

ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Monday, 16th February, 1987

The College met at 2.00 p.m.

PRAYERS

[HON. NIZAM MOHAMMED *in the Chair*]

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Members, this meeting of the Electoral College has been convened in accordance with Chapter 3 of the Constitution for the purpose of electing a President of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Prime Minister (Hon. A.N.R. Robinson): Mr. Speaker and Mr. President, Mr. Noor Mohamed Hassanali was duly nominated on the 2nd, February, 1987, to occupy the high and distinguished office of President. The nomination was in due form and was supported by twelve members of Parliament.

Mr. Hassanali was born on the 13th August, 1918 at Ciper Street, San Fernando. He is a retired Justice of Appeal. He was one of seven children of his parents – five boys and two girls. He attended the Corinth Canadian Mission Primary School, now called the Corinth Presbyterian Primary School. From there he attended Naparima College from 1931 to 1937. In 1937 he obtained his Higher School Certificate and joined the staff of Naparima College in 1938. From 1938 to 1943 he taught French and Latin at Naparima College in addition to carrying out the duties of Sports Master. The Headmaster at the time was the now famous but deceased Reverend Dr. Victor Benjamin Walls.

As with most students at the time, there being no University in the West Indies, Mr. Hassanali went aboard in 1943 to the University of Toronto in Canada. World War II from 1939 to 1945 delayed his pursuing further studies earlier, and then because of enemy action in the Atlantic, he went which others (to mention a few, Telfer Georges, Lionel Seemungal and the Honourable Eugenia Charles) to Canada rather than the United Kingdom. In 1947 he graduated B.A. (Hons) in Law from the University of Toronto and in September of the same year went to England and was admitted to the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn. Within seven months, in April 1945, he passed the Bar Final examination and was admitted to the English Bar in June 1948. Mr. Hassanali returned to Trinidad and Tobago in a time when the Chief Justice was Sir Cecil Furness-Smith, father of our present Senator Gerald Furness-Smith.

He went into private practice in San Fernando and practiced at the private Bar until 1st March, 1953 when he was appointed Senior Magistrate. In October 1960 he was appointed Senior Crown Counsel and acted as Solicitor General until

Election of President
[HON. A.N.R. ROBINSON]

Monday, 16th, February, 1987

March of 1966 when he was appointed a Puisne Judge. He was elevated to the Court of Appeal on the 1st June, 1978 and retired as a Justice of Appeal on the 14th April, 1984.

He was appointed to the Judicial and Legal Service Commission by His Excellency the President on the 18th November, 1985 and resigned from this Commission on Friday 30th January, 1987. He has had a distinguished legal career on the Government side and, in addition, found time to make a contribution to the profession. He was one of the first lecturers in Criminal Procedure at the Hugh Wooding Law School, St. Augustine. In 1984 he accepted the position of Master of the Moots at the Law School.

He is a devout Muslim and on the 17th May, 1952, he married Zalayhar (Zalay-har) Mohammed and has one son and one daughter. He is a person of impeccable credentials and a reputation for honesty and humility of the highest order. He has also had a distinguished career, a record as a sportsman at the time when he attended University. He is not given to ostentation but his unswerving dedication to service in the interest of the people of Trinidad and Tobago is a shining example to all our citizens.

He is a man of whom it may well be said "the elements are sweetly mixed" and that Trinidad and Tobago is fortunate at this time to have a son of his caliber and reputation to entrust with the duties of Head of State.

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Members, I wish to announce that the election for the office of President was uncontested. The only person nominated is Mr. Noor Mohamed Hassanali and is in consequence declared elected.

The President shall assume office on March 19, 1987, in accordance with Section 33, subsection (3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Details of the nomination are as follows:

HASSANALI, Noor Mohamed, 6 Charles Apartment, Sydenham Avenue, St. Ann's, Port of Spain.

Attorney-at-Law

Those who signed the nominated papers are:

Hon. A.N.R. Robinson

Mr. Patrick Manning

Hon. Basdeo Panday

Hon. Selwyn Richardson

Election of President

Monday, 16th February, 1987

Dr. The Hon. Albert Richards

Hon. Winston Dookeran

Hon. John Humphrey

Hon. Jennifer Johnson

Hon. Kelvin Ramnath

Hon. Lincoln Myers

Dr. The Hon. Carson Charles

Hon. Joseph Toney

The declaration of Mr. Noor Mohamed Hassanali according to the papers filed was as follows:

“I, Noor Mohamed Hassanali, nominated with the fore-going nomination paper hereby consent to such nomination as candidate for election as President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and name as my address serving of process and papers under the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago the Electoral College Regulations, 1976.

Address: 6 Charles Apartment,
Sydenham Avenue,
St. Ann's
Port of Spain

Witnesseth by my hand this 2nd day of February, 1987.

Signed: Noor Mohamed Hassanali.”

Motion made and question proposed, That the Electoral College be now adjourned sine die.

Question put and agreed to.

Electoral College adjourned accordingly.

Adjourned at 2.10 p.m.