

**COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION OF  
THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT (2015-2017)**

**FOURTH PERIODIC REPORT**

**OF THE**

**PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE**

**ON**

**FOREIGN RELATIONS**

**PERIOD:**

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 – NOVEMBER 16, 2016**

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

**ON JANUARY 30, 2017**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This Fourth Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Foreign Relations (PSCFR) highlights its activities over the period September 9, 2015 to November 16, 2016. This report includes issues and concerns raised and discussed at meetings, as well as the Committee's interactions with Members of the Executive. The report also makes observations and recommendations on matters which came before it.

### **1.1 The Parliamentary Sectoral Committee On Foreign Relations (PSCFR)**

The PSCFR is one of four Parliamentary Sectoral Committees of the National Assembly that had been established in 2003 by Resolution No. 19 of May 2003 of the National Assembly of the Eighth Parliament. Resolution No.19 gives effect to the Constitutional provision of article 119 B of the Constitution of Guyana. (*See Appendix I*)

Standing Order 86 specifically provides for the establishment of this Committee and all of the Sectoral Committees. These Committees have "responsibility for the scrutiny of all areas of Government policy and administration".

### **1.2. Nomination of Committee Members**

The Committee of Selection, in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Resolution 19 of 2003, and Standing Order 86 nominated seven Members of the National Assembly to be Members of the PSCFR on September 4, 2015. The Members were as follows:

**From A Partnership for National Unity (APNU)/Alliance For Change (AFC) (4)**

Hon. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P.,  
Vice-President and Minister of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs

Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.,  
Minister of Social Protection

Hon. Hans Dominic Gaskin, M.P.,  
Minister of Business

Mr. Haimraj Rajkumar, M.P.,

Mr. John Adams, M.P. (Alternate)

**The People's Progressive Party/ Civic (PPP/C) (3)**

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip,

Ms. Africo Selman, M.P.,

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.,

Mr. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P. (Alternate)

**1.3 Change in Membership**

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Committee of Selection held on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2015, the Hon. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P., was nominated to replace the Hon. Sydney Allicock, M.S., M.P., who had resigned from the Committee.

The present membership of the Committee therefore is as follows:

**From A Partnership for National Unity (APNU)/Alliance For Change (AFC) (4)**

Hon. Hans Dominic Gaskin, M.P.,  
Minister of Business

Hon. Volda A. Lawrence, M.P.,  
Minister of Social Protection

Mr. Haimraj Rajkumar, M.P.,

Mr. John Adams, M.P., (Alternate)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2015)

Hon. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P.,  
Minister within the Ministry of Education

**The People's Progressive Party/ Civic (PPP/C) (3)**

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2015)

Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P.,  
Opposition Chief Whip

Ms. Africo Selman, M.P.,

Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.,

Mr. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P., (Alternate)

#### **1.4 Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson**

At its first meeting held on September 9, 2015, in accordance with Standing Order 86(3), the Committee elected Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., and the Hon. Hans Dominic Gaskin, M.P., as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, respectively.

#### **2.0 FUNCTION AND MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE**

The functions of the Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations are in keeping with the mandate derived from Paragraph 3 of Resolution No. 19 of 2003, which states 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”.

In order to discharge this mandate the Committee is empowered to scrutinize all areas of government activities as prescribed in the Appendices of the revised Standing Orders of the Eighth Parliament. Its mandate also includes summoning the Executive and other Government officials to appear before the Committee and provide evidence whenever required. The Committee is also obligated to act on requests made by Parliament to address any urgent issue.

#### **3.0 AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

The Committee is tasked with oversight responsibility for the following sectors, sub-sector and activities:-

<b>Name of Sectoral Committee</b>	<b>Areas of Scrutiny</b>	<b>Responsible Ministries</b>	
Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations	Foreign Trade	Foreign Trade	
	International Organisations		
	Conference for Trade & Development		
	Joint Commissions		
	CARICOM		
	Technical Cooperation/Developing Countries		
	Foreign Aid		
	Diplomatic Relations		Foreign Affairs
	Multilateral Relations		
	The United Nations		
	The Commonwealth		
	OAS		
	Organisation of Islamic Conferences		
CARICOM			
The Rio Group			
Foreign Affairs	The President		
Cabinet Matters			
Defence/Territorial Integrity			
National Security			
Civil Defence			
Public Information			

#### 4.0 MEETINGS

This Committee held eleven (11) meetings during the period September 9, 2015 and November 16, 2016 of the First Session of the Eleventh Parliament.

##### Statutory Meetings

Meetings	Dates of Meetings
1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting	September 9, 2015
2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting	January 20, 2016
3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting	February 3, 2016
4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	March 2, 2016
5 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	April 13, 2016
6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	June 1, 2016
7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	June 23, 2016
8 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	July 13, 2016
9 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	July 27, 2016
10 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	August 3, 2016
11 <sup>th</sup> Meeting	November 16, 2016

Please find attached at *Appendix II* the record of attendance of the Committee Members during the First Session of the Eleventh Parliament.

#### 5.0 WORK PROGRAMME

The Work Programme of the Committee for the reporting period September 2015 – November 2016 is at *Appendix III*.



## **6.0 PRESENTATIONS/ HEARINGS**

The Committee invited the following Officials and Ministries to make presentations for the purpose of enlightening its Members on specific aspects of the operation of their Agencies and Ministries:

### **THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

#### **(A) Presentation by the Hon. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Team**

Hon. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs was invited to make a presentation on *“Guyana’s Maritime Boundaries including the EEZ, Continental Shelf in keeping with the Maritime Zone Act 18/2010 and Guyana’s request for an extension.”*

The Minister, along with Ms. Donette Streete, Foreign Service Officer (III), Frontiers Department, appeared before the Committee at the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on March 2, 2016.

The following were some points articulated in the presentation:

#### **Maritime Entitlement of Guyana under international and domestic law**

Under international law, Coastal States, including Guyana, have certain maritime entitlements:

- a territorial sea, which has a breadth of twelve (12) nautical miles from the baselines of the Coastal State. Domestic laws would apply to this zone.

- declare a contiguous zone with a breadth of 12 nautical miles from the outer limit of the territorial sea; that is, 24 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.
- an exclusive economic zone the breadth of which is 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the territorial sea is measured.
- the continental shelf regime allows for the exercise of jurisdiction by the Coastal State up to a possible outer limit of 350 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial seas is measured.
- Each country that has a coast has access to some portion of the maritime zone. If one was to outline the continental shelves of Guyana's neighbours, the 200 mile radius used to indicate a country's EEZ could become problematic at times, since the marine spaces may overlap. Hence the disputation between Guyana and its two neighbours, Venezuela and Suriname.
- The rules of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in defining the EEZs was that the two countries take their 200 miles arc and define the extent of the arc to a line that is almost the north to south based on the midpoint between the borders of the two countries.

### **Maritime Delineation and Delimitation issues: Guyana and its Neighbours**

- In relation to the maritime boundary between Guyana and Suriname the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas Arbitral Tribunal outlined how the boundary would be delineated.

- In relation to Venezuela, there has been no such arbitral award delineating the maritime boundaries as Venezuela is not a signatory to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- Despite the 1899 Arbitral award which settled the Guyana- Venezuela land borders, in 1966/1968 the Venezuelans made a claim to Guyana's land mass that would take in Guyana's territorial sea. It was illustrated to the Committee that the claims being made by Venezuela by taking in two-thirds of Guyana's territory left Guyana with no maritime space or EEZ.
- Guyana's application to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for an extension of an additional one hundred and fifty (150) nautical miles of the continental shelf was in keeping with the Maritime Zones Act 18/2010. Ms. Streete stated that in 2011 technical submissions were made and in 2012 a full submission was made with full technical and scientific data under Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas.
- The Commission had accepted the submission made by Guyana and has agreed to consider the claim based on technical grounds. The Committee was also apprised of the significance of the acceptance of the claim for consideration since the Commission was not always obligated to examine claims made.

The following were some of the issues/concerns raised by the Committee:

- (i) *Whether the lines illustrated on the map were drawn as result of Venezuela claiming the land.*
- (ii) *What other requests were currently before the United Nation and were there any other engagement to address the Land Claim by Venezuela?*

- (iii) *What was meant by Scientific Data referred to in the presentation?*
  
- (iv) *Since the Commission that would be addressing Guyana's Submission to the United Nations for the expansion of its Continental Shelf would not be doing so before the year 2025; would there be any legal implications with the extractions/exploitations of resources by the Liza 1 Well, if Guyana's submission was denied. Also could Venezuela in any way inhibit that activity?*

Some of the responses provided are as follows:

- (i) The line starting between Venezuela and Trinidad has no bearing on Venezuela's claim to the Essequibo. The new "Zona de Atlantic" was in a whole new area and was vastly different from prior claims made by Venezuela. The area now being claimed by Venezuela was the area in which the Lisa 1 well drilling for oil was located.
  
- (ii) With regards to the Land territory there was no reason to seek another engagement to define the territory since the most watertight decision in relation to land boundaries was a court decision. There are many Courts but the highest was the International Court of Justice. In the case of Guyana/Britain and Venezuela the boundaries that currently exist were arrived at on a basis of an arbitral award which was *quasi-judicial*. That meant that a tribunal was established which consisted of some of the more senior judges from the United Kingdom, the United States and Europe who heard the cases put forward by the two sides, then a decision was made and Venezuela agreed to the decision. Once there was an arbitral award there was no point going to another. Venezuela would have to prove that there was fraud and when that information was found, if it was found, it could be considered bilaterally once there was no agreement to move forward. The next decision would be with the United Nations Secretary-General using the rules set out in the Geneva Convention to

approach the ICJ.

- (iii) The scientific data consists of the Landscape under the sea which shows its sediment and thickness. This information shows the area's possibilities for exploitation for some Natural Resources.
- (iv) The Liza 1 Well was located 200 miles North East of Georgetown, so it is within the current Continental Shelf and not on the extra Continental shelf. The United Nation Commission's role is not to pronounce on exploitation; its job is to grant or deny the request Guyana has submitted. Venezuela is not a state party of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea so this prohibits it from applying to the Commission to reject Guyana's request.

### **Recommendations by the Committee**

1. With regard to the implementation of the Maritime Zone Act 2010, with particular references to the responsibilities of many sectoral ministers in its implementation and development of regulations, a mechanism is needed to be put in place to ensure greater coordination and harmonious relations across these sectors. The relevant Ministries should come together and develop subsidiary legislation and operational protocols which would outline the various agencies one should approach for various matters relating to the Maritime Zone Act.
2. There should be multi-agency mechanisms for addressing issues which may develop as a result of oil and gas exploration.
3. The relevant sectors should be encouraged to examine the Maritime Zone Act No.18/2010 in terms of the vast potential and preservation of the underwater Cultural Heritage which is so far undocumented and therefore vulnerable to

exploitation. Overtime, a mapping of potential sites should be developed with international expertise and UNESCO.

4. The University of Guyana should integrate in their academic research and curricula the Maritime boundaries and Maritime Zone Act in the areas of law, international relations, environment, fisheries, culture and heritage, natural resources, exploration, security, etc.
5. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should collaborate with the Ministry of Education to integrate matters relating to Guyana's territorial and maritime boundaries into the secondary school curricula.
6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should develop a public awareness and sensitization programme to inform the Guyanese public about its maritime boundaries.

**(B) Presentation by the Hon. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Team**

Hon. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs was invited to provide the Committee with *“An Update of Guyana’s Partial Scope Agreement with Brazil and the Government of Guyana Re- Migrant Policy.”*

The Minister, along with the following persons, appeared before the Committee at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on June 23, 2016:

Mr. Lloyd Gunraj	-	Foreign Service Officer II
Mr. Sherwin Naughton	-	Foreign Service Officer III
Ms. Trishala Persaud	-	Senior Legal Officer

The following were some points articulated in the presentation:

- ✓ The Partial Scope Agreement signed between Guyana and Brazil on June 27, 2001 and was implemented in May 2004. It was established to “foster bilateral trade flows by the exchange of tariff preferences between parties.”
- ✓ The Partial Scope Agreement was specifically intended to facilitate the participation of the Private Sector and its activities and the agreement was renewed in 2008.
- ✓ This arrangement allows Guyana and Brazil to meet at specified intervals by way of an Administrative Commission. That Commission was responsible for the discussion of trade issues and the technical administration of the agreement in relation to putting the trade preferences in place and in dealing with products and complaints.
- ✓ The exchange of tariff preferences basically formed the regulations with regard to the input of goods and services.
- ✓ In relation to Guyana’s product list, the Brazilians agreed to grant 100 percent duty reduction or zero duty for 127 tariff lines of products going into Brazil from Guyana.
- ✓ In the case of Guyana/Brazil a quota was applied to sugar and rice, the limit of which was 10,000 tonnes, and red peppers for which the limit was 100 tonnes.
- ✓ Guyana had agreed to allow Brazil to import 830 tariff lines.
- ✓ Guyana had agreed that of the tariff lines imported from Brazil, 653 would attract 100 percent reduction of tariffs. 155 obtain 50 percent tariff and the other 25 acquires 15 percent tariff.

- ✓ Products that could be exported to Guyana from Brazil include capital goods, machinery parts and building materials such as steel, agriculture based products and manufactured or industrial products.
- ✓ In 2010 an additional list of products for export from Guyana to Brazil was approved by Brazil. Sixty of those tariff lines would receive 100 percent duty reduction. These include pharmaceuticals, pasta and noodles, jams and jelly, etc.
- ✓ In the last five years, the exports by Brazil to Guyana amounted to 11B GYD. In 2011, for example, Brazil had exported to Guyana 5B GYD worth of goods. However, the amount for the year 2014/2015 declined.
- ✓ On the other hand exports from Guyana to Brazil spiked in 2014 and the main factor contributing to that increase was rice exports from the Simpsons Santa Fe farm in the Rupununi, Guyana Rice Development Board and Hack and Sons.

The following were some of the issues/concerns raised by the Committee:

- (i) *What mechanism could be utilised to increase Guyana's lines of product? Could the lines of product be driven by the supply side? For instance, if a manufacturer or a producer in Guyana has a product that is not on the list and would like that product to be become available on the Brazilian market, could that person liaise or lobby with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to have that product included?*
- (ii) *How was the Administrative Commission constituted? Was it functioning?*
- (iii) *Was there any request from the Guyana Private Sector to the Administrative Committee to increase the tariff lines of export to Brazil after the year 2010?*
- (iv) *What was the value of Guyana exports to Brazil in the year 2011 and 2014?*



- (v) *Are the meetings of the Administrative Commission statutory, ad hoc or organized when the need arises? What is the life of the Commission and are there any thoughts on having the Commission reconstituted?*
- (vi) *What were the popular products that Guyana exported under the Partial Scope Agreement?*
- (vii) *To what extent does the Land and Road Transport agreement impact on the progress of the Partial Scope Agreement taking into consideration access through the Linden to Lethem Road as well as the proposal for a deep water harbour?*
- (viii) *Whether the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, apart from the Administrative Commission, had a mechanism to conduct market surveys to determine what kind/type of product was needed or wanted in other countries, particularly Brazil.*

Some of the responses provided were as follows:

- (i) The same process through which the tariff lines were expanded could be utilised. If the Private Sector sees the need or an interest in exporting a particular product to Brazil, that need would be expressed to the Ministry and Guyana could go to the Administrative Commission as was done previously. This would also provide an opportunity for the Administrative Commission to meet.

Interested persons and companies should liaise with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There were, however, some challenges which Guyana faces, in that, there were many other product lines in which Guyana might have an interest but was not in a position to supply sufficient quantities required by Brazil.

- (ii) The Commission was made up of representatives from the two Governments, trade officials and Private Sector members.
- (iii) No request was made for the increase in additional tariff lines after the year 2010.
- (iv) The value of Guyana's export to Brazil for the years 2011-2015

#### **Guyana Exports to Brazil**

2011 – 156 M GYD  
2012 – 152 M GYD  
2013 – 205 M GYD  
2014 – 864 M GYD  
2015 – 1. 881 B GYD  
2016 –264 M GYD (as at June)

#### **Imports from Brazil**

2011 – 126 M GYD  
2012 – 5.689 B GYD  
2013 – 5.605 B GYD  
2014 – 4.871 B GYD  
2015 – 4.066 B GYD  
2016 – 2.321 B GYD (as at June)

- (v) Regulations required that the Administrative Commission should have annual ordinary meetings. According to article 22 of the Regulations the functions of the Commission are as follows:

- (a) to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Agreement;
- (b) to formulate recommendations to the Parties with respect to the disputes arising under the clarification and application of this Agreement;
- (c) to keep this Agreement under constant evaluation and recommend amendments;
- (d) to encourage private sectors to make effective use of this Agreement; and
- (e) to consider any other issue that the Parties deem necessary.

The latter three functions indicate that meetings could be held to review and enhance/strengthen the use of the Partial Scope Agreement which would be considered in the future.

- (vi) The most popular product exported to Brazil was rice and of the 1.881 B GYD worth of goods exported in 2015, rice made up \$1.848 B. Thus far for 2016 all exports had been rice. Rice therefore accounts for 90 percent of Guyana's exports to Brazil.
- (vii) One of the main constraints of trade with Brazil was infrastructure, with port infrastructure being the main one. The Government had engaged the Brazilian Government by way of follow up discussions held by the previous Government. In a meeting with the President of Brazil last June, the Brazilian team had agreed that both countries would collaborate in an effort to obtain financing to conclude a feasibility study and find funding for the road to connect Brazil and the development of a deep water harbour in Guyana.

In relation to the deep water harbour there were extensive discussions on the matter with the Government of the State of Roraima which has a strong interest in this area and in moving the process forward.

- (viii) There was indeed a need for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to craft a strategy that would give impetus to Guyana's capacity to export. Both trade facilitation and trade promotion were necessary. It is hoped that the restructuring process currently undertaken by the Ministry would address some of those issues.

### **Recommendations by the Committee**

1. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Business should collaborate and engage with each of the Chambers of Commerce across the country with regard to the opportunities for trade with Brazil through the Partial Scope Agreement.
2. Technical officers from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Business should meet with the Private Sector Commission, Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association, Guyana Rice Producers Association and Chambers of Commerce in the various regions on an annual basis to ascertain their views with regard to the operation of the Partial Scope agreement.
3. There should also be joint meetings with the Government Ministries such as Business, Foreign Affairs, and agencies such as the Guyana Revenue Authority (Customs) and the Guyana Police Force (Immigration) to monitor and share views and experiences with regard to the implementation of the Partial Scope agreement.
4. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should hold a statutory meeting with the RDC Region # 9, the Lethem Town Council, the Toshaos of Region 9 and the RDC Region 10 and the Linden Town Council prior to the holding of an Administrative Commission meeting to solicit their views.

5. The Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Business should collaborate and develop a capacity to conduct market surveys to determine what types of products are needed or wanted in other countries, particularly Brazil; and
6. The Government should through the Administrative Commission seek to negotiate with Brazil to have an increase in the quota of rice exported to that country from 10, 000 tonnes to 100, 000 tonnes or more.

## **MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF CITIZENSHIP**

**(C) Presentation by the Hon. Carl B. Greenidge, M.P., Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs on and Hon. Winston G. Felix, D.S.M., M.P., Minister of Citizenship on:**

*“The mandates, roles and functions of their respective ministries with regard to the issuance of visas, work permits and Citizenship.”*

At its 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> July, and 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2016, respectively, the Committee interacted with the Hon Ministers.

The Ministers, along with the following persons, appeared before the Committee:

Ambassador Ivan Evelyn	-	Chief of Protocol
Ms. Trishala Persaud	-	Senior Legal Officer Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ms. Carol Lewis-Primo	-	Head Immigration Support Services
Mr. Dale Alves	-	Deputy Chief Immigration Officer

## **Presentation by the Hon. Minister of Citizenship**

The following were some points articulated in the presentation:

- ❖ The Hon. Minister Felix informed the Committee that the Department of Citizenship was established in June 2015 under the new administration which was of the view that there should be an independent department with responsibility for citizenship issues. Previously functions such as the issuing of visas and the responsibility of passports fell under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Those functions have been delinked from that Ministry and were now the responsibility of the Department of Citizenship.
  
- ❖ He pointed out that the Department of Citizenship, falls within the Ministry of the Presidency and part of its mandate came from His Excellency the President Brigadier David Arthur Granger when he addressed the National Assembly on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2016. He then quoted an excerpt of the President's statement with regard to the establishment of the Department of Citizenship which is as follows:

*“Our Ministry of Citizenship, a Ministry within the Ministry of Presidency, will implement systems to ensure that every Guyanese child’s birth is registered and would develop policies to ensure greater control over illegal aliens. The Ministry in this era of global terrorist threats and transnational crime will work together with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Public Security and Social Protection to confront the challenges of international terrorism, migration and trafficking in person.”*

- ❖ Members were informed that the Department also had a legislative mandate derived from the Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana (Chapter 1:01), the Citizenship Act (Chapter 14:01) and the Immigration Act (Chapter 14:02). In addition the basis on which the acquisition of Guyanese Citizenship was acquired could be found in the Constitution of Guyana, namely, articles 41-49(3). The Constitution has broad statements about various aspects of citizenship but the Citizenship Act expounded on those constitutional provisions. The details of how a person or foreign national may be granted citizenship in Guyana, whether by registration or naturalization, could be found in the Citizenship Act.

Members were also informed of the following:

- ❖ A child born out of Guyana was entitled to citizenship whether one or both parents were Guyanese. The process requires that one comes to Guyana or goes to a mission and present the birth certificates of the child and the parents, after which the process of the overseas birth registering of that child commences.
- ❖ With regard to citizenship by marriage the Constitution provides for the spouse of a Guyanese to have citizenship. The process requires that the foreign person applies with his/her passport, birth certificate, marriage certificate, and the Guyanese spouse must also produce his/her birth certificate.
- ❖ The Registration for Citizenship was covered in Sections 4 while Naturalization was covered in Section 9 of the Guyana Citizenship Act, Chapter 14:01. There was also provision for renunciation of citizenship. A certificate was usually given after the process was completed. Additionally, the Constitution provides for deprivation of citizenship.

- ❖ The Immigration Act Chapter 14:02 provides for conditions under which immigrants may enter and remain in Guyana. The Act provides that a person entering and leaving Guyana must have a passport. The government policy provides for five categories of visas:
  - **Courtesy visa** – this is where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would from time to time request a visa to be issued simply to facilitate foreigners entering Guyana to conduct business, with or for Guyana.
  - **Visitor Visa** – this permits a person to enter Guyana for purposes such as vacation, as a tourist or to attend a social/business event. It should be noted that for some countries a visa was not required to enter Guyana e.g., CARICOM Nationals. However, for some countries, for instance, Haiti a visa is required. Officials who have “Service” passports were not required to have a visa. The Immigration Act states that an Immigration Officer is constrained from landing any foreign citizen for more than three months except for CARICOM Nationals where the law states that that person must be given six months stay upon landing in Guyana. A foreign National with three months stay could visit the Department of Citizenship shortly before their visa expired to apply for an extension. An extension of one month would be given. A person is only allowed up to two extensions during their stay.
  - **Business Visa** – this permits persons coming into Guyana to do business which includes setting up a new business, representing a foreign company, organizing trade for a foreign company, exploring business possibilities and attending conferences. This visa has a five year life span and allows for multiple entries within that period for a fee of \$140 USD or \$28,000 GYD.



- **Employment Visa**- this permits Foreign Nationals to work in Guyana but upon arrival at the airport the person needs to satisfy the Immigration Officer that they have a job offer. Once he/she is so satisfied the person would be granted a three year multiple entry visa at the cost of \$140 USD or \$28,000 GYD.
- **Student visa** – this visa permits Foreign Nationals to study in Guyana but evidence of the acceptance into a college or educational institution must be shown. This visa has a three year life span.

❖ The Hon. Minister also provided definitions for the following terms:

- **A Settler** – According to the Customs Act “settler” means any person not being a resident of Guyana who satisfies the Controller within three months of its entry that he/she intends to take up residence in Guyana for a minimum of three years.
- **Migrant** – According to the Collins dictionary the word migrants means a person or animal that moves from one region, place or country to another.
- **Remigrant** –
  - (i) A remigrant is a Guyanese citizen born at home or abroad, or a Guyanese citizen by naturalisation, who is in possession of a valid Guyana passport and who has been granted remigrant status by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the understanding that the remigrant will remain in Guyana for not less than three years. (*Remigrant Manual 1999*)

- (ii) A qualified remigrant means a Guyanese citizen returning to reside in Guyana after a period of continuous *bona fide* residence of at least five years overseas and have attained the age of 18 years at the date of return and who meet criteria in the regulations. (Customs Act)

Deportees did not qualify.

- **Naturalised Citizen** – one who, being an alien by birth and has received Guyanese citizenship under Naturalization Law, the Constitution of Guyana and the Citizenship Act.
- **Natural Born Citizen** – persons who were born within the jurisdiction of a national government i.e. within its territorial limits, or those born of citizens temporarily residing abroad.

Hon. Minister Greenidge informed the Committee that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a role in the issuance of visas that was perhaps more performative than substantive. When one applies for a visa outside of Guyana, the agents through the Missions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs receive the application and the officers issue the visas within guidelines set by the Department of Citizenship. The Ministry was therefore acting as an agent of the Department of Citizenship.

He explained that when the need arises for queries, the agents revert to Georgetown through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and then to the Ministry of Citizenship in order to have guidance or advice. That was a process which at times could be a little difficult; however, it was currently being addressed in order to speed up the process. When visas are issued and the passports are stamped and returned to the applicant, if in the process of that exercise there were changes those changes would originate at the Ministry of Citizenship.

The following were some of the issues/concerns raised by the Committee:

- (i) *What type of visa was issued to persons such as technicians who were required to come to Guyana for two to three days to fix equipment or machinery?*
- (ii) *What was the process for extension of stay?*
- (iii) *What public relations programmes was the Ministry planning to put in place in order to ensure that those persons, who have overstayed their time were reached, so that they could be made aware and visit the Ministry to request an extension of their time?*
- (iv) *How is your Ministry coping with the language barrier of persons who visit the Ministry of Citizenship and could not speak English?*
- (v) *In relation to work permits and foreigners, what was the overall thrust of the immigration policy of Guyana?*
- (vi) *Has there been a change in policy regarding the monetary limit for CARICOM nationals entering Guyana?*
- (vii) *Are the various watch lists which are provided by Interpol and the United Nation's Security Council and forwarded to the Commissioner of Police and Ministry of Public Security being accessed by the Ministry of Citizenship? Are there checks conducted before admitting persons into the country?*
- (viii) *To what extent do Consulate Officers authenticate applications for citizenship of children who have one parent of Guyanese decent living abroad? What process is used?*

- (ix) *Are notorised copies of documents accepted?*
- (x) *Under the Immigration Act the Commissioner of Police is the Chief Immigration Officer. However, the Minister of Public Security still holds ministerial responsibility for the Commissioner of Police. What was the role of the Commissioner of Police in relation to immigration and the overlaps that occurs with other areas of law enforcement such as Criminal Investigation Department and Special Branch? Who give instructions to the Chief Immigration Officer on immigration matters?*
- (xi) *Do the relevant Ministries receive the United Nations watch lists on a timely basis and are those shared with Minister Felix and Minister Ramjattan. Also, was that information shared with the Commissioner of Police and other relevant agencies?*
- (xii) *Whether the Commissioner of Police reports to both the Minister of Public Security and the Minister of Citizenship and which Minister had the ultimate responsibility for the Commissioner?*
- (xiii) *What was the process for the issuance of visas at foreign missions?*
- (xiv) *What was the difference between visas issued on arrival and courtesy visas? Whether the visa arrival system relates more to persons who were not close to a mission? Whether confirmation letters were issued and who was the issuer?*
- (xv) *Whether the policy guidelines under the re-migrant scheme would be reviewed in its totality or was it basically a unilateral shift to another Ministry?*

- (xvi) *Whether consideration was ever given to, in addition to work permits, to issue residency permits that allow a person after living in Guyana for a number of years to be allowed to travel freely to and from the country?*

The responses provided were as follows:

- (i) A visitor visa would be issued to those persons. A business visa would not be required for the purpose of employment and payment of wages or salaries. The visa would not be issued immediately since checks and verifications had been introduced into the system in order to protect the Guyanese worker. The intention was to foster greater collaboration with the Ministry of Social Protection because the Ministry of Citizenship could not do it on its own. On many occasions when the Ministry of Citizenship receives a request for a dozen persons or more to be issued visas for mining and fishing jobs in Guyana, the first question asked would be what was the nature of the job and were there Guyanese with the requisite skill, to do the job.

The Ministry of Citizenship would write to the respective Minister to provide advice on whether it was necessary. Guyanese jobs must be protected for its citizens but where there was no skilled person in Guyana to do the job, foreigners would be allowed to enter Guyana.

- (ii) Persons were required to visit the office of the Ministry of Citizenship in Waterloo Street. Their passports would be checked for the date they landed in Guyana; an extension form (which has the necessary requirements) would be provided and once they comply, their extension application would be submitted. It would be processed and the extension would then be granted. The Ministry was aware that there were lots of persons in Guyana, presently, that have overstayed their time and were scared to visit the office for an extension on their stay. When the Ministry

of Social Protection comes into contact with such persons they should be advised visit the Ministry of Citizenship for an extension.

- (iii) The Ministry was considering whether to publish the names of foreign nationals whose time had expired and were still in the country and to determine whether or not this would cause the country to open itself to civil mitigation. The Ministry after discussions would decide on whether to embark on a programme which would be workable to that issue rather than publishing names.
- (iv) Being cognizant that the interpreters for the languages French, Portuguese and Spanish were available at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, when the need arises, the Ministry of Citizenship would contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for assistance which would be readily provided. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs was currently the official source for interpretation of the languages.
- (v) Guyana is a Member of CARICOM and CARIFORUM. In relation to CARIFORUM there were obligations under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) for the movement of persons. The E.P.A. has reciprocal obligations that enable citizens of CARIFORUM states, as well as, the European Union to move around the Region for various purposes including investments. CARIFORUM citizens of CARICOM therefore are granted free movement through the E.P.A. Under the Treaty of Chagaramus and the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME), persons were granted free movement once they met the criteria set out by the Member State that they wish to visit. The CARICOM skills certificate also enable persons to move within the Member States.

- (vi) There were certain guidelines resulting from the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) decision on the Shanique Myrie case which Guyana would have to uphold. Member States were now trying to implement those guidelines. While C.S.M.E. allows free movement, guidelines and requirements of Member States must be adhered to or fulfilled.

The immigration laws were not rigid in relation to CARICOM nationals entering Guyana. Some persons would have been denied entry due to the lack of evidence of support and simply to prevent Trafficking in Persons.

- (vii) Guyana has an obligation under the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Legislation to take cognizance of the watch lists that the United Nations Security Council would publish from time to time and ensure that persons named are treated appropriately. Although Guyana was not a signatory to the United Nations Convention on Refugees, it still had some obligations. The watch lists received from the United Nations and other international bodies were regularly circulated among the relevant stakeholders.
- (viii) In relation to the authentication of applications checks would be carried out at the General Registrar's Office to ensure that the parent of the child was Guyanese. Verification was done on the parent's birth certificate as well as the birth certificate of the child which was then retained by the General Registrar's Office. The authentication of the foreign documents is only done if suspicions were aroused.
- (ix) Original documents were requested. The original birth certificate of the child requesting citizenship must be retained by the General Registrar's Office.

- (x) The Government respects the law and would not be deviating from the Immigration Act which states that the Commissioner of Police is the Chief Immigration Officer and as such has command and control of immigration officers. The Minister of Citizenship, therefore, works and discusses immigration matters with the Commissioner of Police. Contact would be made with the Commissioner of Police only when necessary and information would be passed for requisite action to be taken, but no directives would be given to the Commissioner of Police.
  
- (xi) The watch lists received from the United Nations and other international bodies were circulated among the relevant stakeholders. The process would involve the list being discussed at Cabinet so all Ministers would be aware. The Director General would then disseminate the list to the all relevant Ministries and Agencies. The watch lists were then passed to other departments under the Ministries and out of necessity would be sent to the Minister of Finance who was responsible for the Financial Intelligence Unit. A copy would also be sent to the Governor of the Central Bank.
  
- (xii) The Commissioner of Police reports to the Minister of Public Security, ultimately, and only on immigration matters contact would be made with the Minister of Citizenship. He stated that the laws would be reviewed and certain legal issues would be addressed eventually.
  
- (xiii) Visas were processed at foreign missions and should any query arise those would be passed to the Ministry of Citizenship through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It usually takes two weeks for a visa application to be processed,



- (xiv) A courtesy visa was usually issued to persons who would come to assist the government in a particular function. The request would be received by the Director of Protocol and a courtesy visa would be issued. A copy of the visa would also be sent to the port of entry so that the relevant personnel would be made aware when that person arrives. An Immigration Officer has the authority to land a person coming to Guyana for a period of three months.

In relation to the Visa on Arrival, whatever the purpose of the visit, proof must be provided to show whether that person would be arriving for employment, medical or educational purposes, so that the Immigration Officer could act accordingly.

With regard to the Visa on Arrival system some persons would make direct contact with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Some requests would be received electronically or through a host or representative in Guyana. Confirmation letters were issued by the Ministry of Citizenship through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- (xv) Based on the final advice of the Attorney General's Chamber those policy guidelines would be enshrined in the law.
- (xvi) There were instances where some situations suggest that consideration ought to be given to the matter of acquiring residency. He noted that the issue was still under consideration and was worth developing

**The Committee also raised concerns with regard to:**

- (a) The issue of foreign students studying in Guyana and the problems encountered in visa extensions and also the non-existence of students' work permit.

The Committee was informed that there was no delay with the extension of students' visa. Also, part-time work was not covered under Guyana's current Immigration Law but that could be reviewed at a later time.

- (b) The issue of persons being denied entry into Guyana in particular those from CARICOM countries for the reasons of insufficient funds. Some Members posited that money was not only limited to currency, as was found in the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Bill. Money includes cash, credit cards, travellers' cheques, jewellery etc. How then was the ten thousand US dollar limit defined since, for instance, a person might have a small amount of cash as well as credit cards. What was the Government's policy with regard to persons entering Guyana with credit cards?

The Committee was informed that that the denial of entry to one hundred and sixty persons (168) persons to Guyana was done over an eighteen month period. Any denials of entry were made for good reason. An Immigration Officer has the right to interview arriving passengers to determine whether they could be landed. Funds were one reason but there were other reasons for denials. Enquiries must be made on the length of the person's stay, as well as, whether they would have enough money to cover their stay.

Currently there was no policy with regard to credit cards. The Immigration Act was used to determine entry into Guyana and the rulings from Shanique Myrie Case which was also used to assist in this area.

### **Recommendations by the Committee**

1. With regard to the registration of overseas Guyanese births, once a notarized copy was provided to the GRO the original birth certificate should be retained by the applicant.

2. Section 3 (1), (a), (b) and (d) of the Immigration Act (Chapter 14:02) which are in contravention of basic human rights should be reviewed with a view to have them amended.

3. The Committee noted that the term “insufficient funds’ was being used as a means for denying entry into Guyana. However, Section 3(1) (f) of the Immigration Act (Chapter 14:02) speaks to a person who

“(f) is not in possession of sufficient means to support himself and such of his dependants as he shall bring with him to Guyana”

shall be a prohibited immigrant for the purposes of this Act ...

The Committee therefore recommends that:

(a) Since the law speaks to “sufficient means” and not “insufficient funds”, the law must be upheld and a clear distinction should be made on the interpretation of “not in possession of sufficient means”; and

(b) Develop standard protocols to guide on the interpretation of “sufficient means”.

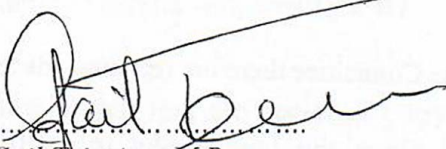
4. There should be consideration given to allow foreign students studying at tertiary educational institutions in Guyana the opportunity to be given student work permits while they are registered and attending these institutions.

## 7.0 MINUTES AND VERBATIM RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS

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

## 8.0 ADOPTION

The Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on Foreign Relations of the Eleventh Parliament, now, therefore, submits the Fourth Report and Motion for consideration and adoption by the National Assembly.



.....  
*Gail Teixeira, M.P.,*  
*Chairperson*  
*Parliamentary Sectoral Committee on*  
*Foreign Relations.*

# **APPENDIX I**

**EIGHTH 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 timetable 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**

**Appendix II**

**PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

**ATTENDANCE RECORD FOR THE PERIOD**  
**SEPTEMBER 9, 2015 – NOVEMBER 16, 2016**

Names	2015	2016									
	Sept.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	June		July		Aug.	Nov.
	9 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>
Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.
Hon. Hans Dominic Gaskin, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.
Hon. Volda Lawrence, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.
Hon. Nicolette O. Henry, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.
Mr. Haimraj Rajkumar, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Abs.	Pr.
Mr. John Adams, M.P. (Alt.)	Pr.	Pr.	Abs.	Pr.	Pr.	Abs.	Abs.	Ex.	Ex.	Pr.	Ex.
Ms. Africo Selman, M.P.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Ex.	Abs.	Abs.	Ex.	Pr.
Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, M.P.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.
Mr. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P. (Alt.)	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.	Pr.	Pr.	Ex.
<b>Duration of Meeting</b>	<b>40 mins</b>	<b>50 mins</b>	<b>1 hr 18 mins</b>	<b>1hr 49 mins</b>	<b>1hr 48 mins</b>	<b>1 hr 21 mins</b>	<b>1hr 44 mins</b>	<b>1hr 30 mins</b>	<b>2 hrs 40 mins</b>	<b>2hrs 4 mins</b>	<b>1 hr 18 mins</b>

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

*Committees Division,  
Parliament Office,  
Public Buildings,  
Brickdam,  
Georgetown.  
18<sup>th</sup> November, 2016*

# **APPENDIX III**

**PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WORK PROGRAMME**

Responsibility	Areas of Scrutiny	Activities	2016								Remarks		
			Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.		Nov.	
Scrutiny of all areas of Government Policy and administration in relation to "Foreign Relations"	* Defence/Territorial Integrity	<p>1. Engaging the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on all aspects of issues relating to Guyana's Borders:</p> <p>Presentations on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guyana's Maritime Boundaries and continental Shelf</li> <li>▪ the Guyana/ Venezuela Border Issue , including trade relations (Petrocaribe and oil)</li> <li>▪ Guyana/Suriname Border (historical overview and current status)</li> </ul> <p>2. Engaging the Ministers of Citizenship and Immigration, Foreign Affairs and Public Security jointly on their mandates and their respective role and functions with regards to the issuance of visas, work permits and citizenship</p>											
Ministry of Foreign Affairs													
			2 <sup>nd</sup>										
			2 <sup>nd</sup>										
			2 <sup>nd</sup>										
								27 <sup>th</sup>					
									3 <sup>rd</sup>				

**PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WORK PROGRAMME**

Responsibility	Areas of Scrutiny	Activities	2016								Remarks			
			Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.		Nov.		
Scrutiny of all areas of Government Policy and administration in relation to "Foreign Relations"  Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Foreign Aid	3. Update on Guyana's Partial Scope agreement with Brazil				23 <sup>rd</sup>								
		4. Update on the Re-migrant Policy and any changes  Update on the Diaspora Unit and benefits to Guyana  Number of external advisors in the diaspora and their role, functions and benefits they receive( monetary or otherwise)				27 <sup>th</sup>								
	Diplomatic Relations	5. Status of appointments of Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Consul Generals at the 13 Foreign Missions				23 <sup>rd</sup>								
		6. Examine Guyana's Negotiating Concerns at the WTO, EU, CBI  ACP/ EU relations from Guyana's perspective.												
National Security Civil Defence	7. Status of the appointment of the Presidential Borders Commission													

**PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WORK PROGRAMME**

Responsibility	Areas of Scrutiny	Activities	2016											
			Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Remarks	
	Public Information	<p>8. Status of legislative reform to the Defence Act in keeping with the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on the Disciplined Services Commission.</p> <p>9. The relocation of the Army camp outside of the Kaikan titled village land /status</p> <p>10. Review ministries/agencies websites with regards to the mandate of this committee and access to information for the public. ( desktop review – done in house by the Cttee staff and submitted to the committee by June)</p>												
	Commonwealth OAS Organisation of Islamic Conferences Rio Group	<p>11. Present or emerging Matters before the UNASUR, the Commonwealth, CARICOM and OAS of national interest to Guyana.</p>												
	Bilateral corporation	<p>12. Examine Guyana's Bilateral Agreements with e.g. India, China, USA, UK, Japan, Cuba, Russia, Brazil and Venezuela.</p>												

**PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WORK PROGRAMME**

Responsibility	Areas of Scrutiny	Activities	2016											
			Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Remarks	
Foreign Trade Policy		13. Status of Foreign Donor Programmes e.g. USAID, DFID, CIDA, EU, China, Japan, India												
		14. <b>Review of Guyana's position on Global Climate Change and the initiatives at the national level for multilateral/bilateral support.</b>												
	National Security	15. Status of the Boundaries commission visits with Brazil and Guyana?												
	United Nations	16. Guyana's Treaty Obligations:- status of reporting and recommendations:-  UN, UPR, UN CROC and optional protocols, UN CERD, UN CEDAW												
	Foreign Trade Conference for Trade & Development	17. Positions taken by Guyana at the UN - update – any shift in policy of previous governments with regards to Palestine, Falklands, (before UNGA in September)												



**PARLIAMENTARY SECTORAL COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WORK PROGRAMME**

Responsibility	Areas of Scrutiny	Activities	2016										
			Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Remarks
		18. Examine Guyana's Foreign Trade Agreements with e.g. MNCs, CARIBCAN Free Trade Agreement/EPA Agreement  19. Examination of status of implementation of Guyana's obligation under the CSME  20. Preparations for Guyana's representation at MESICIC and IACAC and Guyana's review 2016/2017											

*\*Taken from the Standing Orders*

*Committees Division,  
Parliament Office,  
Public Buildings,  
Brickdam,  
Georgetown.  
May 27, 2016*