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**GEORGETOWN, TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2019**

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**TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2019**

THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE      2<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2019  
LEGAL SUPPLEMENT — B

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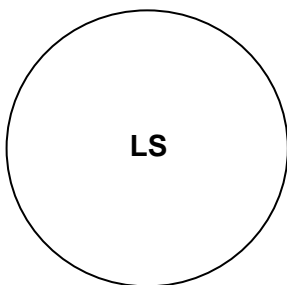
GUYANA

Seal No. 121 of 2019



COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

“To inquire into the circumstances surrounding the piracy attacks, which included violent criminal acts, hijacking of Guyanese-owned vessels and the resultant deaths of Guyanese nationals on, or about, the 2018.04.27 off of the Atlantic Coast of the Republic of Suriname and to report the findings and recommendations to His Excellency Brigadier David Granger, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana”



By the President of the Co-operative  
Republic of Guyana.

PRESIDENT.

**WHEREAS** it is provided by Section 2 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, Cap. 19:03 of the Laws of Guyana, that the President may issue a Commission appointing one or more Commissioners and authorizing such Commissioner or Commissioners to inquire into any matter in which an Inquiry would, in the opinion of the President be for the Public Interest.

**AND WHEREAS**, it is the opinion of the President that such an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the piracy attacks, which included violent criminal acts, hijacking of Guyanese owned vessels and the resultant deaths of Guyanese nationals, on, or, about the 2018.04.27 off of the Atlantic Coast of the Republic of Suriname would be for public interest.

**NOW THEREFORE**, acting under the provisions of the Commission of Inquiry Act, Cap.19:03, and by virtue and in exercise of all powers enabling me in that behalf, I do hereby issue this Commission and appoint:

Dr. Rishree Shri Thakur as Commissioner

“To inquire into the circumstances surrounding the piracy attacks, which included violent criminal acts, hijacking of Guyanese-owned vessels and the resultant deaths of twenty Guyanese Nationals on, or about, the 2018.04.27 off of the Atlantic Coast of the

Republic of Suriname and to report the findings and recommendations to His Excellency Brigadier David Granger, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana”.

**(a) Terms of Reference**

The Commission of Inquiry will:-

1. Investigate, determine and make findings of fact on all matters in relation to the piracy attacks;
2. Determine the number and the identities of the persons killed off of the Atlantic Coast of the Republic of Suriname on, or about, 2018.04.27;
3. Determine the identities of the perpetrators and motives behind such violations, with a view of ensuring that those responsible are held accountable;
4. Determine the role of state agencies of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana in the security of fishermen in the area;
5. Recommend actions to be taken against all persons and/or organizations that are deemed responsible for the deaths of those persons based on the determination of the above; and
6. Report on a plan of action to guide initiatives to be undertaken, both at sea and onshore, to prevent and counter piracy and related activities, by addressing the root causes of this phenomenon;

**(B) Rules of Procedure**

The Commissioner shall:

1. Interview all persons, examine available documents and consider the views of all persons deemed relevant in the opinion of the Commissioner;
2. Render the final report, findings and recommendations to His Excellency, The President, Brigadier David Granger on or before the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2019 or any later date as may be determined by His Excellency;
3. Conduct the Inquiry continually at the Training Centre, Skeldon Estate, East Berbice-Corentyne Region and at such other places as may be determined by the Commissioner;
4. The Commissioner shall conduct this Inquiry in public, with reservation, nevertheless, to the Commissioner to exclude any person/persons if the Commissioner deems fit for the due conduct of the inquiry or the preservation of Order;
5. Make such rules for his own guidance, conduct and management of the proceedings before the Commission and the times and places for such proceedings as he may from time to time think fit;
6. Have the powers of the High Court to summon witnesses; to examine witnesses under oath; and to call for the production of books and documents;
7. Authorize any person giving evidence or any person who appears to him to have an interest in the subject of the proceedings before him to be represented at such proceedings or in any part thereof;

8. Commence work on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2019 and shall take appropriate steps to ensure that its work is completed and the report submitted within the aforesaid time; and
9. Establish and regulate his own procedures for the conduct of the Inquiry subject to the above and shall be governed by the aforesaid provisions of the Constitution of Guyana, the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03, the High Court Act, Chapter 3:01 and any other Laws enabling.

The Minister of State shall appoint a Secretary to the Commission, and may appoint Officers of the Commission as may be determined for the purpose of assisting the Commissioner in the discharge of his duties.

Given under my hand and the Seal of Guyana at the Ministry of the Presidency, Georgetown, Guyana this *Twenty-Eighth* day of June, Two Thousand and Nineteen in the Fiftieth year of the Republic.

By the President's Command



Minister of State