

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FIRST SESSION
OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA**

(2015-2016)

REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

**RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE
PUBLIC PROCUREMENT COMMISSION**

**COMMITTEES DIVISION
PARLIAMENT OFFICE
PUBLIC BUILDINGS
BRICKDAM
GEORGETOWN**

July 22, 2016

Introduction

1. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) was established in British Guiana in 1957 by Standing Order 70 (2) and is now provided for by Standing Order 82 (1) of the National Assembly. This Standing Committee is established at the commencement of the life of each Parliament and continues for the duration of the Parliament unless otherwise provided for.

2. Members of the Committee

3. At a meeting of the Committee of the Selection held on September 4, 2015, the following Members were nominated to the Public Accounts Committee:

From A Partnership For National Unity/Alliance For Change (APNU/AFC):

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

Hon. Valarie Patterson, M.P.,
Minister within the Ministry of Communities

Mr. Jermaine Figueira, M.P.

Mr. Charrandas Persaud, M.P.

Mr. Audwin Rutherford, M.P.

Members from the People's Progressive Party (PPP):

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P.

Ms. Pauline Campbell-Sukhai, M.P.

Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P.

Mr. Nigel D. Dharamlall, M.P.

4. Advisors

5. The following persons provide the PAC with technical advice in keeping with the financial Regulations:

Mr. Deodat Sharma – Auditor General

Dr. Hector C. Butts – Finance Secretary

Col. Jawahar Persaud- Accountant General

6. Election of Chairperson

7. At the first meeting of the Committee held on September 9, 2015 Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P., was elected as its Chairperson.

8. Mandate

9. The Committee is mandated by article 212 X (2) of the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to nominate members of the Public Procurement Commission as follows:

“The President shall appoint the members of the Commission after such members have been nominated by the Public Accounts Committee and approved by not less than two-thirds of the elected members of the National Assembly.”

Meetings of the Committee

10. The Committee at its 3rd Meeting held on November 23, 2015 agreed to continue the work of the previous Committee and to re-advertise for submissions of nominations for the Public Procurement Commission since some of the names previously submitted were now Members of Cabinet or functioning in other senior capacity.
11. In addition, Members were given an extract on the Public Procurement Commission from the Constitution of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana to enable them to examine/study, thereafter; a date was set for discussions on how the Committee would move forward on this matter.
12. At the 6th Meeting held on Monday, January 18, 2016 the Chairman advised the Committee that only six responses were received for the proposed nomination to the Public Procurement Commission and suggested that the Committee re-advertise for another month since the last advertisement did not yield the results anticipated. To which Members agreed.
13. At the 8th Meeting held on Monday, April 8, 2016. The Chairman informed the Committee that a total of 29 submissions had been received for nomination to the Public Procurement Commission. He proposed that a Sub-Committee comprising the Chairman and the Hon. Volda Lawrence, M.P., be established in an effort to shortlist the nominees and present them to the Committee for consideration and subsequent approval. To which the Committee agreed.
14. On June 30, 2016 the Clerk of the Committee was instructed by the Sub-Committee to write the Commissioner of Police in relation to due diligence being conducted on the following persons:

1. Ms. Emily Dodson
2. Mr. Balwant Persaud
3. Mr. Devan Khemraj
4. Mr. Bridley Horatio Robeson Benn
5. Mr. Cecil Jerrard Jacques
6. Mr. E. Lance Carberry
7. Ms. Carol Corbin
8. Dr. Anand Goolsarran
9. Mr. Lallbachan Christopher Ram
10. Mr. Sukrishnalall Pasha
11. Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul
12. Mr. Ivor B. English

15. In a letter dated July 13, 2016, the Commissioner of Police informed the Chairperson of the Committee that the lists of persons are not criminally known.

16. At the 17th Meeting held on Wednesday July 20, 2016, the Sub-Committee proposed the following names for consideration for subsequent appointment by the Committee to the Public Procurement Commission:

1. Ms. Emily Dodson
2. Mr. Balwant Persaud
3. Mr. Devan Khemraj
4. Mr. Bridley Horatio Robeson Benn
5. Mr. Cecil Jerrard Jacques
6. Mr. E. Lance Carberry
7. Ms. Carol Corbin
8. Dr. Anand Goolsarran

9. Mr. Lallbachan Christopher Ram
10. Mr. Sukrishnalall Pasha
11. Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul
12. Mr. Ivor B. English

17. The Committee based on the advice offered by its Advisors eliminated Dr. Anand Goolsarran and Mr. Lallbachan Christopher Ram, who provide audited services to the Government of Guyana.

18. Thus, the following applicants were proposed for shortlisting:

1. Ms. Emily Dodson
2. Mr. Balwant Persaud
3. Mr. Devan Khemraj
4. Mr. Bridley Horatio Robeson Benn
5. Mr. Cecil Jerrard Jacques
6. Mr. E. Lance Carberry
7. Ms. Carol Corbin
8. Mr. Sukrishnalall Pasha
9. Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul
10. Mr. Ivor B. English

19. Three proposals were thereafter received:

Proposal 1: that the following applicants be shortlisted:

1. Ms. Emily Dodson
2. Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul

3. Mr. Ivor B. English
4. Mr. Sukrishnalall Pasha
5. Mr. E. Lance Carberry
6. Mr. Bridley Horatio Robeson Benn
7. Mr. Balwant Persaud

20. **Proposal 2:** that the following applicants be shortlisted:

1. Mr. Bridley Horatio Robeson Benn
2. Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul
3. Mr. Sukrishnalall Pasha
4. Ms. Carol Corbin
5. Ms. Emily Dodson
6. Mr. Cecil Jerrard Jacques

21. **Proposal 3:** that the following applicants be shortlisted:

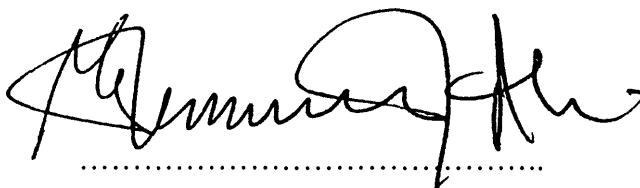
1. Ms. Emily Dodson
2. Ms. Carol Corbin
3. Mr. E. Lance Carberry
4. Mr. Ivor B. English
5. Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul

22. After some deliberation the Committee unanimously declared that the following nominees be appointed to the Public Procurement Commission:

1. Ms. Emily Dodson
2. Ms. Carol Corbin
3. Mr. Ivor B. English
4. Dr. Nanda K. Gopaul
5. Mr. Sukrishnalall Pasha

23. The Committee agreed that the report would be circulated to Members for their approval before its presentation to the National Assembly.

24. The Report is accordingly hereby submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, M.P.,
Chairperson,
Public Accounts Committee