

PARLIAMENT OFFICE,  
Public Buildings,  
Georgetown,  
Guyana.

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The following Bill which will be introduced in the National Assembly is published for general information.

**F. A. Narain.**  
Clerk of the National Assembly.



**GUYANA**

BILL No. 20 OF 1990

GENERAL ELECTIONS (OBSERVERS) BILL 1990

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

**SECTION**

1. Short title.
2. Interpretation.
3. Observers at general elections.
4. Rights of observers.
5. Privileges and immunities of observers.
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## A BILL

## Intituled

A.D. 1990

AN ACT empowering the President of Guyana to invite observers at general elections and for matters connected therewith.

Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana:—

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the General Elections (Observers) Act 1990.

Interpretation.

2. (1) In this Act "election" means an election of members of the National Assembly referred to in article 60 (2) of the Constitution.

Cap.1:03

(2) Expressions used in this Act but not defined herein shall have the same meanings as in the Representation of the People Act.

Observers at general election.

3. (1) The President may, after consultation with the Chairman of the Elections Commission, invite persons from outside Guyana to visit Guyana for the purpose of observing the democratic processes of the State as enshrined in the Constitution, and more specifically the conduct of any election.

(2) The name of any person so invited shall be published in the **Gazette** and he shall be issued with an identity card by the Chairman of the Elections Commission.

Rights of observers.

4. (1) Any other law to the contrary notwithstanding, an observer may scrutinise the official list of electors, enter polling places and places appointed for the counting of votes, and seek information from the Chairman of the Elections Commission, the Chief Election Officer and other election officers.

(2) An observer shall have the right to obtain from the Chairman of the Elections Commission a copy of the official list of electors for one or more polling divisions and of any written law governing or regulating any election.

(3) The Chairman of the Elections Commission, the Chief Election Officer and other election officers shall co-operate with the observers and shall comply with any reasonable request made by the observers in the performance of their functions.

Privileges and immunities of observers. Cap.18:01

5. The person of every observer shall be inviolable and he shall enjoy as well such other privileges and immunities as are afforded diplomatic agents under the Privileges and Immunities (Diplomatic, Consular and International Organisations) Act.

6. Everyone who assaults an observer or obstructs or interferes with him in the performance of his functions or the exercise of his rights under this Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars and imprisonment for eighteen months.

Obstruction of or interference with an observer.

7. Everyone who falsely personates any observer with intent to obtain admission to any polling place or any place appointed for the counting of votes, or in order to avail himself of any of the other rights conferred on observers under the provisions of section 4 shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars and imprisonment for eighteen months.

Personation.

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

This Bill seeks to empower the President to invite persons from abroad to visit Guyana to observe the democratic processes of the State as enshrined in the Constitution, and the conduct of the election of members of the National Assembly.

2. It is proposed that such observers may scrutinise the official list of electors, enter polling places and places appointed for the counting of votes, and seek information from the Chairman of the Elections Commission, the Chief Election Officer and other election officers.

3. Observers shall have diplomatic privileges and immunities. Penalties are provided for any interference with such observers and for personating them.

*K. S. Massiah,*  
**Attorney-General and**  
Minister of Legal Affairs.

29th May, 1990.

