THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2006 - 2010)

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE

OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ON THE

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 BILL NO. 45 OF 2009

PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{Y}$

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE

ON

4TH NOVEMBER, 2010

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009

BILL NO. 45 OF 2009

Publication

1. AN ACT to amend the Legal Practitioners Act. The Bill was published on 26th November, 2009.

Introduction, First and Second Readings

2. The Bill was introduced in the National Assembly and read for the first time on 26th November, 2009.

3. Consideration of the Bill was adjourned between 26th November and 21st December, 2009, to allow for consultation.

4. The Bill was read a second time and debated on 21st December, 2009.

Committal to Select Committee

4. Following its second reading, the Bill was committed by the National Assembly to a Special Select Committee for consideration.

Members of the Special Select Committee

5. At a meeting held on 11th March, 2010, the Committee of Selection nominated the following Members to comprise the Special Select Committee to consider the Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2009 – Bill No. 45 of 2009,

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Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) (6) Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 11th March, 2010

The Hon. Charles R. Ramson, S.C., M.P., Minister of Legal Affairs The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Labour

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress Reform - 1 Guyana (PNC/R - 1G) (3)

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P.

From the Alliance For Change (AFC) (1)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

First meeting of the Committee – Election of Chairman

6. At its first meeting held on 8th April, 2010 the Committee elected the Hon. Charles R. Ramson, S.C., M.P., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, as Chairman of the Special Select Committee.

7. The Hon. Charles R. Ramson, S.C., M.P., subsequently resigned from the Special Select Committee with effect from 30th A pril, 2010.

8. On 14th October, 2010, the Committee of Selection elected the Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P., to replace Mr. Charles Ramson on the Committee.

Second meeting of the Committee - Election of a new Chairman

9. On 18th October, 2010, the Special Select Committee met and elected the Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security as Chairperson of the Committee.

Procedure of the Committee

10. At its second meeting, the Committee agreed to invite the Hon. Justice (Retd.) Claudette Singh, at its next meeting, to inform Members on details of the consultation process that was used prior to the tabling of the Bill.

11. On Wednesday, 20th October, 2010, at the 3rd meeting, the Hon. Justice (Retd.) Claudette Singh provided the Committee with the details of the consultation process that was employed in keeping with the **Government of Guyana/International Development Bank, Justice Improvement Modernisation Project.**

Consideration of the Bill

12. The Committee commenced consideration of the Bill on Wednesday, 20th October, 2010, and considered the title and clauses in conjunction with proposed amendments:

13. The matrix attached at Appendix 1 identifies changes made by the Committee.

Report of the Special Select Committee

14. At its 4th meeting held on Friday, 22nd October, 2010, the Special Select Committee on the Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2009 – Bill No. 45 of 2009, considered and adopted the Draft Report together with the amendments to the Bill and moved a motion that the Report on its consideration of the Bill, should be presented to the National Assembly.

15. The Report is accordingly, hereby submitted to the National Assembly.

Minutes

16. The Minutes of proceedings of the Committee can be seen at Appendix 11.

Attendance

17. The attendance record can be seen at *Appendix III*.

Verbatim Records

18. Verbatim Records of the proceedings of the Committee have been prepared and are available at the Parliament Office.

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The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. Minister of Human Services and Social Security Chairperson

25th October, 2010

Committees Division Parliament Office Public Buildings Brickdam, Stabroek Georgetown

October, 2010

APPENDIXI

APPENDIX 1

SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009

BILL NO. 45 OF 2009

Amendments approved by the Committee

CLAUSES OF PRESENT BILL	AMENDMENTS
Intituled	
An ACT to amend the Legal Practitioners Act.	Unaltered
CLAUSE 1	Unaltered
 CLAUSE 2 Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended by the insertion of the following definitions in their correct alphabetical order - "Bar Association" means the Guyana Bar Association; "practice certificate" means the practice certificate issued by the 	"Bar Association" means "Associations that represent Attorneys-at-Law in Guyana" Unaltered
CLAUSE 3 Section 15 of the Principal act is amended by the substitution for the words "The Chancellor may with the concurrence of the other members of the rule making authority constituted under section 29", of the words "The Committee may in consultation with the Bar Association.	Section 15 of the Principal act is amended by the substitution for the words "The Chancellor may with the concurrence of the other members" of the rule making authority constituted under section 29", of the words "The Committee may in consultation with the Bar <u>Associations.</u>
CLAUSE 4	Unaltered

	t and the second s
CLAUSE 4	Unalt eed
"PART II DISCIPLINE	Unaltered
CLAUSES 23 to 25	Unaltered
CLAUSE 26	
Where a member of the Committee is absenuable to act, the Chancellor may appoir attorney-at- law to act in the place of member.	at an unable to act, the Chancellor may appoint an
	et in s k
CLAUSE 27	Unaltered
CLAUSE 28	κ.
The Bar Association may at any time, thinks it expedient so to do and with approval of the Chancellor, revoke- appointment of any member of Committee.	the the Bar Associations if they think it expedient to do so, revoke the appointment of any member of the Committee
CLAUSES 29 to 31	Unal ered
CLAUSE 32 Marginal Note- Production of	Marginal Note- <u>Protection</u> of members
members.	
A member of the Committee shall no personally liable for any act or default of Committee done or omitted to be done in g faith in the performance of its functions u this Act.	f the Unaltered good

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CLAUSE 33	Unaltered
CLAUSE 34 Subsections (1) & (2)	Unaltered
CLAUSE 34 Subsection (3)	
The Chancellor may, in consultation with the Bar Association, amend the Fourth Schedule.	The Chancellor may, in consultation with the Bar Associations, amend the Fourth Schedule
CLAUSE 35 Subsection (1) A client or, by leave of the Committee, any other person alleging himself aggrieved by an act of professional misconduct, committed by an attorney-at-law, other than the Attorney General or a Law Officer, may apply to the Committee to require the attorney-at-law to answer allegations contained in an affidavit made by a client or other person, and the Registrar or any member of the Committee in respect of allegations concerning any professional misconduct or any criminal offence as may for the purposes of this section be prescribed by the Chancellor with the approval of the Bar Association,	A client or, by leave of the Committee, any other person alleging himself aggrieved by an act of professional misconduct, committed by an Attorney-at-Law , other than the Attorney General or a Law Officer, may apply to the Committee to require the Attorney-at-Law to answer allegations contained in an affidavit made by a client or other person, and the Registrar or any member of the Committee in respect of allegations concerning any professional misconduct or any criminal offence as may for the purposes of this section be prescribed by the Chancellor with the approval of the Bar <u>Associations</u> .
Subsections (2) & (3)	Unaltered
CLAUSES 36 & 37	Unalpred

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CLAUSE 38 Subsection (1)

The Registrar shall make the appropriate entry or alteration in the Court Roll and publish the appropriate notice in the *Gazette* whenever the Court orders the name of an attorney-at-law to be removed from the Court Roll or that the attorney-at-law be suspended from practising law; where by virtue of any law, the name of an attorney-at-law is removed from the Court Roll or an attorney-at-law is suspended from practising law, but where there is an appeal against any order from which the suspension or removal results, the Registrar shall take no action under this section until the order has been confirmed on appeal.

The Registrar shall make the appropriate entry or alteration in the Court Roll and publish the appropriate notice in the Gazette whenever the Court orders the name of an Attorney-at-Law to be removed from the Court Roll or that the Attorney-At-Law be suspended from practising law; where by virtue of any law, the name of an Attorney-at-Law is removed from the Court Roll or an Attorney-at-Law is suspended from practising law, but where there is an appeal against any order from which the removal or suspension results, the Registrar shall take no action under this section until the order has been confirmed on appeal.

Subsections (2) & (3)

CLAUSES 39 to 43

Unaltered

Unaltered

5 5 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
CLAUSE 44 Subsection (1)	
An attorney-at-law whose name has been	An Attorney-at-Law whose name has been
struck off the Court Roll, or who has been suspended from practice may, subject to subsection (2), apply in writing to the Court by petition to have his name restored to the Court Roll, or the order of his suspension from practice withdrawn, as the case may be.	removed from the Court Roll, or who has been suspended from practice may, subject to subsection (2), apply in writing to the Court by petition to have his name restored to the Court Roll, or the order of his suspension from practice withdrawn, as the case may be.
Subsections (2 to 4)	Unaltered

CLAUSE 45 Subsection (1)

If any person, whilst suspended from practice or

whose name has been struck off the Court Roll —

(a) practises law;

(b) wilfully pretends to be entitled to practise law; or

(c) wilfully makes use of any name, title or description implying that he is entitled to be recognised or to act as an attorney-at-law,

he is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for one year.

Subsection (2)

If any person whilst suspended from practice, or whose name has been struck off the Court Roll, seeks or accepts employment from an attorney-at-law in connection with the practice of that attorney-at-law, without previously informing him of the suspension or his name being struck from the Court Roll, he is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

Subsection (3)

No attorney-at-law shall in connection with his practice, employ or remunerate any person who to his knowledge is suspended from practice during the period of the suspension, or whose name has been struck off the Court Roll If any person, whilst suspended from practice or whose name has been <u>removed from</u> the Court Roll —

(a) practises law;

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(b) willfully pretends to be entitled to practise law; or

(c) willfully makes use of any name, title or description implying that he is entitled to be recognised or to act as an Attorney-at-Law,

he is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for one year.

If any person whilst suspended from practice, or whose name has been <u>removed from</u> the Court Roll, seeks or accepts employment from an **Attorney-at-Law** in connection with the practice of that **Attorney-at-Law**, without previously informing him of the suspension or his name being <u>removed</u> from the Court Roll, he is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two hundred thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

No Attorney-at-Law shall in connection with his practice, employ or remunerate any person who to his knowledge is suspended from practice during the period of the suspension, or whose name has been <u>removed from</u> the Court Roll.

Subsection (4) No attorney-at-law shall wilfully or knowingly No Attorney-at-Law shall willfully or knowingly act as an agent in any action or act as an agent in any action or matter for any person who to his knowledge is suspended matter for any person who to his knowledge is from practice or whose name has been struck suspended from practice or whose name has off the Court Roll, or permit or suffer his-name been removed from the Court Roll, or permit to be used in any action upon the account or for or suffer his name to be used in any action the profit of any such person, or does any other upon the account or for the profit of any such act to enable any such person to act in any person, or **do** any other act to enable any such respect as an attorney- at-law in any action or person to act in any respect as an Attorney-at-Law in any action or matter. matter. Unal tered Subsec ti on **CLAUSE 46** Unaltered **PART 111** MEMBERSHIP OF BAR ASSOCIATIONS **MEMBERSHIP OF BAR ASSOCIATION CLAUSE 47** Unaltered . a.e. ! **CLAUSE 48** Subsection (1) Where the name of an attorney-at-law is struck Where the name of an Attorney-at-Law is off suspension of the Court Roll, that attorneyremoved from the Court Roll, that Attorneyat-law shall, unless he becomes a member of at-Law shall, unless he becomes a member of the Bar Association by virtue of some other a Bar Association by virtue of some other provision of this Act, cease to be a member of provision of this Act, ceases to be a member of the Bar Association. a Bar Association. Subsection (2) A member of a Bar Association who is A member of the Bar Association who is suspended from practice shall not be entitled suspended from practice shall not be entitled during the period of his suspension to any of during the period of his suspension to any of the rights and privileges of membership of the the rights and privileges of membership of the Association". Association". Unaltered CLAUSE 5

"FIRST SCHEDULE s. 41	<u>S.40</u>
Paragraphs 1 to 12	Unaltered
Paragraph 13	Unaltered
Subparagraphs (1), (2), & (3)	Unaltered
Subparagraph (4)	A subpoena issued by the Committee und
A subpoena issued by the Committee under	section 40, or under this Rule may be on For
section 41, or under this Rule may be on Form	5 of the Schedule to these Rules, with su
5 of the Schedule to these Rules, with such	variations as the case may require.
variations as the case may require.	variations as the cuse may require.
Paragraphs 14 to 24	Unaltered
FORMS 1 to 4	Unal tæed
FORM 5 FORM OF SUBPOENA AD TESTIFICANDUM OR DUCES TECUM	FORM 5 FORM OF SUBPOENA AD TESTIFICANDUM OR DUCES TECUM
FORM 5 r. 13	FORM 5 r. 1
FORM OF SUBPOENA AD TESTIFICANDUM OR DUCES TECUM	FORM OF SUBPOENA AD TESTIFICANDUM OR DUCES TECUM
Complaint No of 20	Complaint No of 20
In the matter of	In the matter of Applicant
and an Attorney-at-law.	and, an Attorney-at-law.
AND	AND
in the matter of the Legal Practitioners Act, Cap. 4:01	In the matter of the Legal Practitioners Act, Cap. 4:01.
Ta (1)	То (1)
You are hereby commanded to attend before the Legal	You are hereby commanded to attend before the Le
Practitioners Committee constituted under the Legal	Practitioners Committee constituted under the Le
Practitioners Act, Chapter 4.01 at(place) on the	Practitioners Act, Chapter 4:01 at
in the	in thenoon, and so from day to day until
the above matter is heard, to give evidence	the above matter is heard, to give eviden

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on behalf of [(2)and you are required to bring with you and	on behalf of [(2)and you are required to bring with you and
produce at the time and place aforesaid (specify the	produce at the time and place aforesaid (specify the
books or documents to be produced).]	books or documents to be produced).]
Dated this day of	Dated this day of, 20
12252-015424-116-127-127-12	
Chairman	Secretary
Leg aPracti tinersCommit tee	Legal Practitioners Committee
CLAUSE 6	
	The principal Act is amended by the
The Fourth Schedule is amended by the	insertion of the following schedule as the
substitution of the following as the Fourth Schedule	Fourth Schedule
<i>"FOURTH SCHEDULE</i>	
CODE OF CONDUCT	CODE
PREAMBLE	Unaltered
RULE 1- CONFIDENTIALITY	<u>RULE 1</u>
Paragraphs 1 to 4	Unaltered
Paragraph 5	The velationship of milest and attempts at law
The relationship of client and attorney-at-law	The relationship of τ lient and attorney-at-law
- •	compels the latter to eschew personal intimate
compels the latter to eschew personal intimate	relations with clients.
relations with clients of the opposite sex.	
Paragraph 6	Unaltered
RULES 11 to V11	Unaltered
RULE V111-CONDUCT OF THE CASE	
Paragraphs 1 to 15	Unaltered
	Unaltered
Paragraph 16	
16.Attorneys-at-law whe are elevated to	16. Attorneys-at-Law who are elevated to
Judicial or Magisterial office shall	Judicial or Magisterial office shall
-	discharge their duties by giving prompt
discharge their duties by giving prompt	decisions; in the case of the former
decisions; in the case of the latter, within	within the time prescribed by statute; and
the time prescribed by the static; and in	in the case of the latter, within a

the case of the former, within a reasonable time.	reasonable time.
Paragraph 17	Unaltered
RULES 1X to X1V	Unaltered
RULE XV- BAR ASSOCIATION Paragraph 1 An attorney-at-law shall promptly respond to a request from the Guyana Bar Association or committee or agent for comments or information on matters raised by the Bar Association with him.	An Attorney-at-Law shall promptly respond to a request from <u>a</u> Bar Association or committee or agent for comments or information on matters raised by the Bar Association with him.
Paragraph 2	Unaltered
RULE XVI to XVII 1	Unaltered

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APPENDIX 11

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2006-2010)

MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – BILL 45 OF 2009 HELD ON THURSDAY, 8TH APRIL, 2010 IN THE SPEAKER'S CHAMBERS, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, BRICKDAM, GE©RGETOWN.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

PRESIDING **•**FFICER

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker (As Presiding Officer for the election of the Chairman)

From the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) (6) Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 11th March, 2010

The Hon. Charles R. Ramson, SC, M.P. Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P. Minister of Labour

Ms. Gail Tcixeira, M.P.

Mr. Moses V. Nagamoofoo, M.P.

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

From the People's National Congress Reform -1 Guyana (PNC/R -1G) (3) Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 11^{db} March, 2010

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P.

. Fronthe Alliance For Change (AFC) (1)

Mr. Khermraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Officers

Ms. Debra H. Cadogan	- Head of Committees Division (Ag)
Mr. Nickalai Pryce	- Assistant Clerk of Committees

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

1.1 The Speaker as Presiding Officer for the election of a Chairman for the Committee called the meeting to order at 4.00 p.m.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – BILL 45 OF 2009

- -2.1 The Speaker called for nominations of a Chairman for the Committee.
 - 2.1.1 Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P. proposed and Mr. Mohabir. A. Nandlall, M.P., seconded the nomination of the Hon. Charles R. Ramson, SC, M.P.
 - 2.1.2 There being no other nomination, the Speaker declared the Hon. Charles R. Ramson, SC, M.P., as Chairman of the Committee.

Any Other Business

At the 20th Meeting of the Committee of Selection, Mr. Khermraj Ramjattan, M.P. was nominated to the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4.05 p.m. the meeting was adjourned sine die.

Confirmed this ... Standay of October, 2010 The Hon. Charles R. Ramson, SC, M.P. Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Chairman

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2006- 2010)

MINUTES OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – BILL NO. 45 OF 2009 HELD ON MONDAY, 18th OCTOBER, 2010 AT 2:40 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM NO.1 COMMITTEES DIVISION, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

PRESIDING OFFICER

The Hon. Hari N. Ramkarran, S.C., M.P., Speaker (As Presiding Officer for the election of the Chairman)

From the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) (5) Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 11th March, 2010

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Labour

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.

Excused

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

From the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) (1) Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 14th October, 2010

The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

<u>From the People's National Congress Reform – 1 Guvana (PNC/R – 1G) (3)</u> Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 11^{th} March, 2010

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P.

Absent

From the Alliance For Change (AFC) (1)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Absent

Officers

Ms. Deborah Gray 🖕	Clerk of Committees
Ms. Tanzadell Bentinck	Assistant Clerk of Committees
Ms. Tracy Armstrong	Assistant Clerk of Committees

<u>Advisor</u>

Mr. Charles Fung - a - Fat

Deputy Chief Parliamentary Counsel

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

1.1.1 The Speaker of the National Assembly, Presiding Officer for the election of a Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 2.45 p.m.

1.2 ANNOUNCEMENT

Excuses:

1.2.1 The meeting was informed that Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P. had asked to be excused.

ITEM 2: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

- 2.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:-
 - (i) Notice to attend the 2nd Meeting dated 15th October, 2010 to be held on Monday 18th October, 2010; and
 - (ii) Minutes of the 1st Meeting held on Thursday, 8th April, 2010.
- 2.1.1 The following document was circulated at the meeting:-
 - Proposed Amendments to the Bill

ITEM 3: ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – BILL NO. 45 OF 2009

3.1 Nominations:

- 3.1.1 The Speaker called for nominations of a Chairperson of the Committee.
- 3.1.2 Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P. proposed and the Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., seconded the nomination of the Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P.
- 3.1.3 There being no other nomination, the Speaker declared the Hon. Priya D. Manickchand M.P., as the duly elected Chairperson of the Committee.
- 3.1.4 The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand M.P., then assumed the Chair.

ITEM 4: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 2ND MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 18TH OCTOBER, 2010.

4.1 Confirmation:

4.2 The Minutes were confirmed, without corrections by a motion moved and seconded by the Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P. and Ms. Gail Teixeira. M.P., respectively.

ITEM 5: MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Resignation

5.1.1 Members were asked to note that as a result of the resignation of the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Mr. Charles Ramson, the Committee of Selection had replaced him with the Hon. Priya D. Manickchand on the Committee

ITEM 6: CONSIDERATION OF THE METHODOLOGY FOR THE COMMITTEE'S PROCEEDINGS.

6.1 Preliminary Remarks

- 6.1.1 The Chairperson in her initial remarks advised Members that the legislation had gone through its stages including a debate in the National Assembly and, therefore, expressed the hope that the Committee would meet frequently in anticipation of a swift completion of its work. She then invited proposals for the appropriate modus operandi to follow.
- 6.1.2 Mr. Williams suggested that the Committee should consider a more convenient time for meetings to be held to facilitate the lawyers on the Committee. He further stated that the methodology ought to follow previous precedents which involved consultation with civil society and the various Associations to make their contributions. Thereafter, the Bill could be examined "Clause by Clause".
- 6.1.3 Mrs. Riehl proposed that the methodology should be to write the various associations, allotting them time to write any memorandum in terms of the legislation which would be reviewed by the Committee and, to subsequently invite them to make oral presentations.
- 6.1.4 Ms. Teixeira raised the following points:
 - that the Bill was deferred on three previous occasions in the National Assembly to allow for further consultations (which were done at an earlier stage). She posited that the Bill was laid on November 26, debated and sent to a Special Select Committee on December 21. She contended that the Bill was listed on December 3rd, 10th and 17th, 2009 to allow the Bar Association and other relevant stakeholders, to raise their concerns with the Attorney General. However, there had been no further issues raised on the Bill. She also stated that the Bill, in its various draft versions, was shared with the Guyana Bar Association which had submitted its comments, resulting in some issues being removed.

• Bills sent to Special Select Committees after a second reading, were not meant to engage discussions on the general merits and principles of the Bill, but, rather, only on its details according to Standing Order 59 (1), hence, the Committee was only mandated to make amendments which must be guided by the

Standing Orders on that issue. She noted her support for the examination of the Bill "Clause by Clause".

- 6.1.5 Mrs. Riehl highlighted the importance of the Bill to all legal practitioners and advised that the Committee needed to write the Bar Association, and to dispatch copies to the judges asking for their input. Consequently, if there was no response, then it would be fair for the Committee to proceed notwithstanding that the Bill already had its second reading.
- 6.1.6 Ms. Teixeira, in response, made reference to *Standing Orders 57 to* 59 to highlight what was stipulated about a Bill in Committee. She pointed out that the SO's did not stipulate about consultation.
- 6.1.7 Mr. Nandlall reiterated that every opportunity was given to seek the widest consultation and the views expressed were taken into account. He further stated that the Bill was modified before being laid in the National Assembly, therefore, he saw no need for further consultation.
- 6.1.8 The Chairperson referred to a letter dated 12th June, 2008, in her possession, addressed to Chief Justice Retd. Claudette Singh from the then President of the Bar Association (Chief Representative of all legal practitioners) outlining comments with reference to the draft Bill.
- 6.1.9 Ms. Teixeira further contended that the Guyana Revenue Authority was consulted to do the interpretation of the "practice certificate". She then undertook to have that, along with other documentation, circulated to Committee Members.
- 6.1.10 Mr. Williams posited that his party was at no time privy to the internal workings of the Government and pointed out that the Committee had a responsibility to the Guyanese public to ensure that all stakeholders were consulted on the matter. He further pointed out that his party had never had the opportunity to listen to the views of those persons who had submitted memorandum.
- 6.1.11 Consequently, the following proposals were put forward by Ms. Teixeira in an attempt to arrive at a compromise:
 - that the Committee meet at a time convenient to the lawyers, possibly 5.00 p.m;
 - that the Committee meet on Fridays;

- that the Committee examine the Bill "Clause by Clause" with no further consultations, commencing from the next meeting;
- the Committee should invite Justice Singh to appear before it to advise on the consultation process.
- 6.1.12 Mr. Williams insisted that the Committee proceed to examine the Bill "Clause by Clause" after consultation with stakeholders irrespective of the fact that they had previously made submissions.
- 6.1.13 After considering the different proposals which failed to reach a compromise, the Chairperson suggested that Members might wish to vote on the matter. Thereafter, Ms. Teixeira moved a motion to adopt the proposals made by the Government side. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nandlall.
- 6.1.14 The Committee, therefore, agreed to:
 - meet every Friday at 5.00pm.
 - arrange a meeting for Wednesday, 20th October, 2010, at 5.00 p.m, to facilitate a presentation by the Hon. Justice Retd. Claudette Singh, to give a factual report on what were the results of the consultation process.

The Chairperson undertook to make contact via telephone, with Justice Singh, in this regard. She, however, cautioned Members that Justice Singh's appearance before the Committee should not be seen as an interrogation.

ADJOURNMENT

At 3.55 p.m. the meeting was adjourned to Wednesday 20th October, 2010.

Confirmed this And day of October, 2010

The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P. Minister of Human Services and Social Security *Chairperson*

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2006- 2010)

MINUTES OF THE 3RD MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – BILL NO. 45 OF 2009 HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH OCTOBER, 2010 AT 5.05 P.M. IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO.1, COMMITTEES DIVISION, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

From the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) (1) Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 14th October. 2010

The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

From the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) (5) ------Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 11th March, 2010

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Labour

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P.

Mr. Moses V. Nagameotoo, M.P.

Excused

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

From the People's National Congress Reform -1 Guyana (PNC/R -1G) (3) Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 11^{15} March. 2010

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P.

Excused

From the Alliance For Change (AFC) (1)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Absent

Officers

Ms. Deborah Gray	Clerk of Committees
Ms. Tanzadell Bentinck	Assistant Clerk of Committees
Ms. Tracy Armstrong	Assistant Clerk of Committees

Advisor

Mr. Charles Fung - a -Fat

Deputy Chief Parliamentary Counsel

Invitee

The Hon. Justice (Retd.) Claudette Singh Project Co-ordinator for the Justice Improvement Project

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

1.1 Preliminary Remarks:

1.1.1 The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 5.05 p.m and extended some preliminary remarks, reminding Members of the reason for inviting the Hon. Justice (Retd.) Claudette Singh to appear before the Committee.

1.2 ANNOUNCEMENT

Excuses:

1.2.1 The following Members were excused from the meeting:

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P. Mr. Aubrey Norton, M.P.

ITEM2 CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

2.1 The following document was circulated prior to the meeting via email:

Notice dated 19th October, 2010, to attend the 3rd meeting to be held on Wednesday, 20thOctober, 2010;

- 2.2 The following documents were circulated at the meeting:
 - Notice dated 20th October, 2010, to attend the 4th meeting to be held on Friday, 22nd October, 2010;
 - (ii) Minutes of the 2nd meeting held on Tuesday, 19th October, 2010; and
 - (iii) Notice dated 19th October, 2010, to attend the 3rd meeting to be held on Wednesday, 20th October, 2010;

ITEM 3: PRESENTATION BY THE HON. JUSTICE CLAUDETTE SINGH (RETD.) RE CONSULTATION PROCESS PRETAINING TO THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 (BILL NO. 45 of 2009).

3.1 Commencement of consideration of the Bill:

- 3.1.1 The Chairperson informed the meeting that at the end of the presentation, the Committee would begin the consideration of the Bill "Clause by Clause".
- 3.1.2 In response to this decision, Mr. Williams re-iterated his Party's earlier position that they should be allowed to consider all memoranda resulting from the consultation process and, further, notwithstanding that there was a pre-consultation process, the Committee should re-engage all stakeholders before proceeding with the consideration of the Bill.
- 3.1.3 He suggested that the Committee had reneged on the decision of the previous meeting and insisted that his Party was not willing to begin with any consideration of the Bill in ignorance of the content of all the memoranda. This position was supported by Mrs. Rheil.
- 3.1.4 The other Members of the Committee, however, were in favor of commencing the consideration of the Bill "Clause by Clause".

3.2 Presentation:

- 3.2.1 At 5.10 p.m, the Chairperson welcomed the Hon. Justice Singh (retd.) to the meeting and thanked her on behalf of the Committee, for accepting the invitation.
- 3.2.2 She explained the role of the Special Select Committee in relation to the examination of the Bill and the Committee's reason for extending the invitation. Thereafter, she invited the Hon. Justice Singh (retd.), to explain the consultation process prior to the drafting of the Bill.

- 3.2.3 In response, The Hon. Justice Singh (retd.) explained that in 2008, as part of a Loan Agreement with the International Development Bank(IDB), eight (8) pieces of draft legislation were circulated among Members of the Bar Association and the Judiciary, inviting them to address amendments to certain Acts.
- 3.2.4 She further advised the Committee that a condition of the Loan Agreement was that certain stipulated agencies had to be consulted with and in keeping with that conditionality the following were some of the agencies/organizations addressed:
 - The Guyana Bar Association
 - The Judiciary
 - Hughes, Fields & Stoby Law Associates
 - Peter Britton Law Office
 - Cameron and Shepherd Law Associates
 - Mr. Corbin Law Office
 - Guyana Association of Women Lawyers
- 3.2.5 In response to a query, the Hon. Justice Singh (retd.) explained that the consultation process was extended over a period from May to August, 2008, and memoranda were submitted by the following agencies:
 - Guyana Bar Association
 - Hughes, Fields and Stoby Law Associates
 - Cameron and Shepherd Law Associates

.There, however, was no response from the Guyana Association of Women Lawyers.

- 3.2.6 It was confirmed that the Guyana Bar Association had consulted with the other Bar Associations and had responded to each of the eight Bills. The Hon. Justice Singh (retd.) agreed to make available to the Committee, copies of all memoranda that were submitted.
- 3.2.7 At 5.20 p.m, the Hon. Justice Singh (retd.) concluded her presentation and the Chairperson expressed appreciation on behalf of the Committee.

3.3 Continuation of Committee's Business:

3.3.1 In view of the difference of opinion among Members on the issue of commencing the consideration of the Bill, the Chairperson invited a motion from Ms. Teixeira, who proposed that the Committee proceed with its work. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nandlall and the other Members of the Government side supported the motion.

3.3.2 Mr. Williams moved a motion that the Committee should engage all relevant stakeholders to make presentations before proceeding with the consideration of the Bill. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rheil.

At 5.40 p.m, the Members of the PNC/R left the meeting.

3.3.3 Thereafter, the Chairperson invited the Committee to commence the consideration of the Bill "Clause by Clause".

3.4 Consideration of the Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2009 – Bill No. 45 of 2009:

- 3.4.1 Members proceeded to consider the Bill "Clause by Clause" and agreed to the amendments as appended.
- 3.4.2 At the completion of its consideration of the Bill, the Committee agreed on the following:
 - The Deputy Chief Parliamentary Counsel must present all the amendments to the Committee at the next meeting on Friday. 22nd
 Ctober, 2010;
 - The Deputy Chief Parliamentary Counsel must seek clarification on the use of the term **"Guyana Bar Association"** to allow for consistency throughout the Bill.
 - The staff of the Secretariat to prepare Draft Report for consideration at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6.25 p.m the meeting was adjourned to Friday, 22nd October, 2010 at 5.00 p.m.

Confirmed this day of October, 2010

The Hon. Priya Manickchand, M.P Minister of Human Services and Social Security Chairperson

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2006- 2010)

MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – BILL NO. 45 OF 2009 HELD ON FRIDAY, 22ND OCTOBER, 2010 AT 5:05 P.M. IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM NO. I COMMITTEES DIVISION, PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GEORGETOWN '

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

<u>CHAIRPERSON</u>

From the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) (I) Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 14th October 2010

The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P., Minister of Human Services and Social Security

From the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) (5) Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 11th March, 2010

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Minister of Labour Absent

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P.-

Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P.

Excused

Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.

Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.

<u>From the People's National Congress Reform – I Guvana PNC/R – IG 3</u> Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 11^{11} March 2010

Mrs. Clarissa S. Richl, M.P., Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly	Excused
Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.	Excused
Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P.	Excused

From the Alliance For Change (AFC) (1)

Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.

Absent

Officers

Ms. Deborah Gray	Clerk of Committees
Ms. Tanzadelf Bentinek	Assistant Clerk of Committees
Ms. Tracy Armstrong	Assistant Clerk of Committees

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

1.1	The meeting was called to order at 5.05 p.m.		
1.2	ANNOUNCEMENT		
1.2.1	The Meeting was informed that Mr. Fung-a Fat (advisor to the Committee) was out of the couptry.		
1.3	Excuses:		
1.3.1	 The following Members were excused from the meeting: (i) Mr. Moses V. Nagamootoo, M.P. (ii) Mrs. Clarissa Riehl, M.P. (iii) Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (iv) Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P. 		
41 EM 2:	CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS		
2.1	Correspondence:		
2.1.1	Outgoing: Letter dated 21 st October, 2010, to the Hon. Chief Justice (Retd.) Claudette Singh re Copies of memoranda re Consultation.		
2.1.2	The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:-		
	 (i) Notice dated 21st October, 2010 to attend the 4th Meeting on Friday 2 — October, 2010; (ii) Minutes of the 2nd and Meetings held on Monday, 18th and Wednesday, 20th October, 2010, respectively; 		

- (iii) Copy of Draft Report of the Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2009 - Bill No. 45 of 2009; and
- (iv) Copy of the Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill with Amendments submitted by Mr. Fung-a-Fat.

The following documents were circulated at the meeting:-

- (i) Amended matrix (Apdx.1) re 3ndMinutes;
 - (ii) Amended matrix (Apdx.2) re draft report;
 - (iii) Copies of memoranda submitted by the Hon. Chief Justice (Retd.) Claudette Singh; and
 - (iv) Amended Draft Report.

ITEM 3: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 2ND MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 18TH OCTOBER, 2010.

- 3.1 Corrections:
- 3.1. Page 4, paragraph 6.1.1
- 3.1.2 Insertion of the words "consultations with stakeholders and" after the word "including" in line 2.
- 3.2 Page 5, paragraph 6.1.8:
- 3.2.1 Substitution of the words *"Retd. Justice of Appeal"* for the words *"Chief Justice Retd."* in line 2.
- 3.3 Page 6, paragraph 6.1.14, bullet 2, 2nd paragraph:
- 3.3.1 Insertion of the words "and *to continue the work of the Committee thereafter*" at the end of the paragraph.
- 3.4 Page 6, paragraph 6.1.14, bullet 2, 2nd paragraph:
- 3.4.1 Substitution of the words "should be treated with the kind of respect deserving of a retired Judge" for the words "before the Committee should not be seen as an interrogation" at the end of the paragraph.

3.5 Confirmation:

3.5.1 Thereafter, the Minutes were confirmed, by a motion moved and seconded by Mr. Secraj M.P. and Mr. Nandlall, M.P., respectively.

ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING

4.1 The Committee agreed to attach letter dated 12th June, 2008, addressed to Mrs. Singh from the then President of the Bar Association, to the Committee's report.

ITEM 5: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 3^{RD} MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 20^{TH} -OCTOBER, 2010.

5.1 Corrections:

- 5.1.1 Page 3, Item 3 Heading:
- 5.1.2 Substitution of the word "*Pertaining*" for the word "*Pretaining*" in line 2.

5.2 Page 4, paragraph 3.2.3:

5.2.1 Insertion of a new paragraph to read as follows:

"The Hon. Justice Singh (Retd.) informed the Committee that the Judiciary was consulted and they felt that since they were the body to adjudicate and interpret those bills, that it was not proper for them to be part of the consultative process and subsequently asked to be excused from that process. As a result the IDB accepted that the judiciary should be excused from the consultation process"

- 5.3 Page 4, paragraph 3.2.4, the following amendments were made:
- 5.3.1 Bullet 3: Substitution of "Hughes, Fields & Stoby, Attorneys -at-Law" for "Hughes, Fields & Stoby Law Associates".
- 5.3.2 Bullet 4: Substitution of *"Britton, Hamilton & Adams Attorneys - at-Law"* for *"Peter Britton Law Firm*".

Bullet 5:

Substitution of "Cameron and Shepherd Attorneys --at -- Law" for "Cameron and Shepherd Law Associates".

5.3.4 Bullet 6:

Substitution of "*Ms. Birget Corbin Attorney - at- Law*" for "*Ms. Corbin Law Firm*".

5.4	Page 4, paragraph, 3.2 4:
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5.4. Substitution of the following for bullets 3 6:

"In addition, they consulted these law firms and individual lawyers, including but not limited to:

- Ilughes, Fields & Stoby Attorneys -at-Law
- Britton, Hamilton & Adams Attorneys –at-Law
- Cameron and Shepherd Attorneys -at Law
- Ms. Birget Corbin Attorney at- Law".

5.5 Page 4: Paragraph 3.2.5:

- 5.5. The following amendments were made:
 - (i) Insertion of the words" *at the request of the Bar Association*" after the word "*process*" in line 2.
 - (ii) Substitution of the word "*bodies*" for the word" *agencies*" in line 3.
 - (iii) Insertion of the following bullets after the first 3 bullets:
 - The Berbice Bar Association,
 - Ms. Birget Corbin Attorney at- Law.
 - Britton, Hamilton & Adams Attorneys –at-Law.
 - (1v) Insertion of the words "*The Berbice Bar Association indicated their satisfaction with the Bill*" after the word "*Lawyers*" in the 2nd paragraph.
- 5.6 Page 5, paragraph 3.4.2., bullet 2:
- 5.6.1 Substitution of the paragraph to read:

"The Deputy Chief Parliamentary Counsel should go through the document to remove wherever Guvana Bar Association appeared and veplace with the words "Bar Associations".

5.7 Confirmation:

4.

5.7.1 Thereafter, the Minutes were confirmed, by a motion moved and seconded by Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., and Mr. Seeraj M.P. respectively.

ITEM 6: EXAMINATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 (BILL NO. 45 OF 2009)

6.1 Report:

6.1.1 The Committee proceeded to examine the Report paragraph by paragraph:

6.2 Page 2, paragraph 3:

6.2.1 Substitution of paragraph 3 to read as follows: "It was adjourned to allow for consultation on the 3^{rd} , 10^{th} and 17^{th} December, 2009 and read a second time on 21^{st} December, 2009."

6.3 Page 3:

6.3.1 Substitution of the word "*subsequently* "for the word "*however*" in line 1.

6.4 Page 4: Paragraph 10:

6.4.1 Substitution of the paragraph to read as follows:
"At its second meeting, the Committee agreed to invite the Hon.
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6.5 Page 4, Paragraph 11:

6.5. Substitution of the paragraph to read as follows: "On Wednesday, 20th October, 2010, the Hon Justice (Retd.) Claudette Singh at the 3rd meeting, provided the Committee with the details of the consultation process that was employed in keeping with the GOG/IDB Justice Improvement Modernisation Project".

6.6 Page 5: Paragraph 17:

6.6.1 Insertion of a sub-heading "Attendance"

6.7	Examination of Matrix attached:
6.7.1	The following Clauses were accepted as amended:
	Clauses 2, 26, 28, 32,34, 35,44, 45, 48. First Schedule: paragraph 13 (4). Form 5: Rule 1, paragraph 5, Rule VIII, paragraph 16, and Rule XV, paragraph 1.
6.7.2	The following clauses were accepted as presented:
	Clause 1, 4, 23 to 25,27, 29 to 31, 33, 34 (1&2), 35 (2&3), 36, 38 (2 &3), 39 to 43, 44 (2to4), 45(5), 46, 47 and 48(5). First Schedule: paragraphs 1 to 12, paragraph (1-3) and paragraphs 14 to 24. Forms: 1to4. Fourth Schedule
4 ***	Rule 1: paragraphs 1 to 4 and paragraph 6. Rules 11 to V11, Rule V111, paragraph 17, Rules 1X to X1V, Rule XV, paragraph 2 and Rule XV1 to XV111.
6.7.3	Thereafter, the Committee adopted its report on the Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill 2009, Bill No. 45/2009, by a Motion moved by Ms. Teixeira and seconded by Mr. Nandlall.
6.7.4	The Committees Division was requested to take note of the corrections to the report and submit same and the relevant Motion to the Iton. Minister on Monday 25^{th} October, 2010, for signature.
ITEM 7:	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
7.1	Completion of Committee's work

7.1.1 The Chairperson announced that the Special Select Committee had completed its work and expressed appreciation to Members of the Committee and the staff of the Committees Division for their support.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5.45 p.m. the meeting concluded.

(Unconfirmed)

APPENDIX 111

APPENDIX III

<u>SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS</u> (AMENDMENT) BILL 2009 – BILL NO. 45 OF 2009.

ATTENDANCE RECORD (2010)

NAME	April		Oct.	
	8 th	18 th	20 th	22 nd
The Hon. Charles R. Ramson, S. C. M. P.	Pr.	-	-	-
The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Abs.
Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P.	Pr,	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.
Mr. Moses Nagamootoe, J.P., M.P.	Pr.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.
Mr. Mohabir A. Nandlall, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.
Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.
The. Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P.	-	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.
Mrs. Clarissa Richl, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.
Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.
Mr. Aubrey C. Norton, M.P.	Pr.	Abs.	Ex.	Ex.
Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, M.P.	Pr.	Abs.	Abs.	Abs.
	2 -	£	4	

Pr.	¥.	Present
Abs.	 :	Absent
Ex.		Excused

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