Port of Spain;**
- **Tuesday April 29, 2003 – Committee Room No. 5, Parliament, Red House, Port of Spain; and**
- **Thursday May 08, 2003 – Committee Room No. 4, Parliament, Red House, Port of Spain (*Informal*)**

7. At the Ninth Meeting held on Tuesday April 29, 2003, your Committee agreed to meet with the following persons:

- (i) The Commissioner of Police;
- (ii) The Chairman of the Police Service Commission;
- (iii) The Chairman of the Police Complaints Authority; and

- (iv) Representatives of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Commerce.

8. At a meeting held on Thursday May 08, 2003, your Committee met with and received oral evidence from:

- (i) Mr. Kenneth Lalla, C.M.T SC, Chairman of the Police Service Commission, Mrs. Y. Phillip, Secretary and the other Members of the Police Service Commission;
- (ii) Justice James Davis, Chairman, Mrs. Wendy Quamina-Yorke, Secretary and Members of the Police Complaints Authority; and
- (iii) Mr. Hilton Guy, Commissioner of Police and Mr. Peter John, Assistant Commissioner of Police.

EXPERT ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE

9. In keeping with your Committee's terms of reference all written submissions were forwarded to the Technical Team that previously worked on the three Bills. Your Committee has been advised that the Technical Team has completed a report based on its assessment of the comments received.

10. At its Ninth Meeting, your Committee also agreed to interview the Chairman and Members of the Technical Team upon completion of its assessment of the new comments received. However, the House is asked to note that some of the Members of the Technical Team reside in jurisdictions outside of Trinidad and Tobago, and due to circumstances beyond the control of the Committee, arrangements have not yet been made to have the Technical Team appear before the Committee to discuss its report.

EXTENSION OF TIME

11. Your Committee in its First Special Report³ did bring to the attention of this House that some of the written submissions received contained highly complex legal issues. In submitting its Second Special Report⁴ to this House, your Committee sought a further extension of time within which to report. This extension was granted and expired on July 31, 2003. In light of the

³ Hansard (House of Representatives Meeting of Friday February 21, 2003)
(Senate Meeting of Tuesday February 25, 2003)

⁴ Hansard (House of Representatives Meeting of Friday May 09, 2003)
(Senate Meeting of Tuesday May 06, 2003)

paragraphs 9 and 10, the time granted was not sufficient for your Committee to complete deliberations. Parliament proceeded on recess on July 18, 2003 and therefore a Report seeking an extension of the deadline could not be tabled.

REPORT

12. Your Committee has received a wealth of information and recommendations and its work is at an advanced stage.

RECOMMENDATION

13. In view of the advanced stage of its work, your Committee wishes to recommend that a new Committee be appointed in the next session to continue examining this matter, and that the new Committee be authorized to consider as part of its records all the work that has been done by your Committee to date.

Sgd.

Mrs. Glenda Morean
Chairman

Sgd.

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis
Member

Mr. Rennie Dumas
Member

Sgd.

Mr. Anthony Roberts
Member

Mrs. Christine Kangaloo
Member

Sgd.

Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds
Member

Sgd.

Mr. Wade Mark
Member

Sgd.

Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar
Member

Sgd.

Prof. Ramesh Deosaran
Member

Sgd.

Ms. Gillian Lucky
Member

September 05, 2003