



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

HOR PAPER NO.

MP PARL: NO.14/3/27

[2009 SESSION]

FIRST REPORT

OF THE

**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO
CONSIDER AND REPORT ON:
THE DATA PROTECTION BILL, 2009 and
THE ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS BILL, 2009**

Ordered to be printed by the House of Representatives

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

At a sitting of the House of Representatives and the Senate held on Friday February 13, 2009, and Tuesday February 17, 2009 respectively, the following resolution was passed: “That the Data Protection Bill, 2009 be referred to a Joint Select Committee comprising an equal number of Members of the House and Senate and that this Committee be empowered to discuss the general principles and merits of the Bill, along with the details and be mandated to report within two (2) months”.

2. At subsequent Sittings of the House and Senate held on Wednesday February 18, 2009 and Tuesday March 10, 2009, respectively, a Motion was agreed to “that the Electronic Transactions Bill, 2009 be committed to the Joint Select Committee already established by both Houses to consider and report on the Data Protection Bill, 2009 and that the Committee be also empowered to discuss the general principles and merits of this Bill along with the details”.

3. The following Members were appointed to serve on the Joint Select Committee:

- Mr. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid
- Mr. Neil Parsanlal
- Mr. Kennedy Swaratsingh
- Mr. Peter Taylor
- Mr. Ramesh L. Maharaj, SC
- Dr. Roodal Moonilal
- Mr. Arnold Piggott
- Mr. Linus Rogers
- Ms. Laurel Lezama
- Mr. Wade Mark
- Dr. Adesh Nanan
- Ms. Dana Seetahal, SC

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

4. At its first meeting held on Friday March 20, 2009, your Committee elected Mr. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid as Chairman of the Committee. At that same meeting, your Committee also agreed that in accordance with Standing Orders 79 (2) of the House and 71(2) of the Senate, the quorum of the Committee would comprise seven (7) members inclusive of the Chairman.

SECRETARY

5. The Clerk of the House, Ms. Jacqui Sampson, is the Secretary to your Committee with Mr. Ralph Deonarine, Procedural Clerk, as Assistant Secretary.

MEETINGS

6. Your Committee has to date held two meetings on Friday March 13, 2009 and Friday April 03, 2009.

EXPERT ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE

7. Your Committee was assisted in its deliberations by Ms. Denise White of the National ICT Center and Mr. Rudy Davidson of the Legal Services Division of the Ministry of Public Administration. Your Committee has also requested the assistance of a Parliamentary Draftsman from the Legislative Drafting Department, Ministry of the Attorney General.

PROGRESS REPORT

8. Your Committee resolved to first proceed on a clause by clause analysis of the Data Protection Bill, 2009 in advance of the Electronic Transactions Bill, 2009. Your Committee wishes to report that it has commenced its work and is currently awaiting expert assistance on a number of matters raised at its meeting held on April 3rd, 2009.

REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT

9. Your Committee therefore wishes to report that it is unable to complete its deliberations within the stipulated time and requests an extension of three (3) months to conclude its work and report to the Parliament.

Mr. Mustapha Abdul-Hamid
Chairman

Mr. Kennedy Swaratsingh
Member

Mr. Neil Parsanlal
Member

Mr. Peter Taylor
Member

Dr. Roodal Moonilal
Member

Mr. Ramesh L. Maharaj, SC
Member

Mr. Arnold Piggot
Member

Mr. Linus Rogers
Member

Ms. Laurel Lezama
Member

Mr. Wade Mark
Member

Dr. Adesh Nanan
Member

Ms. Dana Seetahal, SC
Member

May 03, 2009