



PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

H.O.R PAPER NO. / 2009

MP PARL: NO. 14/1/9

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

[2009 SESSION]

FOURTH 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”

Ordered to be printed by the House of Representatives

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 and continued a clause by clause examination of the Bill.

REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO REPORT

3. Your Committee has previously submitted three (3) 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.¹ 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 necessary experts and additional time was needed to carefully scrutinize and consider these documents.² It requested and was granted a further eight (8) weeks to complete its mandate. This extension expired on Friday June 26, 2009.

5. Your Committee's Third Interim Report was presented to the House of Representatives on Friday July 3, 2009. Your Committee reported that it was in the process of retaining the services of a Child Psychiatrist or Child Psychologist and a Medical Practitioner so as to receive expert advice and

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

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

opinions on certain specialized issues within the Bill.³ It requested and was granted a further four (4) weeks to complete its mandate. This extension expired on Friday July 31, 2009.

6. Your Committee therefore seeks to report its progress to date. Having received the expert advice and opinions of those persons mentioned in paragraph 5, your Committee is satisfied that it can now proceed unhindered to the completion of its mandate. Accordingly, your Committee respectfully requests a further extension until January 07, 2010 in order to complete its deliberations and report to the House.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Colm Imbert
Chairman

Dr. Amery Browne
Member

Mr. Peter Taylor
Member

Ms. Marlene McDonald
Member

Ms. Mickela Panday
Member

Dr. Tim Gopeesingh
Member

December 4, 2009

³ Third Interim Report- House Paper No. 7/2009; laid on July 3, 2009; adopted on July 3, 2009.