

PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

H.O.R PAPER NO. 3/ 2009

MP PARL: NO. 1/2/1905

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[2009-2010 SESSION]

INTERIM REPORT

SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED

TO CONSIDER AND REPORT ON A BILL

ENTITLED “*AN ACT RELATING TO THE*

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND FOR

MATTERS RELATED THERETO”

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

On Wednesday January 15, 2009, the House resolved that:

“The Children Bill, 2009 be referred to a Special Select Committee comprising six Members of this House and that this committee be empowered to discuss the general merits of the Bill along with its details and be mandated to report within one month.”

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS AND QUORUM

2. On Wednesday January 15, 2009 pursuant to Standing Order 77(1), the Hon. Speaker of the House appointed the following Members to serve on the Special Select Committee to consider and report on the Children Bill, 2008:

Mr. Colm Imbert
Dr. Amery Browne
Mr. Peter Taylor
Miss. Marlene McDonald
Dr. Tim Gopeesingh
Miss Mickela Panday

3. Pursuant to Standing Order 77(2), the Hon. Speaker appointed Mr. Colm Imbert to be Chairman and specified that the quorum of the Committee shall be four (4) Members.

SECRETARY

4. Ms. Jacqui Sampson, Clerk of the House, served your Committee as its Secretary, with Ms. Aleah Ranjitsingh, Procedural Clerk Assistant, as Assistant Secretary.

MEETINGS

5. Subsequent to its appointment, your Committee spent some time analyzing the contents and recommendations contained in a report of an earlier committee on the Children Bill, 2008 which was laid in the House on December 12, 2008.

6. Your Committee held a meeting on Friday March 13, 2009. During the meeting, reference was made to decisions taken by the previous committee that impacted the work to be done by your Committee during this session. Your Committee commenced its work and is awaiting advice on certain provisions contained in the Bill.

EXPERT ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE

6. Ms. Ann Marie Brassington, Acting Deputy Chief Parliamentary Counsel; Ms. Angela Moore, Parliamentary Counsel I, Ms. Abayomi Ajene, State Counsel, Ministry of Social Development and Mr. Leslie Donawa, Senior Legal Officer, Ministry of Social Development provided expert assistance to your Committee during its deliberations.

REPORT

8. Having regard to the detailed and comprehensive nature of the work to be undertaken, your Committee wishes to report that it has been unable to conclude its consideration of the Bill within the period mandated. Your Committee respectfully requests an additional six (6) weeks in order to complete its deliberations and report back to the House.

Respectfully submitted,

Colm Imbert
Chairman

Amery Browne
Member

Peter Taylor
Member

Marlene McDonald
Member

Mickela Panday
Member

Tim Gopeesingh
Member

March 16, 2009