**AMENDED**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE**

**TENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2012-2013)**

**REPORT OF**

**THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON THE**

**THEFISCALTRANSFERS BILL 2012 – BILL NO. 20/2012**

**PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**BY**

**MR. BASIL WILLIAMS, M.P.**

**CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE**

**ON**

**18TH JULY, 2013**

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON THE FISCALTRANSFERS BILL 2012 – BILL NO. 20/2012**

**Publication**

1. The Fiscal Transfers Bill 2012 – Bill No. 20/2012seeks to provide for the objective criteria for the allocation of resources to local authorities and for matters connected therewith. This Bill was published on9th August, 2012.

**Introduction and First Reading**

2. The Bill was introduced in the National Assembly and read for a first time on 9th August, 2012.

**Committal to Select Committee**

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

**Members of the Committee**

4. At a meeting held on 18thOctober, 2012 the Committee of Selection nominated the following Members to comprise the Special Select Committee to consider the Fiscal Transfers Bill 2012 – Bill No. 20/2012.

**Members of the People’s Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) (4)**

Hon. Ganga Persaud, M.P.,

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Chief Whip

Bibi S. Shadick, M.P.

Mr. Neendkumar, J.P, M.P.

**Members of A Partnership for National Unity (APNU) (4)**

Ms.Amna Ally, M.P., Chief Whip

Mr. Basil Williams, M.P.

Lt. Col. (Ret’d) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.

Mr. Ronald Bulkan, M.P.

**Member of the Alliance For Change (AFC) (1)**

Dr. VeerasammyRamayya, M.P.

**First and Second Meetings of the Committee - Election of Chairman**

5. At the first meeting held on 28th November, 2012, both the Hon. Ganga Persaud, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development and Mr. Basil Williams, M.P., were nominated as Chairperson for the Committee.

6. Since there were two nominations a division was sought and carried with an equality of votes. The Presiding Member did not have an original or casting vote, hence, the election for the Chairmanship was deferred to another date.

7. At the second meeting held on 20th December, 2012, Mr. Basil Williams was elected as Chairman of the Committee by a majority vote.

**Other Meetings of the Committee**

8. The Committee met on sixteen other occasions. However, theFiscal Transfers Bill 2012 – Bill No. 20/2012 was considered at the following meetings:

6th Meeting held on 8th February, 2013;

7th Meeting held on 13th February, 2013;

8th Meeting held on 20th February, 2013;

9th Meeting held 1st March, 2013;

10thMeeting held on 7th March, 2013;

11thMeeting held on 15th March, 2013;

16th Meeting held on 14th June, 2013;

17th Meeting held on 28th June, 2013; and

18th Meeting held on 5th July, 2013.

9. The attendance record is at Appendix I.

**Procedure of the Committee**

10. At its 3rd Meeting held on 16th January, 2013, the Committee agreed to the following:

(i) thatit would commence its work on the Local Government Commission Bill 2012 – Bill No. 13/2012;

(ii) that it would consider the Bill, Clause by Clause;

(iii) that the Clerk of the Committee would circulate the Reports and any relevant information with regard to the previous Local Government Bills 2009 in the 9th Parliament; and

(iv) that the Clerk of the Committee provide Members with a schedule of meetings.

11. At its Meetings held on 1st March and 17th May, 2013 the Committee agreed that the following Experts should be invited to make an oral presentation on the Formulae for Fiscal Transfers:

* + - * 1. Mr. Vincent Alexander; and
        2. Mr. NavinChandarpal

Both Experts appeared before the Committee on 7th March, 2013. Mr. Alexander appeared on 14th June, 2012 to provide clarification on his submission.

**Consideration of the Bill**

12. The Committee commenced consideration of the Bill on 8th February, 2013.

13. The following Clauses were amended: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 including Marginal Note, 8and 9 including Marginal notes, Schedule, and Enactment,

14. The following Clauses were accepted as presented: 5, 7 and 10.

15. A new Schedule was drafted and acceptedand the original schedule was deleted.

16. The details of the amendments made to the Bill by the Committee are reflected in the matrix attached at Appendix II.

**Amended Bill**

17. Appendix III is the amended Bill which reflects the changes detailed and outlined in Appendix II.

**Report of the Special Select Committee**

18. At its meeting held on 5th July, 2013 the Special Select Committee on the Fiscal Transfers Bill 2012 – Bill No. 20/2012 agreed that this Report, on its consideration of the Bill, should be presented to the National Assembly.

19. The Report is hereby submitted.

**Minutes and Verbatim Records**

20. The Minutes and the Verbatim Records have been prepared and will be available at the Parliament Office.

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Basil Williams, M.P.

Chairman of the

Special Select Committee on the

Fiscal Transfers Bill 2012 – Bill No. 20/2012

*Committees Division*

*Parliament Office*

*Public Buildings*

*Brickdam*

*Georgetown*

*5th July, 2013.*