

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

**SIXTH REPORT
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS**

**IN RELATION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE RIGHTS OF
THE CHILD COMMISSION**

**COMMITTEES DIVISION
PARLIAMENT OFFICE
PUBLIC BUILDINGS GEORGETOWN**

4TH March, 2009

SIXTH REPORT

Introduction

1. 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 Sixth Report.

Members of the Committee

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

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

Rights of the Child Commission

The Nomination Process

3. The Committee unanimously approved a motion and its Fourth Report which was published on 20th May 2008 with the list of entities to be considered for making nominations to the Rights of the Child Commission in keeping with Article 212 U (1) (2)(a).

4. The National Assembly on 13th June, 2008 unanimously passed Resolution No. 60.

5. This Resolution approved the list of entities to consult and the proposed representation of the following categories from the list of entities:

Service - 2

Religion - 3

Youth - 3

Women - 3

Other - 1

Ministry of Education - 1

Ministry of Labour Human Services and Social Security – 1

National Commission on the Rights of the Child - 1

6. At the 26th Meeting held on the 20th 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.

7. At the 29th Meeting held on 8th 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>
Service	Lions Club of Guyana
Youth	President Youth Award: Republic of Guyana
Women	National Commission on Women
Other	Ministry of Health

8. The Committee agreed that with regard to the category “**Religion**”, the three (3) main religious faiths, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, represented by the Guyana Council of Churches, the Guyana Hindu Dharmic Sabha and the Central Islamic Organization of Guyana would each be asked to submit one nomination.

9. The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security and the National Commission on the Rights of the Child would also be requested to submit one nominee each in keeping with the Resolution 60.

10. The Committee also agreed that the deadline for submission of nominees by the various entities would be 15th of September, 2008 and it would meet after the recess period to consider the nominations received.

11. Letters dated 2008/07/18 were sent to all the entities on the list approved by the National Assembly as well as 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 participate in the process, to nominate the required number of person(s). The letters were copied to all entities in the respective categories.

12. 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 12th of November, 2008.

13. 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.

14. At its 32nd Meeting held on 2nd 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 coordinating and meeting to complete the nomination process.

15. The Committee, therefore by letter dated 3rd December, 2008, invited the fifteen (15) entities listed in the “*Service*” category to meet at the Parliament Office on 10th December, 2008 with the aim of arriving at a consensus with regard to the two nominations allocated in accordance with Resolution No. 60.

16. The meeting had to be postponed to a date to be determined due to poor response.

17. At the 33rd meeting held on 16th December, 2008 the Committee agreed that another attempt should be made to facilitate the nomination process, hence, letters were sent to entities to attend a meeting on Tuesday, 6th January, 2009.

18. Owing to poor attendance at that meeting a final attempt was made to invite entities in the “*Service*” category to a meeting on Friday, 9th January, 2009.

19. At this meeting a representative gathering of the Service category made their selection and submitted their two nominations.

20. At the 35th meeting held on 27th January, 2009, Members of the two opposition Parties raised concerns with regard to the nomination submitted by the Ministry of Labour Human Services and Social Security for appointment to the Rights of the Child Commission.

21. Members from the PNCR-1G and the AFC were opposed to the name of the nominee submitted by that Ministry. After extensive deliberations on the issue, the Committee was inconclusive in arriving at a decision and agreed that it would not wait for its usual meeting but would meet on Tuesday, 3rd February, 2009 to conclude the issue.

22. At the meeting held on 3rd February, 2009, the four opposition Members continued to strenuously oppose the nomination. As a result, there was no unanimity and the Committee examined the list of nominations and agreed to table its Sixth Report and the motion on the members of the Rights of the Child Commission.

23. The Committee now reports to the National Assembly that it has meaningfully consulted with the approved list of entities for nominations to the Rights of the Child Commission.

Service

Ms. Kaloutie Nauth

Ms. Yvonne Fox

Religion

Ms. Sarojanie Rambarran

Ms. Aleema Nasir

Ms. Colleen Anthony

Youth

Ms. Marissa Massiah

Ms. Michelle Kalamandeen

Ms. Suelle Findlay-Williams

Women

Ms. Sandra Hooper

Ms. Rosemary Benjamin- Noble

Mr. Vidyaratha Kissoon

Other

Ms. Hyacinth Massay

Ministry of Education


Ms. Banmattie Ram

Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security

Mr. Kwame Mc Coy

National Commission on the Rights of the Child

Ms. Shirley Ferguson



Gail Teixeira, M.P

Chairperson

Committee on Appointments

4th March, 2009