

**COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA**  
**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION OF**  
**THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT (2002-2006)**

**FIRST PERIODIC REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE**  
**ON ECONOMIC SERVICES**

**2<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2005**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19 OF 2003**

**PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**  
**BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE**

**ON**

**16<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2006**

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This is the first periodic report to the National Assembly on the status of the work of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services, pursuant to the requirement of paragraph 4 (ix) of Resolution 19 passed by the National Assembly on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2003.

## **1. RESOLUTION/ BACKGROUND**

The Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services was established in accordance with the provisions of Resolution No 19 dated 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2003 of the National Assembly of the Eighth Parliament of Guyana, Second Session (2002 – 2003)

The Resolution and background give effect to the provisions of article 119 B of the Constitution of Guyana which provides that:

There shall be Parliamentary Sectoral Committees established by the National Assembly with responsibility for scrutiny of all areas of Government Policy and Administration including:

- (i) economic services
- (ii) natural resource
- (iii) foreign relations
- (iv) social services

The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of each Parliamentary Sectoral Committee shall be elected from opposite sides of the National Assembly.

## **2. MANDATE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SERVICES.**

**The mandate of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services has been derived from Paragraph 3 of Resolution 19, which stipulates that:**

“The Committees shall, in the discharge of their scrutinizing role, examine all policies and administration, for each Sector, to determine whether the

execution of government policy is in consonance with the principles of good governance and in the best interest of all the people of Guyana.”

The Resolution (19) of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services has been attached at Appendix I.

### **3. MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The list of Members of the Committee elected at the first meeting is presented hereunder along with the new list of Members after the changes of the Committee membership by the Committee of Selection.

By a decision of the Committee of Selection the following seven (7) Members of Parliament were nominated as members of the Committee in keeping with the provision of paragraph 1 of the Resolved Clause.

#### **(1) From the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)**

Mr. Komal Chand, M.P. - Deputy Chairman

Mr. Donald Ramotar, M.P

Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P

#### **(2) From the People's National Congress/Reform (3)**

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

Mr. James K. Mc Allister, M.P – Chairman

#### **(3) From the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)**

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P.

In addition to the seven (7) substantive Members, the following Members from the People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/C) and the People's National Congress/Reform (PNC/R) were nominated as Alternate Members:

Mr. Cyril Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P

At the first meeting of the Committee, held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2003, Mr. Komal Chand was elected as the Deputy Chairman.

At the second meeting of the Committee which was held on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2003 Mr. James Mc Allister was elected as the Chairman of the Committee.

After the first two Meetings the attendance sheet was prepared in this manner on each Minute of a Meeting reflecting the date of each selection.

**4. DATES OF NOMINATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SERVICES**

**MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (7)**

**Chairperson (PNC/R) (1)**

**(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2003)**

**(Elected by the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2003)**

Mr. James K. Mc Allister, M.P.

**Deputy Chairperson (PPP/C) (1)**

**(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2003)**

**(Elected on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2003)**

Mr. Komal Chand, C.C.H., J.P., M.P.

**Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (3)**

**(Nominated by the Committee of the Selection on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2003)**

Mr. Donald R. Ramotar, M.P.

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.

Mr. Cyril Belgrave, C.C.H., J.P., M.P. – (Alternate)

**Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (1)**

**(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2003)**

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

Mr. Ivor Allen, M.P. – (Alternate)

**Member of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)**

**(Nominated by the Committee of the Selection on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2003)**

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. -

**5. CHANGES CONDUCTED BY THE COMMITTEE OF SELECTION**

On the 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2004 the Committee of Selection nominated Deputy Chairman Mr. Komal Chand C.C.H., J.P., M.P as the Alternate Member of the Committee and Mr. Cyril Belgrave as a Member of the Committee.



A vacancy resulted as a consequence of Mr. Komal Chand C.C.H., J.P., M. P. becoming the Alternate Member. On the 9<sup>th</sup> August 2004 at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Committee Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai was elected to fulfill the position of Deputy Chairperson.

**6. PLENARY MEETINGS HELD BY THE PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SERVICES**

In addition to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Meetings the Committee held plenary meetings over the period 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2003 to 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2005 as shown in the table below.

**PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SERVICES**

<b>LIST OF MEETINGS</b>	<b>DATES OF MEETING</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> July, 2003
4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	10 <sup>th</sup> July, 2003
5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	22 <sup>nd</sup> October, 2003
6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	27 <sup>th</sup> October, 2003
7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	12 <sup>th</sup> November, 2003
8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	19 <sup>th</sup> November, 2003
9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	26 <sup>th</sup> November, 2003
10 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> December, 2003
11 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	10 <sup>th</sup> December, 2003
12 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	17 <sup>th</sup> December, 2003
13 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	14 <sup>th</sup> January, 2004
14 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	21 <sup>st</sup> January, 2004
15 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	23 <sup>rd</sup> January, 2004
16 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	28 <sup>th</sup> January, 2004
17 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	4 <sup>th</sup> February, 2004

18 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	11 <sup>th</sup> February, 2004
19 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	18 <sup>th</sup> February, 2004
20 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	3 <sup>rd</sup> March, 2004
21 <sup>st</sup> Meeting	10 <sup>th</sup> March, 2004
22 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting	24 <sup>th</sup> March, 2004
23 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2004
24 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> March, 2005

During the twenty- two plenary meetings the Committee examined and considered selective Ministerial responsibilities as outlined at Appendix II.

**7. PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SERVICES OVERSIGHT OF MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.**

The Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services was assigned with responsibilities for economic oversight, which fell under the following Ministers of Government.

- |     |   |   |
|-----|---|---|
| (1) | Hon. Shaik K, Z. Baksh  | - Minister of Housing and Water                         |
| (2) | Hon. Satyadeo Sawh  | - Minister of Agriculture                               |
| (3) | Hon. Saisnarine Kowlessar                                     | - Minister of Finance                                   |
| (4) | Hon. President Barrat Jagdeo<br>designated Hon. Manzoor Nadir | - Minister responsible for Go-Invest                    |
| (5) | Hon. Prime Minister Samuel Hinds                              | - Office of the Prime Minister                          |
| (6) | Hon. Manzoor Nadir  | - Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce.           |
| (7) | Hon. Clinton Collymore  | - Minister of Local Government and Regional Development |
| (8) | Hon. Ronald Gajraj  | - Minister of Home Affairs                              |

## **8. THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

The work of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services was clearly stated on a list of activities set out for the four (4) Sectoral Committees as highlighted at Appendix II.

The Committee identified the Ministries and Agencies with urgent concerns and prioritized them for hearing in its work programme for early scrutiny. The Committee approved of a schedule of meetings for Ministers to appear before it. (See Appendix III for Schedule of Meetings with various Government Officials).

## **9. DOCUMENTATION REQUESTED**

Based on the mandate of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services, request for documents was made, so that members could acquaint and prepare themselves for the hearings.

The collection of documents and data for the work of the Committee was executed via correspondence, letters and memoranda sent to the Minister's responsible for the areas identified for scrutiny.

The Committee received extensive documentation from some Ministers while others did not respond promptly. A list of documents received has been outlined at Appendix IV.

Reminders were sent to those Ministers who did not respond within the time lines.

**10. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WITH MINISTERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND OTHER STATE CORPORATION**

The Committee conducted meetings /hearings with Ministers, Government Officials from Government Agencies and State Corporation that submitted adequate documentation.

These sessions provided an opportunity for the Ministers and Officials to present to the Committee a brief on areas under scrutiny and to respond to further questions or provided clarifications where necessary to the Committee.

**11. SHORT COMINGS/CONSTRAINTS**

Late submission, inadequate documentation and non response from Ministers to request for documentation were contributing factors to the delay of scheduled and unscheduled hearings in the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services work plan.

The Committee was concerned with the response of Ministers referring it to the Parliamentary Library as a source for obtaining requested documentation. Efforts directed by the Committee in this direction resulted in further delays and further rescheduling of hearings. There were instances where the Committee was unable to reschedule meetings with the Ministers under the period of review, because of inadequate time.

The non-convening of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services (PSCES) meetings during 2004 was another factor that affected the approved work programme of the Committee. There was a long gap when no meeting was convened, during March 2004 to March 2005 only two (2) meetings of the Committee were convened.

## **12. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

### **Hearings**

The Committee was successful in completing hearings with the following four (4) Ministers:

- (i) Minister within the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development
- (ii) Minister of Transport and Hydraulics
- (iii) Minister of Agriculture
- (iv) Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce

Successful meetings were held with the following two (2) Government Corporation and Agency:

- (i) The Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO)
- (ii) The National Drainage and Irrigation (DNI)

### **Support from Donor Agencies**

The Chairperson supported by members of the Committee conducted successful meetings which resulted in the commitment for support from the IDB, IMF and World Bank. The Committee submitted a proposal to the IDB as was required for funding concerning the Fiduciary oversight process in Guyana. A commitment was made to have the Fiscal and Financial Management Project set up a Project Execution Unit to assist the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services and the Public Accounts Committee.

The Committee took advantage of the opportunities offered by the IDB proposal on "The Fiscal and Financial Management Programme (FFMP)-GY-0053 Public Audit and Fiduciary Oversight Component 3".

The Committee forwarded a proposal to the Parliamentary Management Committee requesting experts and specialized support to be attached to the Committee. It was agreed that specialist in the area of engineering, economics and agriculture were necessary. The following seven (7) names were recommended as suitable applicants from whom the Committee would select:

In the field of engineering:

- Mr. Phillip Allsop
- Mr. Maurice Veacock
- Mr. Malcom Alli

In the field of economic/financial

- Professor Clive Thomas
- Mr. Godfrey Frank
- Mr. Ian Mc Donald

In the field of Agricultural

- John Bahadur Raghu Rai

### **Summoning of Constitutional Office Holders**

The Committee sought advice from the Parliamentary Management Committee on whether it could summon non-constitutional office holders and whether constitutional office holders could be summoned directly through their subject

Minister. The response from the PMC was received and it was communicated that under the Evidence Act the Committee had the authority to summon one directly.

### **Hearing Open to the Public**

There was consensual agreement by the Committee on the proposal for involvement of the public by way of having hearings open to the public. A proposal was submitted for consideration to the PMC, under the period of review.

### **Update on Poverty Alleviation**

The Chairman of the Committee Mr. James K. Mc Allister attended the 5<sup>th</sup> PWOWB Conference in Paris, France. On his return he briefed the Committee on the proceedings of the Conference on Poverty Alleviation.

## **13. PRESENTATIONS**

The Committee heard presentation from the following Ministers and Officials:

### **13.1 Presentation by the Hon. Minister of the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce; Re: The Committee noted the recent alarm of consumers over the likely impact of the possible shortage of chicken.**

The Committee at its Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2003 noted the recent concern raised in the media of the possible shortage of chicken during the Christmas Season of December, 2003.

The Hon. Minister with the following Members on his team appeared before the Committee to make an oral presentation -

- (1) Mr. E Hamilton, Permanent Secretary, and
- (2) Ms. Kim Stephenson, Foreign Trade Officer.

The Hon. Minister informed the Committee that the issue of the production of chicken fell under the purview of the Ministry of Crops and Livestock and that the business of trading in chicken was dealt with by the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce. Here, the Commerce was define as 'domestic trade'.

The Hon Minister addressed the Committee on the following issues:

- (i) the Impact of tariff on the local industry
- (ii) impact of the tariff on the prices to consumers
- (iii) the level of production of chicken
- (iv) the availability of chicken, and
- (v) the sustainability of production of chicken by the local industry.

	<b>ISSUES</b>	<b>MINISTER'S RESPONSE</b>
1	<b>Tariff on Importation of Chicken</b>	Duty on imported chicken was applied under Tariff heading HS02.07.
2	<b>Impact on Tariff on the Local Industry</b>	The local chicken rebounded in 1992, and there has been a consistent increase in local production. (see 2 <sup>nd</sup> exhibit, figures taken from Statistical Bureau, 2001). Tariff on imported chicken has a positive impact on the local industry.
3	<b>Impact of tariff on prices</b>	Tariff has not have any impact on price of local chicken, live whole birds. Some changes in prices were observed during week ending December 11, 2004- reaching \$205 - \$230, however prices remained at \$180 - \$185 per pound.



4	Sustainability of the local market.	The last 24 months saw the investment of US\$50M in the local industry. Job created 12,000 directly and indirectly spin off benefited many sectors.
5.	Production	Production availability was very good, for the first six months of 2003, production figures were 10.5 million kilograms. The Ministry of Agriculture estimate local demand at 51 million pounds. The local industry was capable of producing 50 ,5 million pounds.
6.	Availability of Chicken	<p><b><i>“Chicken was available but the problem was that of demand at different prices.”</i></b> Chicken was available on the shelves of municipal and supermarkets. <b><i>“we have seen no lines”</i></b>. A glut was expected early in the new year,</p> <p>The Hon. Minister indicated that chicken was arriving in the country since the following chicken importers had made application for the importation of chicken which was approved by his Ministry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) H&amp;S Poultry - 500,000 pounds</li> <li>(ii) Marine Foods - 4,000 and 20,000 pounds</li> <li>(iii) Didco Trading - 1,000,000. pounds</li> </ul> <p>He further informed the Committee that imported chicken would be at a cost of \$150.CIF plus duty and taxes, which would still leave the importer with \$40 to \$50 margin.</p>

**Additional concerns raised by the PSCES**

**Costs of Production of Local Chicken;** The Committee’s main concern was centered around whether the costs of production for local birds were 75 US cents or 75 GY dollars per kilo.

The Committee noted the possible large margin of profit earned by producers and expressed some concerns since the price stated indicated that local producers were earning a large profit which could be the concern of the consumer in this regard.

The Hon. Minister undertook the responsibility to seek clarification on the issue from the Poultry Producers Association and to submit the information to the Committee.

The Committee was advised that the President had ordered an investigation into the matter and wrote the Head of the Presidential Secretariat (HPS) and requested a copy of the report which would have been submitted to Cabinet.

The Committee did not receive a copy of the report nor a response from the HPS.

#### **Establishment of a Confirmative Assessment Programme**

The Hon. Minister informed Members that the Government had under consideration, the establishment of a Confirmative Assessment Programme which would allow for our exports to enter Caricom markets without non-tariff barriers, but that issue fell under the purview of the Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock.

The Committee sought further clarification from the Minister on figures he presented on the cost of production for local birds. However, the Minister did not reply.

#### **Built-up of fares for Route Nos. 31 and 32**

At a later date the Committee requested the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce to provide it with information on a "built-up" of mini-bus fares for route Nos. 31 and 32.

The Hon. Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce in his response indicated that the information was not readily available and as such could not be submitted.

However, the information was submitted to the Committee and it did not return to this matter.

### **13.2 Presentation by the Hon. Minister within the Ministry of Local Government on the Interim Management Committees (IMC)**

At its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2003 the Committee heard presentation by the Hon. Minister on clarifications of the dissolution of some Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs) and the replacement of Interim Management Committees.

The Hon. Minister reported that the 65 NDCs which were elected in 1994 has had their original terms extended. They had been elected to serve for a minimum of two or a maximum of three years, but since Local Government elections were not conducted at the end of their tenure, their terms were further extended.

The Hon. Minister's presentation addressed the following areas and abridged versions of responses were recorded; full readings are available in the verbatim records.

No.	ISSUES	MINISTER'S RESPONSE
1.	The reason and basis for dissolving NDCs and appointing Interim Management Committees	The basis, where there was depletion of Council members, due to migration, resignations, death, lack of interest resulting in their seat being declared vacant.

		<p>The Minister cited inefficiency, lack of quorum, lack of interest, no elected Council being in office, incompetence, mismanagement, malpractices and corruption as reasons for dissolution of NDCs.</p> <p>Where the NDCs no longer functioned effectively, the Council had been dissolved for one or more than one of the above stated reasons.</p> <p>Community complaints of regularities were investigated and disciplinary actions were taken where they were proven cases of corruption or impropriety. The Ministers utilized the Statutes-Section 13 of the Local Government Act and intervened to address the situation.</p> <p>The following NDCs were dissolved for various reasons;</p> <p>Crabwood Creek - Depletion of members</p> <p>Eccles/Ramsburg - All aspect of irregularities Existed</p> <p>Rosignol/Zee Lust - inefficiency, corruption and malpractices</p> <p>Stewart Ville/Cornelia Ida and - Depletion of members financial irregularities</p> <p>Canefield/Enterprise - Incompetence</p> <p>Maida/Tarlogie - Depletion of members</p> <p>Bath/Woodley Park - Unable to have a quorum at meetings</p>
2.	How many NDC were dissolved due to depletion of the List	NDCs were dissolved for various reasons. The Communities were consulted and insisted that the Council be dissolved and a petition was therefore submitted to the Minister in keeping with the status.

		<p>The following NDCs list were depleted; (Stewartville/ Corneila Ida NDC:</p> <p>(i) The Maida/Tarlogie NDC was dissolved because of depletion of Councilors.</p> <p>(ii) Bath / Woodley Park the list was exhausted and the Council fell below a quorum</p>
3.	How many NDCs were dissolved due to malpractices or corruption?	<p>Eccles/ Ramsburg NDC, Rosignol/Zee Lust NDC dissolution was due to ongoing allegations of malpractices.</p> <p>The Canefield/ Enterprise were dissolved for incompetence. The peculiarity was that it was unable to spend monies to develop the communities.</p>
4.	What action taken against the Overseer in the Eccles/ Ramsburg NDC?	<p>NDCs official found to be corrupt; was likely to be dismissed (case of the Eccles/ Ramsburg NDC)</p>
5.	What mechanisms are in place to monitor NDCs?	<p>Monitoring of NDC was done by the Ministry of Regional Development and Local Government through two very efficient and competent officers.</p> <p>The Hon. Minister of Local Government &amp; Regional Development by an instrument of 1996, delegated the respective RDCs to monitors the NDCs. Monitoring was also done by the Communities.</p> <p>The Minister contended that comprehensive monitoring was ongoing.</p>
6.	What is the Minister's view on Interim Management Committees?	<p>The Minister cited his satisfaction with the functioning of the installed IMCs and where concerns were identified which the Minister addressed immediately.</p>

7.	How the Minister exercises authority in composing an IMCs	Composition of the IMC did not mirror the ratio which existed prior to a Council's dissolution.
8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would the Minister seek to bolster the Stewartville / Corniela Ida NDC with additional members?</li> </ul>	<p>Currently there were no impediments for the Minister to appoint another member to the Stewartville / Cornelia Ida Interim NDC. Provide the name and the person would be appointed.</p> <p>The Minister promised that whenever an IMC was established, the relative political balance existing in the elected council would be maintained.</p>
9.	Concept of Internal election.	<p>The Current legislation restricted internal elections for Chairman or Deputy Chairman, Mayor or Deputy Mayor.</p> <p>In the case of NDCs the Minister had powers to intervene; the law under section 13 and 14 stipulated that the Minister as Supervisor could intervene. Unlike for the Municipalities the Minister had no powers to intervene, there were escape avenues, however with regards to vacancy for chairperson removed by a vote of confidence.</p>
10.	Postponement of Local Government election	The Minister agreed that the continued postponement was doing no good.
11.	Matters of the Task force and status of proposal for new electoral system, fiscal transfers to Local Government organs and Local Government Commission.	Preliminary report completed and issued. Agreement had reached on the Local Government Ministry, the final changes were being made to fiscal transfers and agreements on details were for the electoral system was posing a problem. "The drafting of the legislation was on the way"

NOTE - (dealt with in the above table list of concerns and responses taken from verbatim records)

### **13.3. Presentation by the Hon. Minister of Transport & Hydraulics.**

At its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2003 the Hon. Minister of Transport & Hydraulics was invited by the Committee to make a presentation.

However, the Minister did not make a presentation since all the documents requested were not submitted, but he interacted with Committee and gave some clarifications that were needed.

Further, the Hon, Minister promised to submit the remaining documents at a later date. The presentation was not rescheduled by the Committee.

### **13.4 Presentation by the Hon Minister of Agriculture and CEO of Drainage and Irrigation**

The Committee at its meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2003 heard presentation by Hon. Minister and the CEO of Drainage and Irrigation on how essential Drainage and Irrigation had been for our country in moving the production of Traditional and non-traditional crops. It was highlighted how the Drainage and Irrigation Department operated in relation to its policies and budget. The Department was in the process of revisiting its legislation:

- (i) They promised to submit **the draft Bill of Drainage and Irrigation** and
- (ii) The Committee promised to examine the Master Plan of Drainage and Irrigation Board in order to understand the national criteria and Mechanisms.

### 13.5 Presentation by the CEO and Chairman of GUYSUCO

The presentation by the CEO Guysuco on the Review of Guysuco Strategic Plan was heard on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2004. The Committee was informed that Guysuco was in the process of updating its strategic plan and strategic plan which would increase National Economic Growth and reduced unit cost of production to \$12.00 per pound.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Committee deliberated and agreed that Mr. Dev would formulate the line of questions for the **Chairman of GUYSUCO presentation on the issue of polices of the company.**

The meeting with the Chairman of GUYSUCO was not accomplished because the Committee did not return to the issue.

### 14. OTHER MATTERS

#### *SUMMONING OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND NON-CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE HOLDERS'*

The Committee sought the advice of the Parliamentary Management Committee (PMC) on the issue of '*SUMMONING OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND NON-CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICE HOLDERS'*

Two views emerged from full discussions on the matter:

- (i) it could not summon non-constitutional office holders nor could it summon constitutional office holders without directing all letters of invitation through the relevant subject Minister.



- (2) the Committee was within its mandate to summon such officers and it operated within its Terms Of Reference in summoning constitutional Office holder. The case of the Commissioner of Police to appear before the Committee was cited. The Commissioner of Police's response to the Committee's request recommended that the Committee channelled its letter through the Ministry of Home Affairs in keeping with normal Parliamentary practice.

The PMC directed the Committee to the **Legislative Bodies (Evidence Act) Chapter 1:08.**

#### 15. **PETITIONS RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE**

The Committee during its operation received petitions from private individuals on issues of economic importance:

- (1) Mini-bus Operators of the routes Nos. 31 and 32 in relation to the enforcement of the **Motor Vehicles And Road Traffic Act, Chapter 51:02** by the Commissioner of Police to reduce the number of seats in Mini-buses and agreed to summon the Commissioner of Police before it to seek clarification on the issue and to listen to the Representatives.
- (2) Ms Lucille Reddy - request for the Committee to examine the land sub-division on her private property
- (3) Gopaul Ramdas - The issue of a region # 3 vessel dispute.

The Committee received a delegation representing the Mini Bus Operators. The delegation requested the Committee's intervention to prevent what was viewed as the improper enforcement of the Act.

The Committee summoned Commissioner of Police, Mr. Floyd Mc. Donald. However, the Commissioner demurred claiming that the invitation must be channeled through the Minister of Home Affairs.

The Committee took a decision to forward future petitions from individuals to the relevant subject Ministers and requested that copies of responses be sent to it in order that it might be kept up-to-date with the issues.

**16. REQUEST FOR THE ENGAGEMENT OF EXPERTS/RESEARCH ASSISTANTS FOR THE COMMITTEE.**

The Committee noted that at the end of most presentations, the task of examining extensive documents was necessary in order for the Committee to have indebt understanding of the Ministry's operation. Hence the need for the services of Experts/Research Assistant in the following three areas arose:

- (i) Engineering
- (ii) Economics, and
- (iii) Agriculture

The PMC forwarded the request to the Office of the President but approval was not given for the immediate engagement of the experts. The Donor Agencies were able to intervene and the IDB promised the Committee implementation of the (FFMP) Fiscal and Financial Management Project.

**17. LIMITATIONS**

There were a number of areas of responsibility for which the Committee intended to conclude its work with Ministries and Agencies, but they were not addressed in its entirety. Some of these were the under the:

- (i) Ministry of Agriculture;
- (ii) Ministry of Finance, and
- (iii) Ministry of Transport and Hydraulics
- (iv) Ministry of Public Works and Communication
- (v) Ministry of Housing and Water

Some limitations of the Committee were owing to non- receipt of documents, the delay in the engagement of experts to analyse the extensive documents it received from Ministries and exclusion of some Ministers who did not submit their documentation requested. This further delayed the work of the Committee since it was unable to peruse the documents before summoning the respective Ministers to appear before it.

The Committee had to cancel a scheduled meeting with the Hon. Minister of Housing and Water, due to the non-submission of documentations it had requested from the Hon. Minister.

#### **18. VERBATIM RECORDS**

*The Verbatim Records of Proceedings of the Committee have been prepared and are available at Parliament Office.*

#### **19. CONCLUSION**

The Committee recognised the fact that the work plan was not completed in its entirety due to a number of limitations by the Committee. However, it appreciated the response of Constitutional and Non-Constitutional Officers who appeared before the Committee and made presentations. The expectation of the Committee has been that its work will proceed in the next parliamentary session. It also hopes that the necessary documents it requested would be submitted in order that they can be evaluated for the members to be well informed in an opportune time. Thus, there would be much cooperation in the future.

The PSCES wishes to thank Committee Members and Committee Clerks alike, including all those that contributed and supported the Committee in the execution of its mandate.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Mc Allister', written in a cursive style.

**Mr. James Mc Allister, M.P**

**Chairman**

**APPENDIX 1**

**EIGHT PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA**

**SECOND SESSION (2002-2003)**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 19**

**WHEREAS** Article 119 B of the Constitution provides:

There shall be parliamentary sectoral committees established by the National Assembly with responsibility for the scrutiny of all areas of Government policy and administration including (I) natural resources (ii) economic services (iii) foreign relations and (iv) social services

**RESOLVED,**

1. The Sectoral Committees shall consist of seven (7) members, four (4) representing the Government and three (3) representing the Opposition. The Government and Opposition are entitled to elect one alternate member each for each Sectoral Committee.

2. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of each sectoral committee shall be elected from opposite sides of the National Assembly and would alternate annually with two (2) Sectoral Committees each to be chaired by the Government and Opposition respectively.

3. The committees shall, in the discharge of their scrutinising role, examine all policies and administration, for each sector, to determine whether the execution of government policy is in consonance with the principles of good governance and in the best interest of all the people of Guyana.

4. The committees shall have the authority to:

- i Determine areas of government activity for scrutiny or specific examination;
- ii Request the Minister assigned responsibility for the sector to submit written or oral information, including government documents and records about any specific area of government policy and administration;
- iii Review existing legislation on government policy and administration for any of the sectors;

- iv **Summon persons to give evidence, scrutinise government documents, papers and records;**
- v **Visit any government activity or project in Guyana as agreed and arranged by the Committee;**
- vi **In the discharge of their mandate, utilise the services of experts, specialists and other sources of advice as they determine;**
- vii **Establish a timeable for the conduct of their work;**
- viii **Make recommendations to the National Assembly on legislation or any other action to be taken on matters falling within their purview;**
- ix **Submit periodic reports to the National Assembly on their work; and**
- x **Invite comments, from the Minister assigned responsibility for the sector on their recommendations or reports.**

5. The National Assembly, notwithstanding the current work programme of any sectoral committee, may request the committee to give prompt attention to a particular aspect of the policy or administration of the government for a sector

6. The provisions of Standing Order No. 70A shall apply to the Sectoral Committees

**AND FURTHER RESOLVED,**

7. The Gazetted ministerial responsibilities shall be allocated to each Sectoral Committee in the manner set out in Schedule 1.

(Passed by the National Assembly on 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2003)



**S. E. ISAACS**  
Clerk of the National Assembly

**S E ISAACS**  
**CLERK OF THE**  
**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**



## APPENDIX II

### PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SERVICES

#### MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

MINISTER	RESPONSIBILITIES
<b>Clinton Collymore</b> <b>Minister of Local Government</b> <b>And Regional Development</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Regional Development</li><li>2. District Administration</li><li>3. Municipalities</li><li>4. Local Authority</li></ol>
<b>Ronald Grajraj</b> <b>Minister of Home Affairs</b>	Licensing of buses/hire cars goods vehicles
<b>Shaik K.Z. Baksh</b> <b>Ministry of Housing and Water</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Housing CHP</li><li>2. Town and Country Planning</li><li>3. Water Supply</li></ol>
<b>Satyadeo Sawh</b> <b>Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Crops and Livestock</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Agriculture</li><li>2. Drainage and Irrigation</li><li>3. Rice, sugar</li><li>4. Fisheries Livestock</li><li>5. Livestock</li><li>6. New Guyana Marketing Corporation</li></ol>

<p><b>Saisnarine Kowlessar</b> <b>Ministry of Finance</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monetary Policy</li> <li>2. Fiscal Policy</li> <li>3. Budget</li> <li>4. Taxation/tax incentive</li> <li>5. Government Account and Finance control</li> <li>6. Banking/Credit/Offshore banking</li> <li>7. Statistics/valuation</li> <li>8. ERP</li> <li>9. Government Lotteries</li> <li>10. Insurance/National Insurance</li> <li>11. Relations with internal and external Financial institutions</li> </ol>
<p><b>President Bharrat Jagdeo designated the responsibility to the Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Hon. Manzoor Nadir.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Go Invest</p>
<p><b>Prime Minister Samuel A. Hinds</b> <b>Office of the Prime Minister</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Works</li> <li>2. Communications</li> <li>3. NFMU</li> <li>4. Guyana Post Office Corporation</li> <li>5. Public Utilities</li> </ol>
<p><b>Manzoor Nadir</b> <b>Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Internal Trade Commerce</li> <li>2. Internal Trade Commerce</li> <li>3. Manufacturing and Industrial Development</li> <li>4. Craft Production</li> <li>5. Provision of Public Utilities Services</li> <li>6. Consumer Protection</li> <li>7. Public Corporations</li> </ol>
<p><b>C, Anthony Xavier</b> <b>Transport and Hydraulics</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Roads</li> <li>2. Planning Design Maintenance, Construction</li> <li>3. Works And Construction</li> <li>4. Government Buildings</li> <li>5. Mechanical Equipment</li> <li>6. Electrical Inspection</li> <li>7. Civil Aviation</li> <li>8. Transport Planning Service</li> <li>9. Material Testing</li> <li>10. Shipping And Harbour Services</li> <li>11. River And Sea Defences Maritime transport</li> </ol>

APPENDIX III

PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SERVICES

SCHEDULE OF MEETING WITH VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

DATE AND TIME	MINISTER	RESPONSIBILITIES	REMARKS
10/12/2003 10.00 a.m.	Clinton Collymore Minister of Local Government And Regional Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regional Development</li> <li>2. District Administration</li> <li>3. Municipalities</li> <li>4. Local Authority</li> </ol>	Presentation by Minister <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work incomplete</li> </ol> Pending the completion of the Local Government Bill
21/1/04 11.00. a.m	Ronald Gajraj Minister of Home Affairs	Licensing of buses/hire cars goods vehicles	Presentation by three (3) mini bus operators on going discussion
18/02/2004 11.00- a.m.	Shaik K.Z. Baksh Ministry of Housing and Water	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Housing CHP</li> <li>2. Town and Country Planning</li> <li>3. Water Supply</li> </ol>	Presentation by Minister cancelled due to the non-submission of the documents requested
3/03/04	Statutory Meeting Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services	Discussion on presentation by Chief Executive Officer GUYSUCO and Hon Minister of Finance	

<p>10/03/2004 Time: 11.00 a.m.</p>	<p>Satyadeo Sawh Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries Crops and Livestock</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agriculture</li> <li>2. Drainage and Irrigation</li> <li>3. Rice, sugar</li> <li>4. Fisheries Livestock</li> <li>5. Livestock</li> <li>6. New Guyana Marketing Corporation</li> </ol>	<p>10/12/2003</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presentation by the Hon. Minister and C.E.O of Drainage and Irrigation</li> <li>2. Presentation by CEO of GUYSUCO and team</li> </ol>
<p>17/03/2004 Time: 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Saisnarine Kowlessar Ministry of Finance</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monetary Policy</li> <li>3. Fiscal Policy</li> <li>4. Budget</li> <li>5. Taxation/tax incentive</li> <li>6. Government Account and Finance control</li> <li>7. Banking/Credit/Offshore banking</li> <li>8. Statistics/valuation</li> <li>9. ERP</li> <li>10. Government Lotteries</li> <li>11. Insurance/National Insurance</li> <li>12. Relations with internal and external financial institutions</li> </ol>	<p>Presentation re. Request for reports and documentation on current and pending loans.</p> <p>The Hon. Minister did not attend.</p>
<p>24/03/2004</p>	<p>Statutory Meeting Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services</p>	<p>Discussion of questions for the representative of the President and Prime Minister.</p>	

31/03/2004	President Bharrat Jagdeo responsibility designated to Minister of Tourism Industry and Commerce, Hon. Mr. Manzoor Nadier.	Go Invest	
7/04/04	Prime Minister Samuel A. Hinds Office of the Prime Minister	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Works</li> <li>2. Communications</li> <li>3. NFMU</li> <li>4. Guyana Post Office Corporation</li> <li>5. Public Utilities</li> </ol>	
14/04/2004	Statutory Meeting Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Economic Services	Discussion questions for the Hon. Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce Minister of Transport and Hydraulics	
21/04/2004 Time: 10:30 a.m.	Manzoor Nadir Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Corporations Internal Trade Commerce</li> <li>2. Internal Trade Commerce</li> <li>3. Manufacturing and Industrial Development</li> <li>4. Craft Production</li> <li>5. Provision of Public Utilities Services</li> <li>6. Consumer Protection</li> </ol>	17/12/2003 Presentation by the Hon. Minister on the increase in the price and the impact of the possible shortage of chicken.
28/04/2004 10:30 a.m.	C. Anthony Xavier Transport and Hydraulics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Roads</li> <li>2. Planning Design Maintenance, Construction</li> <li>3. Works And Construction Government Buildings</li> <li>4. Mechanical Equipment</li> <li>5. Electrical Inspection</li> <li>6. Civil Aviation</li> </ol>	10/12/2003 Submission of documents to Committee re. Scrutiny of areas

		8. Transport Planning Service	
		9. Material Testing	
		10. Shipping And Harbour Services	
		11. River And Sea Defences Maritime Transport	

**APPENDIX IV**  
**PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC SERVICES**  
**Outline of Documentation requested from Ministries**

<b>MINISTRIES</b>	<b>DOCUMENTATION/INFORMATION REQUESTED</b>
<p><b>1. Ministry of Transportation and Hydraulics</b></p>	<p><b>1. Projects</b></p> <p>(a) All projects, source of funding, contract sums, supervising consultant contractor, start date, estimated completion date;</p> <p>(b) All other projects for which funding have been included in 2003 National Budget. Source of funding for said projects.</p> <p><b>2. Inventory of Sea and River Defenses</b></p> <p>(a) Inventory of Sea and River defenses including location of all breaches for current year, locations of structural and/or foundation failure. Medium work programme for the rehabilitation and maintenance of sea and river defenses.</p> <p><b>3. Roads and Highways</b></p> <p>(a) Reports of feasibility studies of Georgetown - Lethem Road;</p> <p>(b) Reports of feasibility studies for rehabilitation and/or construction of main roads (highways)</p> <p>(c) National Highway Network strategic plan;</p> <p>(d) Strategic plan for traffic management and control including reports of all traffic studies.</p> <p><b>4. Bridges and Ferry Services</b></p> <p>(a) Berbice River Bridge</p> <p>(b) High Level Crossing of Demerara with respect to the continued functioning of the Demerara Harbour Bridge</p> <p>(c) Function and operations of the Transport and Harbour Department including the viability of the National Ferry Service</p> <p>(e) Short term to long term plan for Demerara River Crossing including current contractual arrangements for jet boat service.</p>

<p>MINISTRIES Ministry of Housing and Water</p>	<p>5. Drainage and Irrigation (a) Review of local and national Drainage and Irrigation with a perspective for a national coordinated plan.</p>
<p>DOCUMENTATION INFORMATION REQUESTED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The specific criteria used for the allocation of house lots and there function.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) What criteria apply for particular locations?</li> <li>(b) The terms of allocation within specific areas.</li> <li>(c) What margin of preference, if any, is granted? For example to residence of the community Region 7.</li> <li>(d) The criteria applied to disqualify a person from acquiring a house lot.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2) What role does the Ministry play, in any, in terms of recommendations and decisions, in the work of hand selection committees of various Regions?</li> <li>3) Statistical data on the allocation of persons removed from their respective regions e.g. how many persons were transferred from Region 4 to Region 3 etc?</li> <li>4) The general policy with respect to acquiring assistance from financial institutions.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The procedure used to facilitate persons in obtaining financial assistance.</li> </ol> </li> <li>5) Details of the regularization of squatter settlements:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) List of regularized squatter settlements;</li> <li>(b) Chronology of regularizing the settlements at (a)</li> <li>(c) Details of cost associated with regularization of each settlements</li> <li>(d) List of all unregularized squatter settlements.</li> <li>(e) Programmes for the regularization of settlements at (d)</li> </ol> </li> <li>6) The general policy with respect to infrastructural development into the new housing areas and squatter settlements:</li> </ol>	



- Details of infrastructural development in the various communities
- 7) Details of the "Low Income Home" programme.

**DOCUMENTATION**

- 1) A list of all external borrowing by the Government of Guyana over the period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2003 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2003.
- a) the source of each borrowing whether bilateral or multilateral and the names of lending agency
  - b) the amount borrowed
  - c) the repayment period
  - d) the rate of interest
  - e) the purpose for which each borrowing was granted
  - f) achievements resulting from each borrowing. If the borrowing may have been repaid the information should still be submitted
- 2) A listing of all internal borrowing short, medium and long term, if any with comparable information as at (a) to (f) in (1).
- 3) A break-down of the stock of debt at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1992, external and internal, by tender, amount borrowed, amount outstanding for payment, rate of interest and repayment period.
- 4) Amount of debt written off between 1993 and 2003 identified on a loan by loan basis.
- 5) A listing of all grants received by Guyana between 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1993 and 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2003, identifying the course of each grant, the amount the purpose for which granted and the results achieved.
- 6) Copies of all current agreements with IMF (including HIPC) and the status of implementation of each.
- 7) Copies of all country reports done on Guyana within the last five (5) years by any bilateral or

multilateral agency.

- 8) The status of customs order the replace the one which was illegal.

**DOCUMENTATION/INFORMATION REQUESTED**

- 1) Disaggregating of "Employment Expense"

- a) Estate senior Staff
- b) Estate Junior Staff
- c) Field Staff
- d) Head quarters/Central
- e) Pension Contribution (Employer)
- f) NIS Contributions (Employer)
- g) Other

- 2) Are temporary workers included in the "Number of Employer"?
- 3) What are the numbers of permanent and temporary workers?

**MINISTRIES OF TOURISM,  
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE**

**DOCUMENTATION /INFORMATION REQUESTED**

Tariffs on importation of Chicken

- 1) Tariffs on the importation of chicken and its impact on the local industry and on the price to consumers.
- 2) The issue of the production and availability of chicken
- 3) The sustainability of the production of chicken.

Mini-bus fares

A detailed breakdown of the "build-up" of fares for mini-buses operating the Nos. 31 and 32 routes