

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE  
NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2006-2008)**

**FOURTH REPORT**

**OF THE**

**COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS**

**IN RELATION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE  
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD COMMISSION**

**COMMITTEES DIVISION  
PARLIAMENT OFFICE  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS  
GEORGETOWN**

**3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2008**

## **FOURTH REPORT**

### **Introduction**

1. The Standing Committee established under the Constitution to address matters relating to the appointment of members of commissions, pursuant to Article 119C of the Constitution and under the provisions of Standing Order No. 84, has agreed to the following as its Fourth Report -

### **Members of the Committee**

2. At a meeting of the Committee of Selection held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2006, the following Members were nominated to the Committee on Appointments to address matters relating to the appointment of Members of Commissions:

#### **Members from the People's Progressive Party/Civic:**

- (i) The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P
- (ii) The Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P
- (iii) The Hon. Brindley H.R. Benn, M.P
- (iv) The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P
- (v) The Hon. Jennifer I. Webster, M.P
- (vi) Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P.

#### **Members from the People's National Congress/Reform - 1 Guyana:**

- (i) Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P
- (ii) Dr. George A. Norton, M.P
- (iii) Ms. Amna Ally, M.P

#### **Member from the Alliance For Change:**

- Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P

### **Election of Chairman**

3. The Committee at its first meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2006 unanimously elected Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P. as its Chairperson.

### **Terms of Reference**

4. The Committee, by Resolution No. 17 passed by the National Assembly on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2003, was entrusted to discharge the following functions in relation to the appointment of members of the Commission established under the Constitution –

- “(a) identify appropriate bodies for consultation in the appointment of the relevant members of the Commission; conduct the necessary consultations with them and, where necessary, receive nominations from appropriate bodies;
- (b) make recommendations to the National Assembly
  - (i) for a consensual mechanism for *the Ethnic Relations Commission, the Women and Gender Equality Commission, the Indigenous People’s Commission and the Rights of the Child Commission*;
  - (ii) for the appointment of members of the Commissions with the exception of the Public Procurement Commission; and
  - (iii) in connection with any other matter referred to it by the National Assembly from time to time.
- (c) report to the National Assembly in relation to each Commission as immediate as possible upon the discharge of its function in relation thereto.”

## **Mandate**

5. The Committee was mandated by Article 212U (2) (a)(b) of the Constitution in relation to the Rights of the Child Commission to nominate for appointment by the President:

- (a) *“not less than five nor more than fifteen members, with expertise in issues affecting children, nominated by entities, by a consensual mechanism determined by the National Assembly, after the entities which shall include the Ministry with responsibility for children’s affairs, the Ministry of Education, and organizations representing the interests of youth, are determined by the votes not less than two-thirds of all elected members of the National Assembly; and*
- (b) *“a member who shall be a nominee, without the right to vote, chosen by and from each of the following commissions: the Human Rights Commission, Ethnic Relations Commission, Women and Gender Equality Commission and Indigenous People’s Commission.”*

## **Meetings of the Committee**

6. The Committee held a total of twenty-five (25) meetings; 23 statutory and 2 special meetings.

## **Rights of the Child Commission - nomination process**

7. The Committee at one of its earlier meetings in March, 2007 agreed that in the first instance it would review the original extract of the list of entities prepared by Mrs. Sheila Holder and Mr. Vincent Alexander from the previous Committee of the Eighth Parliament with a view to updating it.

8. In keeping with the commitment contained in the Joint Agreement of the National Stakeholders’ Forum of March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008, therein to appoint the five



constitutional Rights Commissions within 90 days, the Committee at its 19<sup>th</sup> meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2008, acknowledged this responsibility given to it and agreed that it would treat this as a matter of priority, therefore, it would meet weekly instead of fortnightly.

9. The Committee agreed to try a new approach to the identification of the list of entities for nomination. It then focused its attention on the draft list of entities that was already developed for the Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC).

10. Over the next six (6) consecutive meetings on the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, and 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 respectively, the Committee members examined various lists of entities, proposed various formulae for the number of nominations based on the size of the Commission.

11. After extensive discussions, the Committee agreed to creating five (5) groups/categories namely Service, Religion, Youth, Women and Other and identified the list of entities within those categories and the allocation of nominations per group/category. The Committee also examined and finally decided that the size of the Commission should be fifteen (15).

12. The Committee, as required by the Constitution, allocated one representative each, to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security,

13. Furthermore, the Committee agreed that the National Commission on Children should be allocated one representative.

14. At the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Committee on Appointments examined and unanimously adopted its Fourth Report and the Motion, together with the First and Second Schedules on the identification of entities to be consulted for nominations of persons to be appointed by the President to the Rights of the Child Commission and, further agreed that the Fourth Report, the Motion with the First and Second Schedules should be presented to the National Assembly.

15. The Report and its recommendations are accordingly hereby submitted.



**Gail Teixeira, M.P.**  
**Chairperson**  
**Committee on Appointments**

**13<sup>th</sup> May, 2008**