

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION OF
THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002 – 2006)**

**THIRD
INTERIM REPORT OF
THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE
NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE
GUYANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Presented to the National Assembly

By

The Chairman of the Committee

On

16th February, 2006.

**THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE
NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE
GUYANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (6)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P. (Chairman)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P.

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P.

Member of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P.

Third Interim Report

The life of the Special Select Committee on the Needs Assessment of Guyana National Assembly which was appointed on 27th October, 2005, and mandated to report to the National Assembly by January 31, 2006, has been extended to the end of February, 2006 by Resolution No. 97 dated 8th February, 2006.

2. It has now proceeded to submit a Third Interim Report which deals specifically with those recommendations of Bradford's Study 1 which were not included in the Committee's First Interim Report or Second Interim Report presented to the National Assembly on 23rd January, 2006 and 1st February, 2006, respectively.

Examination of Remainder of the twenty (20) Recommendations of Bradford's Study 1 approved by the National Assembly in Resolution No. 85 dated 15th December, 2005.

3. The Select Committee hereunder submits the results of its examination as follows:

Bradford's (Study 1) Recommendation	Committee's Recommendations
2. An Oral Question time should be set down each sitting day, and Ministers must answer Oral Questions in the House on the day submitted.	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for implementation as proposed by Mrs Jacqueline Sampson at Standing Order No. 16 (1) (b) of her draft.
6. Members should be able to petition the Speaker for an Urgent (i.e. same sitting day) Debate on a matter of national importance.	The Committee notes that Standing Order No. 11 addresses this recommendation in principle and recommends that the National Assembly refer it to the Standing Orders Committee for possible refinement <i>including possible criteria</i> for such terms as urgent and public importance.

10. The President should be asked to present an Annual State of the Nation speech to Parliament at the beginning of each Parliamentary year.

The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee to make provision in the Standing Orders for an Annual State of the Nation Address by the President at the opening of a new session of Parliament which the Committee understands to be October each year.

11. Ministers should make major policy statements in the House if they are not foreshadowed in the President's Annual State of the Nation Speech, or the Budget.

The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for insertion of the words "(including policy statements)" at the end of Standing Order No. 12 (h).

12. Recommendations made by the Auditor General in his annual reports to the PAC should be addressed and acted on by the Parliament expeditiously.

The Committee notes that this recommendation has been addressed at item 4 on page 13 of the First Interim Report.

15. Resource each Committee with:

- A full time analyst
- A full time research assistant
- An experienced writer drawn from Clerk's Office
- A Committee clerk

The Committee accepts the principle of adequately resourcing each Committee and recommends that the National Assembly refer these recommendations to the Speaker, Parliamentary Management Committee and Clerk to be considered in conjunction with the previous recommendation at item 12 on page 15 of the First Interim Report.

16. Fund the committees to allow engagement of specialist advisers (e.g. on tax or financial matters).

18. Ombudsman's Reports should be tabled in the House through the Speaker and become the subject of Parliamentary debate.

The Committee notes that the Ombudsman's report is laid in the National Assembly by the Speaker and recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for provision to be made in the Standing Orders for debate on this Report.

<p>19. The Ombudsman's Office should be resourced adequately to ensure it can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ investigatory and prosecutorial staff • Undertake inquiries on it's own behalf. 	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Speaker, Parliamentary Management Committee and Clerk for engagement with the Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Ombudsman for implementation.</p>
<p>20. All Bills should be reviewed and certified for constitutional consistency by the Attorney General.</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for incorporation in the relevant Standing Orders.</p>

This completes the twenty recommendations of *Bradford's Study 1* approved by the National Assembly.

Report of the Select Committee

4. At its meeting held on 15th February, 2006, the Select Committee agreed that a Third Interim Report should be submitted to the National Assembly.

5. The Report is accordingly hereby submitted.



Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.,
 Minister of Health,
 Chairman, Special Select Committee on the
 Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly.

**Committees Division,
 Parliament Office,
 Public Buildings,
 Georgetown.**

15th February, 2006.