



**PARLIAMENT**

**REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**H.O.R PAPER NO. 7/ 2009**

**MP PARL: NO. 1/2/1915**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**[2009 SESSION]**

**THIRD 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”***

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**Ordered to be printed by the House of Representatives**

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## **BACKGROUND**

1. Your Committee was established by the House of Representatives on Wednesday January 15, 2009. It was mandated to consider and report on the Children Bill, 2009 and to report in one (1) month. Your Committee comprises:

Mr. Colm Imbert (Chairman)

Dr. Amery Browne

Mr. Peter Taylor

Miss. Marlene McDonald

Dr. Tim Gopeesingh

Miss Mickela Panday

2. 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. During its clause by clause examination of the Bill, a number of issues were raised pertaining to several provisions of the Bill.

## **REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT**

3. Your Committee has previously submitted two (2) Interim Reports to the Parliament. In submitting its First Interim Report on Friday March 20, 2009 your Committee sought an extension of six (6) weeks in order to complete its deliberations and report to the House.<sup>1</sup> This extension was granted and expired on Friday May 1 2009.

4. Your Committee's Second Interim Report was presented to the House of Representatives on Friday May 1, 2009. Your Committee reported that it had received comprehensive comments and legal reasonings from the experts and additional time was needed to carefully scrutinize and consider these documents.<sup>2</sup> It requested and was granted a further eight (8) weeks to complete its mandate. This extension will expire on Friday June 26, 2009.

5. At your Committee's last meeting held on Friday May 29 2009, it was agreed that in order to deliberate on certain clauses of the Bill, a Child Psychiatrist or Child Psychologist and a Medical

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<sup>1</sup> First Interim Report - House Paper No. 3/2009; laid on March 20, 2009; adopted March 20, 2009

<sup>2</sup> Second Interim Report - House Paper No. 4/2009; laid on May 1, 2009; adopted on May 1, 2009.

Practitioner would be needed to assist in explaining and clarifying certain specialized issues which inform the policy of the Bill.

6. Your Committee therefore is in the process of retaining the services of such experts in order to be able to make informed decisions on the legislation under consideration. Accordingly, your Committee respectfully requests a further extension of four (4) weeks in order to complete its deliberations and report to the House on July 31, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Sgd.  
Colm Imbert  
Chairman

Sgd.  
Amery Browne  
Member

Sgd.  
Peter Taylor  
Member

Sgd.  
Marlene McDonald  
Member

Sgd.  
Mickela Panday  
Member

Sgd.  
Tim Gopeesingh  
Member

June 23, 2009