# 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**

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – BILL NO. 12/2012

PRESENTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

BY

MR. BASIL WILLIAMS, M.P. CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

ON

18<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2013

## REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – BILL NO. 12/2012

#### **Publication**

1. The Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Bill No. 12/2012 seeks to amend the Local Government Act. This Bill was published on 31st July, 2012.

### **Introduction and First Reading**

2. The Bill was introduced in the National Assembly and read for a first time on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 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 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2012 the Committee of Selection nominated the following Members to comprise the Special Select Committee to consider the Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Bill No. 12/2012.

## 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 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. Veerasammy Ramayya, M.P.

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

- 5. At the first meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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, the Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Bill No. 12/2012 was considered at the following Meetings:

11th Meeting held on 15th March, 2013;

12th Meeting held on 21st March, 2013;

14th Meeting held on 17th May, 2013;

15th Meeting held on 31st May;

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2013, the Committee agreed to the following:
  - (i) that it 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 9<sup>th</sup> Parliament; and
  - (iv) that the Clerk of the Committee provide Members with a schedule of meetings.

#### Consideration of the Bill

- 11. The Committee commenced consideration of the Bill on 15th March, 2013.
- 12. The following Clause/Sections were accepted as presented: 2, Schedule: 15, 20, 22(5), 29(6),(7)(b) and (8), 35, 36 including marginal note, 38, 40(1), 41(1) and (2), 42, 43(1), 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53, 56, 57(1), 58(1), 59, 64, 66(2), 67, 68, 70, 71(1), (2), (3) and (5), 72(1) and (2), 73, 74, 75(1) and (3), 76, 80, 81, 84(1) and (2), 86 (1) and (2), 88 (1), 99, 100, 109, 114, 115, 120, 121, 122, 125, 126 A, 128 including marginal note, 129, 130(2), 131, 135, 137, 140 (1), 141(1), 146 (A), 147 (c),(e),(f), (g), (k), (i) and closing lines to section 147, 150, 151, 152, 156, 170 A, 170 B, Long Title, Part IV Heading, Part V Heading, Part VIII, Part IX Heading, Part XI Heading, First Schedule Forms 1, 2, 3 and 4, Second and Third Schedules.
- 13. The following Clause/Sections were accepted as amended: 1, Schedule: 2, 6, 9, 10 (1), 12, 13, 14, 26 (1) and (2), 37(1), 39, 49(1), 52, 54(6), 55, 66 (1)(a), 69, 82, 83, 87(2), 89(2), 96(6), 102(1), 132, 133, 134(1) and (2), 136(1), 138, 139 (1), and (2), 143, 144 (2) and (3), 145, 146, 147(b), 169, 170, the Enactment and the Principal Act (the whole).
- 14. In addition to consideration of the Bill as presented to the National Assembly, the following new sections were examined and amended:
  - 12, 13, 14, 43(3), 82, 83 and 139 (3).

- 15. There was no consensus on Sections: 2(4), 6(1) and (2), 12(1), 13, 14, and the Principal Act (the whole). Hence, the amendments were agreed upon by a majority vote.
- 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 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting, 2013 the Special Select Committee on the Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2012 Bill No. 12/2012 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
Local Government (Amendment) Bill 2012 – Bill No. 12/2012

Committees Division Parliament Office Public Buildings Brickdam Georgetown

5<sup>th</sup> July, 2013.

## **SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE**

## - LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 - BILL NO. 12/2012;

## THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION BILL 2012 – BILL NO. 13/2012;

## MUNICIPAL AND DISCTRICT COUNCILS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – BILL NO. 19/2012; AND

## - THE FISCAL TRANSFERS BILL 2012 BILL 2012 – BILL NO. 20/2012 ATTENDANCE RECORD (2012-2013)

NAME OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PR	Nov.	Dec.		Jan			Feb.			Ma	arch			May		Ju	ne	July
NAME	28 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	21st	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>
Hon. Ganga Persaud, M.P., Minister of Local Government and Regional Development	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.
Ms Gail Teixeira, M.P., Chief Whip.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.
Bibi Safora Shadick, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.
Mr. Neendkumar, J.P., M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Ex.	Pr.
Ms Amna Ally, M.P., Chief Whip	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.
Mr. Basil Williams, M.P. (Chairman)	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.
Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Joseph Harmon, M.S.M., M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.
Mr. Ronald Bulkan, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.
Dr. Veerasammy Ramayya, M.P.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Abs	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.

Pr. - Present
Abs. - Absent
Ex. - Excused

Committees Division Parliament Office Public Buildings Georgetown 31st March, 2014.

## **APPENDIX II**

# MATRIX SHOWING AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012 – BILL NO. 12/2012

THE BILL	AMENDMENTS
Long title	Unaltered
The Enactment  A.D. 2012 Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana:-	Substitute - <b>A.<u>D. 20</u>13</b> Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana:-
Clause 1  This Act, which amends the Local Government Act, may be cited as the Local Government (Amendment) Act 2012.	Substitute -  This Act, which amends the Local Government Act, may be cited as the Local Government (Amendment) Act 2013.
Clause 2	Unaltered

SCHEDULE	
Long title	Substitute -
Insert immediately before the word "village"	Insert immediately before the word "village"
the words "neighbourhood,".	the words "neighbourhoods,".
Section 2	Substitute –
	1. Immediately after the definition of
	"by-laws" insert the following
	<u>definition -</u>
	"Commission" means the
	<b>Local</b> Government
	<b>Commission</b> established
	under section 3 of the
	<b>Local</b> Government
	Act No. of 2013 Commission Act 2013;
1. In the definition of "district", insert	2. In the definition of "district", insert
immediately before the word "village"	immediately before the word "village"
No. 47 of 1990 the words "neighbourhood (constituted	No. 47 of 1990 the words "neighbourhood (constituted
by the Local Democratic Organs	by the Local Democratic Organs
(Areas) Order 1990),".	(Areas) Order 1990),".

- 2. Delete the definition of "district commissioner".
- 3. In the definition of "local authority" insert immediately before the the word "village", the words "neighbourhood democratic council (constituted under the Local Democratic Organs (Neighbourhood Democratic Councils) Order 1990),".
- 4. Insert immediately before the definition | **Deleted** of "street" the following definition -

"Regional Executive officer" means the clerk or Chief Executive Officer of a Regional Democratic Council;".

- <u>3.</u> Delete the definition of "district commissioner".
- 4. Substitute the following for the definition of local authority:

"local authority" means <u>municipal</u> council, neighbourhood democratic council, a village council, a community council, and any other similar organ;

Section 6	Substitute -
1. For the word "it" substitute the words	<b>Substitute the following section for section 6</b>
"the Minister".	=
2. For the word "their" substitute the word "the" and insert immediately after the word "approval" the words "of the Minister".	"Power in Commission to make enquires  6. The Commission may from time to time, cause to be made any inquiries directed by this  Act and any inquiries the Commission sees fit in relation to any matters with respect to which the consent, sanction or approval of the Commission is required by this Act."
Immediately after the amendment to section  6 insert the following amendments to  sections 12, 13 and 14 -	
"Section 12 (New Section)	<ol> <li>Delete subsection (1).</li> <li>Renumber subsection (2) as section 12.</li> <li>Substitute the following marginal note</li> </ol>
	"Non-application of time  limitation on monetary claims."
Section 13 (New Section)	Substitute –

	Substitute the following section for
	section 13 -
	"Power of 13. The Commission shall have the Minister
	to act as and may exercise in any local
	authority <u>village or country district</u>
	any or all of the powers of a
	local authority whenever it
	appears to the Commission
	expedient to do so."
Section 14 (New Section)	(1) For the word "Minister"
	wherever the word appears
	substitute the word
	"Commission".
	(2) For the words "he deems" in
	subsection (2)(a) substitute the
	words "the Commission deems"."
Section 15	
subsection (1)(a)	Unaltered
subsection (1)(b)	Unaltered

subsection (1)(c)	Unaltered
subsection (1)(d)	Unaltered
subsection (2)	Unaltered
PART II Heading	Unaltered
Section 20	Unaltered
Section 22(5)	Unaltered
Section 26	
Subsection (1)	
For the words "ten dollars" substitute the words "three thousand dollars".	Deleted
Subsection (2)	
For the words "twenty dollars" substitute the	Deleted
words "six thousand dollars".	

Section 20(6) (7)(h) and (9)	Unaltanad
Section 29(6),(7)(b) and (8)	Unaltered
Section 35	Unaltered
Section 36 including the marginal note	Unaltered
Section 37 (1)	Substitute –
Insert immediately before the word	1. Unaltered
"village", where the word appears for	
the first time, the words	
"neighbourhood,".	
2. Insert immediately before the word	2. Insert immediately before the word
"village", where the word appears for	"village", where the word appears for
the second time, the words	the second time, the words
"neighbourhood democratic council,".	"neighbourhood democratic council
	or a".
Section 38	Unaltered
The Principal Act (the whole)	
For the words "district commissioner",	Deleted
wherever the words appear, substitute the	
words "regional executive officer".	

Section39  Insert immediately before the word  "village" the words "neighbourhood democratic council,".	Substitute -  Delete section 39.
Section 40(1)	Unaltered
Section 41 Subsection (1)	Unaltered
Subsection (2)	Unaltered
PART IV Heading	Unaltered
Section 42	Unaltered
Section 43(1)	Unaltered
Section 43(3) (New subsection)	Delete subsection (3).

PART V Heading	Unaltered
Section 44, 45, 46 and 47  Section 48	Unaltered
Section 49(1)  1. Insert immediately before the word "village" the words "neighbourhood,".	Unaltered
<ul><li>2. Insert immediately before the words</li><li>"Village Council" the words</li></ul>	<ul><li>2. Insert immediately before the words</li><li>"Village Council" the words</li></ul>
"Neighbourhood Democratic Council,".	"Neighbourhood Democratic Council or
reignoumood Democratic Council, .	the".
Section 50	Unaltered
Section 50	Unaitered
Section 51	Unaltered
Section 52	Substitute -
Insert immediately before the word	1. Insert immediately before the word
"village", wherever the word appears,	"village", where the word appears for
the words "neighbourhood,".	the first time, the words

he word appears
he word appears
appears

paragraph (c)	
Delete the words "or to the body known as	Unaltered
the Guyana Village Chairman's	
Conference".	
	paragraph (g)
	For the colon at the end of paragraph
	(g), substitute a full stop.
proviso	Unaltered
Delete.	
Sections 56, 57(1), 58(1) and 59	Unaltered
Section 64	Unaltered
Section 66	
Subsection (1)(a)	Unaltered
subsection (2)	Unaltered
Section 67	
Subsections (1) and (2)	Unaltered

## Subsection (4)(b)

For the words "five per cent per annum shall thereupon become due and payable" substitute the words "not less than one per cent above the lending rate at a commercial bank where the Council would have borrowed the said sum payable".

#### Section 68

#### Section 69

For the words "The local authority of a village or country district may, with the approval of the Minister," substitute the words "The Minister or local authority of a neighbourhood, village or country district ground of may".

## Substitute -

For the words "five per cent per annum shall thereupon become due and payable" substitute the words "not more than one per cent above the lending rate at a commercial bank where the Council would have borrowed the said sum payable".

#### Unaltered

#### Substitute -

## **Substitute the following section for section**

## 69 -

"Power to exempt property from payment of rates on the poverty of proprietor.

"69. The local authority of a neighbourhood, village country district may, with the approval of the Minister, exempt, on the ground of the poverty of the proprietor any

	lot or building from the payment of any rates under
	this Act."
Sections 70, 71(1), (2), (3) and (5), 72(1) and (2), 73, 74, 75(1) and (3)	Unaltered
Section 79	Unaltered
Section 80 and 81	Unaltered
Immediately after the amendment to	
sections 80 and 81 insert the following new amendments.	
"Sections 82 and 83	Delete the words "or the district commissioner" wherever they appear."
Section 84(1) and (2)	Unaltered
Section 86(1) and (2)	Unaltered
Section 86(1) and (2)	Unaltered

Section 87	Substitute –
Delete.	Delete subsection (2) and renumber
	subsection (1) as section 87.
Section 88(1)	Unaltered
Section oo(1)	Charleted
Section 90(2)	
Section 89(2)	
For the words "the sum of one dollar"	Deleted
substitute the words "a sum of money as	
the Minister may by order prescribe".	
Section 96(6)	
For the words "one thousand dollars"	Deleted
substitute the words "forty thousand	
dollars".	
Section 99	Unaltered
	Charleted
G (* 100	77 1. 1
Section 100	Unaltered
<b>Section 102(1)</b>	

For the words "ten dollars" substitute the	Deleted
words "to a fine of not less than twenty	
thousand dollars nor more than forty	
thousand dollars".	
Section 109	Unaltered
PART VIII	
<u>Heading</u>	Unaltered
Section 114	Unaltered
<b>Section 115(1)</b>	Unaltered
Section 120	Unaltered
Section 121	Unaltered
PART IX Heading	Unaltered
Sections 122	
and 125	Unaltered

Section 126A	Unaltered	
Section 128 including the marginal note	Unaltered	
Section 129	Unaltered	
Section 130(2)	Unaltered	
Part XI Heading	Unaltered	
Section 131	Unaltered	
Section 132	Substitute -	
Insert immediately before the word	Insert immediately before the word	
"village", wherever the word appears,	"village", the words	
the words "neighbourhood,".	"neighbourhood,".	
Section 133	Substitute -	
Insert immediately before the word	1. Insert immediately before the word	
"village", wherever the word appears,	"village", the words	
the words "neighbourhood,".	"neighbourhood,".	

	2. In the opening part substitute for the
	colon a full stop.
	3. Delete the proviso.
Section 134	Insert the following as a new amendment to
subsection (1)	subsection (1)
	Substitute –
	For the words "The Audit-General
	or district commissioner or any
	person authorised in writing by
	either of them," substitute the words
	"The Auditor General".
Insert immediately before the word	Unaltered
"village" the words "neighbourhood,".	
subsection (2)	
For the words "two hundred dollars"	Deleted
substitute the words "twenty thousand	
dollars".	
Section 135	Unaltered
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<b>Section 136(1)</b>	
1. Insert immediately before the word	Unaltered
"village", wherever the word	
appears, the words	
"neighbourhood,".	
2. Delete the words "or in the post office savings bank".	Unaltered
	Insert the following as a new amendment to
	subsection (1)
	Substitute -
	3. For the words "district commissioner"
	wherever they appear, substitute the
	word "council".
Section 137	Unaltered
Section 138	Substitute -
Insert immediately before the word "village",	1. Insert immediately before the word
wherever the word appears, the words	" <u>village</u> ", the words
"neighbourhood,".	"neighbourhood,".
	<u>Insert the following as a new amendment to</u>

	Section 138
	Section 130
	2. Delete the words "the district commissioner or".
Section 139 (1) and (2)	
Insert immediately before the word "village",	Unaltered
wherever the word appears, the words	
"neighbourhood,".	
	<u>Insert the following as a new amendment to</u>
	subsections (1) and (2)
	Substitute -
	For the words "district commissioner"
	wherever they appear, substitute the word
	"council".
subsection (2) (New subsection)	Culostituto
subsection (3) (New subsection)	Substitute -
	In subsection (3) for the words "he may"
	substitute the words "the council may".
<b>Section 140(1)</b>	Unaltered
<b>Section 141(1)</b>	Unaltered

Section 143  For the words "twenty dollars" substitute the words "twenty thousand dollars".	Deleted
Section 144	
subsection (2)  For the words "fifty dollars" substitute the words "five thousand dollars".	Deleted
subsection (3)  For the words "fifty dollars" substitute the words "twenty thousand dollars".	Deleted
Section 145 and 146  For the words "fifty dollars" substitute the words "twenty thousand dollars".	Deleted
Section 146A	Unaltered

Section 147	Insert the following as a new amendment to
paragraph (b)	paragraph (b)
	1. Delete the words "any district commissioner,".
1. Insert immediately before the word	Unaltered
"village", where the word appears	
for the first time, the words	
"neighbourhood democratic councillor,".	
councilior, .	
2. Insert immediately before the word	Unaltered
"village", where the word appears	
for the second time, the words	
"neighbourhood democratic	
council,".	
paragraphs (c),	Unaltered
(e), (f) and (g)	
paragraph (k)	Unaltered
paragraph (l)	Unaltered

closing lines to section 147	Unaltered
Section 150	Unaltered
Sections 151	Unaltered
152 and 156	Unaltered
Section 169  Delete the words ", not exceeding twelve cents for each copy,".	Deleted
Section 170	Deleted
For the words "one hundred dollars"	
substitute the words "five thousand dollars" and for the words "twenty	
dollars" substitute the words "one thousand dollars".	
Section 170A	Unaltered
Section 170B	Unaltered

First Schedule Forms 1, 2, 3 and 4	Unaltered
Second and	
Third Schedules	Unaltered

## **APPENDIX III**

## **GUYANA**

## **BILL No. 12 of 2012**

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2012

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

## **SECTION**

- 1. Short title.
- 2. Amendment of the Principal Act.

## **SCHEDULE**

## A BILL

## Intituled

AN ACT to amend the Local Government Act.

A.<u>D.2</u>013 Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana:-

Short title.

Cap. 28:02

1. This Act, which amends the Local Government Act, may be cited as the Local Government (Amendment) Act <u>2013</u>.

Amendment of the Principal Act.

2. The provisions of the Principal Act specified in the first column of the Schedule are amended in the manner specified in the corresponding entry in the second column of the Schedule.

**SCHEDULE** 

s. 2

PROVISIONS	AMENDMENTS
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Long title	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhoods,".
Section 2	5. Immediately after the definition of "by-laws" insert the
	<u>following definition -</u>
	"Commission" means the Local Government
	Commission established under section 3 of the
	No. of 2013 Local Government Commission Act 2013;'
	6. In the definition of "district", insert immediately before the word
	"village" the words "neighbourhood (constituted by the Local  No. 47 of 1990 Democratic Organs (Areas) Order 1990),".
	7. Delete the definition of "district commissioner".
	8. Substitute the following for the definition of local authority -
	"local authority" means a municipal council, a
	neighbourhood democratic council, a village council, a
	community council, and any other similar organ;
Section 6	Substitute the following section for section 6 -
	"Power in Commission may from time to time, cause to be made any inquiries directed by this Act and any inquiries. inquiries the Commission sees fit in relation to any
	inquiries the Commission sees fit in relation to any matters with respect to which the consent, sanction or
	approval of the Commission is required by this Act."

<ul> <li>4. Delete subsection (1).</li> <li>5. Renumber subsection (2) as section 12.</li> <li>6. Substitute the following marginal note –  "Non-application of time limitation on monetary claims."</li> </ul>
Substitute the following section for section 13 -
"Power of 13. The Commission shall have and may exercise in any the Minister to act as local authority  willage or country district any or all of the powers of a local authority whenever it appears to the Commission expedient to do so."
<ol> <li>For the word "Minister" wherever the word appears         substitute the word "Commission".</li> <li>For the words "he deems" in subsection (2)(a) substitute</li> </ol>
the words "the Commission deems".
Insert immediately before the word "villages" the words "neighbourhoods," and before the word "village" the words "neighbourhood,".

subsection (1)(b)	Insert immediately before the word "village", wherever the word
	appears, the words "neighbourhood democratic councils,".
subsection (1)(c)	Insert immediately before the word "villages", the words "neighbourhoods,".
subsection (1)(d)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words "neighbourhood,".
subsection (2)	Substitute the following —  "The Minister may, for any purpose for which a local authority is authorized to make by-laws, cause those by-laws to have effect in any neighbourhood, village or country district, and those by-laws shall have effect in every neighbourhood, village or country district or in any neighbourhood, village or country district, specified in the by-laws."
Part II Heading	Insert immediately before the word "VILLAGE" the words "NEIGHBOURHOOD,".
Section 20	
subsection (1)	<ol> <li>Insert immediately before the word "Village" the words     "Neighbourhoods,".</li> </ol>

	0 T 1 1(07)11 22 1 22 2 1 1/(21) 22
	2. For the word "Village" substitute the word "village".
subsection (2)	1. Insert immediately before the words "a village district" the words
	"a neighbourhood,".
	2. Insert immediately before the words "a village council" the
	words "a neighbourhood democratic council,".
Section 22(5)	For the words "one hundred dollars" substitute the words
	"twenty-five thousand dollars".
	2. For the words "five hundred dollars" substitute the words "five
	million dollars".
Section 29(6),	
(7)(b) and (8)	Delete the words "through the commissioner" wherever the words
	appear.
Section 35	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
Section 36	
including the	

marginal note	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood democratic council,".
Section 37(1)	Insert immediately before the word "village", where the word
	appears for the first time, the words "neighbourhood,".
	2. Insert immediately before the word "village", where the word appears for the second time, the words "neighbourhood
	democratic <b>council or a</b> ".
Section 38	
subsection (1)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
subsection (3)	In the opening part, insert immediately before the word "village" the
	words "neighbourhood democratic council or".
subsection (3)(b)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood or".
Section 39	<u>Delete section 39.</u>

Section 40(1)	Insert immediately before the word "village", wherever the word
	appears, the words "neighbourhood democratic council or".
Section 41	
subsection (1)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood democratic council or".
subsection (2)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood democratic council,".
PART IV Heading	Insert immediately before the word "VILLAGE" the words
	"NEIGHBOURHOOD DEMOCRATIC COUNCILS,".
Section 42	1. Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
subsection (1)	"neighbourhood,".
	2. Delete the words ", subject to the approval of the Minister,".
subsection (2)	Delete the words "with the sanction of the Minister".
subsections (5), (7)	
and (8)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words

	"neighbourhood,".
marginal note	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood democratic councils,".
Section 43	
Subsection (1)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
Subsection (3)	<u>Delete.</u>
PART V Heading	Insert immediately before the word "VILLAGE" the words
TAKT V Heading	
	"NEIGHBOURHOOD DEMOCRATIC COUNCILS,".
Sections 44, 45,	
46 and 47	Insert immediately before the word "village", wherever the word
	appears, the words "neighbourhood,".
g 10	appears, the words heighteethicou,
Section 48	
subsections (1)	
and (3)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
subsection (3)	Delete the words "with the approval of the Minister".
Section 49(1)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".

	2. Insert immediately before the words "Village Council" the words "Neighbourhood Democratic Council or the".
Section 50	
subsections (1)	
and (4) including	
the marginal note	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
subsection (1)	Delete the words ", with the approval of the Minister,".
Section 51(1)	
and (2)	
including the	
marginal note	Insert immediately before the word "village", wherever the word
	appears, the words "neighbourhood,".
Sections 52	3. Insert immediately before the word "village", where the word
Sections 32	
	appears <b>for the first time</b> , the words "neighbourhood,".
	4. Insert immediately before the word "village" where the word
	appears for the second time, the words "neighbourhood or".

Section 53	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
Section 54	
subsection (1)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
subsection (2)	For the words "approval," substitute the word "notification" and
	delete the words "and the Minister may approve of them either in
	their entirety or subject to such changes as he may think fit".
subsection (4)	For the word "its" substitute the word "his".
subsection (6)	Delete the words ", determined in such manner as may be approved
	by the Minister".
Section 55	
the opening part,	
paragraphs (e), (f)	
and (g)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
paragraph (c)	Delete the words "or to the body known as the Guyana Village

	Chairman's Conference".
paragraph (g) proviso	For the colon at the end of paragraph (g), substitute a full stop.  Delete.
Sections 56, 57(1),	
58(1) and 59	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words "neighbourhood,".
Section 64	Delete the words ", without naming him".
Section 66	
subsection (1)(a)	For the word "Minister" substitute the word "Council".
subsection (2)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words "neighbourhood,".
Section 67	
subsections (1)	
and (2)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words "neighbourhood,".
<u>l</u>	

subsection (4)(b)	For the words "five per cent <i>per annum</i> shall thereupon become due
	and payable" substitute the words "not more than one per cent
	above the lending rate at a commercial bank where the Council
	would have borrowed the said sum payable".
Section 68	
subsection (1)(b)	Delete.
subsection (2)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
Section 69	Substitute the following section for section 69 -
Section 05	
	"Power to exempt property 69. The local authority of a neighbourhood, village or
	from payment of country district may, with the approval of the rates on the
	ground of poverty of Minister, exempt, on the ground of the poverty of
	proprietor. the proprietor any lot or building from the payment
	of any rates under this Act."
Sections 70, 71(1),	
(2), (3) and (5),	
72(1) and (2), 73,	
74, 75(1) and (3)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
	neignoodinood, .
G =0	
Section 79	Substitute the following section for section 79 –
	"Fees on 79. (1) The Minister of Legal Affairs shall, by Order
	prescribe the fees payable for any process of

	distress issued under this Act.
	distress issued under this Act.
	(2) Fees shall be paid at the first instance by the party
	applying for process.
	(3) Costs shall be awarded in the matter of the
	distress."
Sections 80 and 81	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
Sections 82 and 83	Delete the words "or the district commissioner" wherever they
	appear.
Section 84(1)	
and (2)	Substitute the following section for section 84 –
	"Fees on 84. (1) The Minister of Legal Affairs shall, by Order,
	summary prescribe the fees for the process of parate or
	execution.
	summary execution.
	(2) No charge shall be made for traveling expenses,
	distance money, conditions of sale, copies of
	documents, printing, or any other matter not
	prescribed."
Section 86(1)	

and (2)	Insert immediately before the word "village", wherever the word
	appears, the words "neighbourhood,".
Section 87	Delete subsection (2) and renumber subsection (1) as section 87.
Section 88(1)	Insert immediately before the word "village", wherever the word appears, the words "neighbourhood,".
Section 99	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words "neighbourhood,".
Section 100	Delete the words "with the prior approval of the Minister".
Section 109 including the	
marginal note	For the words "five hundred dollars" substitute the words "twenty thousand dollars".
PART VIII Heading	Insert immediately before the word "VILLAGE" the words "NEIGHBOURHOOD,".
Section 114	Insert immediately before the word "village", wherever the word appears, the words "neighbourhood,".

Section 115(1)	1. Insert immediately before the word "village", where the word
	appears for the first and third time, the words
	"neighbourhood,".
	2. Insert immediately before the word "village" where the word
	appears for the second time, the words "neighbourhood
	democratic council,".
Section 120	For the words "shall be liable to a fine of one hundred dollars"
	substitute the words "commits an offence and shall be liable to a
	fine of one hundred thousand dollars and to a further fine of ten
	thousand dollars for each day the offence continues".
Section 121	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
PART IX Heading	Insert immediately before the word "VILLAGE" the words
	"NEIGHBOURHOOD,".
Sections 122	
and 125	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
Section 126A	Insert immediately after section 126 the following as section 126A
Section 120A	misert immediately after section 120 the following as section 120A

	together with the marginal note "Local Authority to respond to
	emergency or disaster.
	emergency of disaster.
	126A. (1) Each local authority shall respond to emergencies or
	disasters in a manner as determined by the local authority whether it
	is a national or local emergency or disaster within their
	Neighbourhood Democratic Council or in another Neighbourhood
	Democratic Council.
	(2) Each local authority may prescribe general procedures for the
	handling of emergencies or disasters including the deployment of
	personnel and equipment necessary.".
Section 128	
including the	
marginal note	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
Section 129	Insert immediately before the word "village", wherever the word
Section 129	
	appears, the words "neighbourhood,".
Section 130(2)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood democratic council,".
Part XI Heading	Insert immediately before the word "VILLAGE" the words

	"NEIGHBOURHOOD,".
Section 131	1. Insert immediately before the word "village", where the word
	appears for the first time, the words "neighbourhood,".
	2. Insert immediately before the word "village", where the word appears for the second time, the words "neighbourhood
	democratic council,".
marginal note	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
	"neighbourhood,".
Sections 132	Insert immediately before the word "village", the words
	"neighbourhood,".
Section 133	4. Insert immediately before the word "village", the words
	"neighbourhood,".
	5. In the opening part substitute for the colon a full stop.
	6. Delete the proviso.
Section 134	
subsection (1)	1. For the words "The Audit-General or district commissioner
	or any person authorised in writing by either of them,"
	substitute the words "The Auditor General".
	2. Insert immediately before the word "village" the words

	"neighbourhood,".
Section 135	Insert immediately before the word "village", wherever the word
	appears, the words "neighbourhood,".
Section 136(1)	1. Insert immediately before the word "village", wherever the word appears, the words "neighbourhood,".
	2. For the words "district commissioner" wherever they
	appear, substitute the word "council".
	3. Delete the words "or in the post office savings bank".
Section 137	For the words "to a public officer designated by the Minister or the
	district commissioner", substitute the words "as revenue to the
	local authority".
Sections 138	3. Insert immediately before the word "village", the words
	"neighbourhood,".
	4. Delete the words "the district commissioner or"
<b>Section 139 (1)</b>	<b>1.</b> Insert immediately before the word "village", wherever the word
and (2)	appears, the words "neighbourhood,".
	2. For the words "district commissioner" wherever they appear
	substitute the word "council".

subsection 3	3. In subsection (3) for the words "he may" substitute the words "the council may".
Section 140(1)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words     "neighbourhood,".
	2. For the words "one hundred thousand dollars", substitute the words "one million dollars".
Section 146A	Insert immediately after section 146 the following as section 146A together with the marginal note "Blockage of drainage or irrigation canal.  146A. (1) Notwithstanding anything in this Act, any proprietor or occupier or anyone acting on behalf of a proprietor or occupier who fills in or interrupts the free flow of water in a waterway meant to provide drainage or irrigation in any local authority district, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than three hundred thousand dollars nor more than five hundred thousand dollars; and to a further fine of ten thousand dollars for each day that the offence continues after conviction.

	(2) The Minister or the local authority, acting on the written
	instructions of the Minister, shall without delay remove the
	blockage in the waterway referred to in subsection (1) and add any
	expenditure incurred in the removal of the blockage to the rates
	payable by the proprietor of the property.".
	payable by the proprietor of the property.
Section 147	
paragraph (b)	2. Delete the words "any district commissioner,".
	3. Insert immediately before the word "village", where the word
	appears for the first time, the words "neighbourhood democratic councillor,".
	4. Insert immediately before the word "village", where the word
	appears for the second time, the words "neighbourhood
	democratic council,".
paragraphs (c),	
(e), (f) and (g)	Insert immediately before the word "village" the words
(3), (3) 33-32 (8)	
	"neighbourhood,".
paragraph (k)	For the comma at the end of paragraph (k) substitute a semi-colon.
paragraph (l)	Immediately after paragraph (k) insert the following paragraph as
paragraph (1)	
	paragraph (l)–

	"(1) litters any public street or public road or parapet in a
	local authority or dumps any domestic or commercial or
	industrial or hazardous garbage in an area of a local
	authority not designated as a place for the dumping
	garbage,".
alosing lines to	
closing lines to	Delete the election lines and substitute the following
section 147	Delete the closing lines and substitute the following –
	"shall be liable to a fine of twenty thousand dollars and to a
	further fine of five thousand dollars for each day that the
	offence continues after due and proper notice was given.".
Section 150	For the words "five hundred dollars" substitute the words "fifty
	thousand dollars".
Sections 151,	
152 and 156	Insert immediately before the word "village", wherever the word
	appears, the words "neighbourhood,".
Section 169	Delete the words ", not exceeding sixty-five dollars for each
	<u>copy</u> ,".
	====,·

Section 170A	Insert immediately often section 170 the following as section 170A
Section 170A	Insert immediately after section 170 the following as section 170A
	together with the marginal note "Subsidiary legislation.
	170A. Notwithstanding anything in this Act, the Minister may
	make subsidiary legislation for giving effect to this Act and
	anything which is to be prescribed in pursuance of this Act.".
Section 170B	Insert immediately after section 170A the following as section
	170B together with the marginal note "Establishment of a
	constabulary.
	170B. (1) The Minister may by regulations provide for the
	establishment and maintenance of a constabulary for each
	Neighbourhood Democratic Council (hereinafter referred to as
	N.D.C.) and the regulations may include provisions that –
	(a) the N.D.C. shall maintain the constabulary out of its own
	resources;
	(b) members and ranks of each N.D.C. shall be as
	determined by the resolution of each N.D.C.;
	(c) a constabulary established under this section shall not be
	dissolved or disbanded without prior approval of the
	Minister;
	(d) each constabulary regardless of the number of its
	members and ranks, shall be headed by a Chief
	members and ranks, shall be headed by a Chief

Constable who shall be a member of the constabulary and who shall be under the command of the overseer of the N.D.C.;

- (e) members of each constabulary shall be governed by rules prescribed by the Minister;
- (f) members of a constabulary shall make themselves available, and submit themselves whenever required by the N.D.C., for training in their duties by the Guyana Police Force;
- (g) members of each constabulary may bear arms in accordance with regulations made by the Minister.
- (2) Every member of a constabulary has in relation to
  - (a) any offence committed against this Act;
  - (b) any offence committed in any place vested in, or under the control of, the N.D.C. or in any public place in the council area,

all the powers and is entitled to all the privileges and immunities conferred on a police constable by any law for the time being in force.

(3) Where a constable lays an information or makes a complaint against any person in respect of any offence against this Act, any

	member of a constabulary not below the rank of corporal and
	serving in the same constabulary as the aforesaid constable may
	appear before the magistrate exercising jurisdiction in the matter
	and has the same powers and privileges as to addressing the
	magistrate and examining the witnesses as the constable who laid
	the information or made the complaint would have had.".
First Schedule	
Forms 1, 2, 3 and 4	1. Insert immediately above the word "village", wherever the
	word appears, the word "neighbourhood".
	2. For the word "19" substitute the word "20".
	2. For the word 19 substitute the word 20.
Second and	
Third Schedules	Repeal.

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

The main thrust of this Bill is to include the neighbourhood democratic council in the local government system for all purposes.

The Bill makes some consequential amendments and increases penalties in a number of areas.

The Bill gives the Minister of Legal Affairs the power to prescribe by order fees payable for any process, including the process of parate execution.

Minister of Local Government and Regional Development