

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE  
NINTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2006-2009)**

**SEVENTH REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS**

**IN RELATION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN  
AND GENDER EQUALITY COMMISSION**

**COMMITTEES DIVISION  
PARLIAMENT OFFICE  
PUBLIC BUILDINGS GEORGETOWN  
April 23, 2009**

**1. Introduction:**

The Standing Committee established under the Constitution to address matters relating to the appointment of members of Commissions, pursuant to article 119C of the Constitution and under the provisions of Standing Order No.84, has agreed to the following as its Seventh Report.

**2. Members of the Committee:**

At a meeting of the Committee of Selection held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2006, the following Members were nominated to the Committee on Appointments to address matters relating to the appointment of members of Commissions:

**3. Members from the People's Progressive Party/Civic:**

- (i) The Hon. Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P
- (ii) The Hon. Robert M. Persaud, M.P
- (iii) The Hon. Brindley H.R.Benn
- (iv) The Hon. Priya D. Manickchand, M.P
- (v) The Hon. Jennifer I. Webster, M.P
- (vi) Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P (Chairperson)

**Members from the People's National Congress/Reform-1 Guyana:**

- (i) Mrs. Deborah Backer, M.P
- (ii) Dr. George A. Norton, M.P
- (iii) Ms. Amna Ally, M.P

**Member from the Alliance For Change:**

Mrs. Sheila Holder, M.P

4. **Women and Gender Equality Commission: The Nomination Process**

At its 26<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, 2008, the Committee considered the following administrative issues:

- (a) identification of the organizations in the group/category in the list of entities that should be asked to coordinate the nomination process for that group/category;
- (b) preparation of letters that would be sent to each entity as soon as the National Assembly approved the Motion; and
- (c) determination of a deadline for the submission of nomination.

The Committee, thereafter, unanimously approved a motion and its Fifth Report which was submitted to the National Assembly on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2008, with the list of entities to be considered for making nominations to the Women and Gender Equality Commission in accordance with article 212Q (2)(a) of the Constitution.

5. The National Assembly on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 unanimously passed Resolution No. 61 which approved the list of entities to consult and the proposed representation of the following categories from the list of entities, totaling 15 nominees:

Women - 3  
Professional Bodies - 1  
Private Sector - 1  
Trade Union - 2

Regional Women's Affairs Committees - 3

Cultural/Ethnic - 2

TUC/WAC - 1

WPO - 1

NCW - 1

6. At the 29<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2008 the Committee proceeded to identify and agreed to the entities which would be asked to co-ordinate the nomination process for each of the categories as follows:-

<u>Category</u>	<u>Co-ordinating Entities</u>
Professional	Guyana Nurses Association
Private Sector	Private Sector Commission
Labour	Jointly between GTUC and FITUG
TUC-WAC	TUC-WAC
Cultural/Ethnic	ACDA

7. The Committee agreed that the deadline for the submission of nominees by the entities should be 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2008. However, the Regional Women's Affairs Committees for each of the ten regions would submit their nominations earlier to allow for the necessary arrangements to be put in place for the Regional representatives to travel to Georgetown to select the final three nominees for appointment by the President to the above Commission, as outlined in the Fifth Report and Resolution 61 of 2008.

8. The Women's Progressive Organisation and the National Congress of Women would also be requested to submit one nominee each in keeping with Resolution 61.

9. The Committee also agreed that it would meet after the recess period to consider the nominations received.

10. Letters dated 2008/07/25 were sent to all the entities on the list approved by the National Assembly including those entities identified by the Committee to co-ordinate their respective group/category. The co-ordinating entities were advised of their role and given the list of entities they would be required to coordinate, as well as, participate in the process to nominate the required number of person(s). The letters were copied to all entities in the respective categories.

11. When the Committee resumed discussions after the recess period attempts were made to encourage entities with outstanding nominations to submit same. Follow up letters were sent on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, 2008.

12. The Committee noted the lack of male representation on the list of names submitted by the various entities and agreed that the outstanding entities should be encouraged to consider and submit more male nominees. It was also noted that some entities had submitted nominations but not in accordance with the Committee's advice.

13. The Committee was further advised that some entities had attempted to coordinate with the assigned list of entities but their efforts had failed.

14. At its 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2008, the Committee agreed that in an attempt to move the nomination process forward, the Committee itself, with the support of the Parliament Office would facilitate the coordination process among co-ordinating entities and their respective categories which were experiencing difficulties in meeting to complete the nomination process.

15. The Committee, therefore by letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2008, invited the outstanding entities listed under the *Professional, Private Sector and the Cultural/Ethnic* categories to meet at the Parliament Office on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 with the aim of arriving at a consensus with regard to the nominations allocated in accordance with Resolution No. 61. The meeting had to be postponed to a date to be determined due to a very poor response.

16. At the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2008 the Committee agreed that another attempt should be made to facilitate the nomination process, hence, letters were sent again to the entities to attend a meeting on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2009. Once again, due to very poor attendance at that meeting, attempts were made to have another meeting on Friday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2009. The three (3) outstanding categories were unable to complete the process due to poor attendance in each category.

17. A final attempt was made through public advertisements and telephone calls to coordinate another meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2009. Six of the eight entities listed under the Cultural/Ethnic category attended that meeting and completed their selection of two (2) nominees for the Women and Gender Equality Commission. Only *one* organization (Guyana Nurses Association) attended the meeting from the *Professional* category. The Association of Regional Chambers of Commerce attended and committed to working with the Private Sector Commission on reaching agreement on a nominee for the Private Sector.

18. At the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2009, the Committee unanimously decided that after four meetings on the 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2008, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2009 respectively, convened by the Committees Division to facilitate the nomination process of the *Professional* category, it had no choice but to examine

the individual nominees received from the various entities in that category and to make its own decision.

19. The Committee also unanimously agreed that given the fact that the Guyana Nurses' Association had been consistently attending the meetings scheduled by the Parliament Office, their nominee should be selected as the nominee for the *Professional* category.

20. The Committee on Appointments at its 29th meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2008 agreed to write the Guyana Trade Union Congress (GTUC) and the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Guyana (FITUG) jointly, requesting both unions to coordinate the nomination process and arrive at the two nominees allotted to the Labour category.

21. Letters dated 2008-07-25, were therefore written to the GTUC and FITUG. The FITUG in a letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2008, made a written submission to the Committee identifying one (1) nominee.

22. The Committee, thereafter, wrote another joint letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2008, to the two unions advising about the need to coordinate and arrive at the two nominees. There was no response to the request and at the Committee's 35<sup>th</sup> meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2009, it was agreed that the Committee would make a final attempt to solicit a response from the GTUC. The Committee's Division as a result was in frequent telephone communication with the GTUC urging a response. A letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, was again dispatched to the General Secretary of the GTUC.

23. The Committee agreed to accept the nominee from FITUG and furthermore decided that if there was no nominee from the GTUC, it would be forced to proceed without any nominee from that body.

24. The Committee subsequently received two letters from the Guyana Trades Union Congress dated 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2009, one signed by the General Secretary and the other signed by the Principal Assistant Secretary. At its 38<sup>th</sup> meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2009, the Committee agreed that it would accept the submission made by the General Secretary of the GTUC. Furthermore the Committee agreed to bring it to the GTUC's attention that it had received 2 submissions and that it was accepting the submission made by the General Secretary of the GTUC.

25. The Guyana Trade Union Congress/Women's Advisory Council in a letter dated 2008-09-24 to the Committee, submitted the names of two nominees, contrary to its allocation in accordance with Resolution 61.

26. The Committee, by way of letters and telephone reminders to the GTUC/WAC, sought to get the Council to comply and decide on which of its two nominees it would be formally submit. These efforts were unsuccessful. Therefore, at its 35<sup>th</sup> meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2009, the Committee also agreed to once again, request the selection of one nominee in keeping with the Resolution.

27. The GTUC/WAC subsequently clarified the name of its nominee to the Committee in a letter dated March 23, 2009.

28. In treating with the nominations from the 10 Regional Women's Affairs Committees, the Committee invited the clusters of Regions 2, 5 and 6 and Regions 3,4 and 10 to meet at the Parliament Office on 1st December, 2008, to



collaborate on their nominations. Both clusters met separately on the said date and successfully reached consensus on their respective nominees for the two clusters.

29. At its 34<sup>th</sup> meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> January, 2009, the Committee agreed to invite the cluster comprising Regions 1, 7,8 and 9 to meet at the Parliament Office on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2009, to select a nominee from among their cluster.

30. On 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2009, representatives from Regions 1, 7 and 9 met at the Parliament Office. The representative from Region 8 failed to turn up. However, the Committee was in prior receipt of a written submission from the Region identifying its nominee.

31. The absence of the Region 8 representative was brought to the attention of the Chairperson of the Committee on Appointments by the Committees Division. The Chairperson took the decision for the representatives present to proceed with the meeting as they had travelled long distances but cautioned that the nomination from Region 8 should be considered in their deliberations.

32. The cluster successfully reached consensus on its nominee.

33. The Committee at its 38<sup>th</sup> meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2009, examined and approved the list of nominations and agreed to table its Seventh Report and the motion on the Members of the Women and Gender Equality Commission.

34. The Committee now reports to the National Assembly that it has meaningfully consulted with the approved list of entities for nominations to the Women and Gender Equality Commission and that the nomination process has

been completed and the following nominations are identified for appointment by the President to the Women and Gender Equality Commission.

**Women**

Ms. Vanda Radzik  
Mrs. Shalimar Ali-Hack  
Ms. Magda Pollard

**Professional**

Ms. Debra Ann Henry

**Regional Women Affairs Committee**

Ms. Nandranie Coonjah  
Ms. Ernestine Barker-Logan  
Ms. Bebbi Haliema Khan

**TUC-Women's Advisory Council**

Ms. Karen VanSluytman-Corbin

**Private Sector**

Ms. Renata Chuck-A-Sang

**Labour Movement**

Ms. Gaietra Baron  
Ms. Gillian Burton

**Cultural/Ethnic**

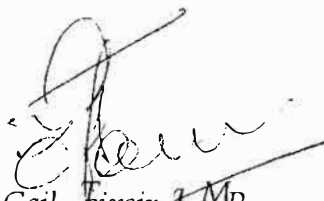
Ms. Nicole Cole  
Mr. Peter Persaud

**Women Progressive Organisation**

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal

**National Congress of Women**

Ms. Cheryl Sampson



Gail Peixoto, MP  
Chairperson

*Committee on Appointments*

*23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2009*