

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

(2015-2017)

FOURTH REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS

**IN RELATION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ACCOUNTANT TO THE
FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT (FIU) WITHIN THE ANTI-MONEY
LAUNDERING & COUNTERING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM
AUTHORITY (AML/CFT)
ACT NO. 1 OF 2015**

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

April 13, 2017

FOURTH REPORT

Introduction

1. The Standing Committee on Appointments was established under the Constitution to address matters relating to the appointment of Members of the Commissions pursuant to Article 119 (C) of the Constitution and provisions of Standing Order 84. The Committee was given additional responsibilities for appointments to bodies by several statutes enacted by the National Assembly in 10th and 11th Parliaments. In particular, the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML&CFT) (Amendment) Act 2015, Act No. 1 of 2015, gave the Committee the responsibility to select and recommend a person for the appointment as an Accountant to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).
2. This Fourth Report of the Committee in the 11th Parliament recommends the appointment of the Accountant of the Financial Intelligence Unit in accordance with Section 5 of the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML&CFT) (Amendment) Act 2015, Act No. 1 of 2015.

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 Committee on Appointments.

Members from the Government:

- (i) Hon. Dr. George A. Norton, M.P.
- (ii) Hon. Amna Ally, M.P., Government Chief Whip
- (iii) Hon. David A. Patterson, M.P.
- (iv) Hon. Catherine A. Hughes, M.P.
- (v) Hon. Annette N. Ferguson, M.P.

Members from the People's Progressive Party/ Civic

- (i) Ms. Gail Teixeira, M.P., Opposition Chief Whip
- (ii) Bishop Juan A. Edghill, M.S., J.P., M.P.
- (iii) Dr. Clive R. Jagan, M.P.
- (iv) Mr. Ganga Persaud, M.P.

Election of Chairperson

4. The Committee of Selection at its first meeting held on September 4, 2015 elected Hon. Dr. George A. Norton, M.P., Minister of Social Cohesion, as its Chairperson.

Change of Membership on the Committee

5. Dr. Clive R. Jagan resigned as a Member of the National Assembly with effect from February 10, 2016. Subsequently the Committee of Selection met on March 4, 2016, and nominated Ms. Bhagmattie Veerasammy, M.P. as a Member to replace Dr. Jagan on the Committee.

Mandate

6. The Committee was mandated by the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML&CFT) (Amendment) Act No. 1 of 2015, to appoint persons to specific positions (specifically section 6), as follows:

The Principal Act is amended by the substitution for section 9 of the following section as section 6-

(3A) The Financial Intelligence Unit shall include-

- b) An accountant appointed by the Parliamentary Committee on Appointments from a short list provided, based on applications in response to public advertisement.*

Meetings of the Committee

7. The Committee held a total of twenty (20) Meetings.

Accountant within the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) - Appointment Process

8. At the 2nd Meeting held on Wednesday, December 23, 2015, the Committee commenced discussion on the way forward with the appointment of a person to the position of Accountant within the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

9. At the 4th Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th March, 2016, the Committee, upon request was provided with the criteria, job description, and terms of reference for the position of Accountant.
10. Two Members of the Committee were assigned to review the advertisement for the position of Accountant. The Committee approved the advertisement inviting suitably qualified persons to fill the position in the four (4) national newspapers. The advertisement was published on March 22, 23 and 24, 2016, with a deadline for submission of applications by March 30, 2016. The advertisement was posted also on the Parliament Office's website.
11. At the 6th Meeting held on April 13, 2016, the Committee acknowledged the applications and spreadsheet with a summary of the twenty nine (29) candidates and their applications received.
12. At the said meeting, a Sub-Committee comprising three (3) Members, were tasked with preparing an evaluation form for shortlisting the applicants, using the terms of reference for the position. The Sub-Committee was given a deadline of two (2) weeks to prepare the proposed evaluation forms.
13. At the 7th Meeting held on April 27, 2016, the Committee perused and amended the proposed evaluation form submitted by the Sub-Committee. The Committee undertook to enquire from the applicants via email, whether they deemed themselves as being a "*politically exposed person*" as defined in the Anti-Money Laundering & Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML&CFT) (Amendment) Act 2015 and the Financial Intelligence Task Force Regulations (FATF).
14. A Matrix of the applicants' responses to the Committee's request was considered at the 8th Meeting held on May 13, 2016. The Committee, however, noted that not all applicants had responded and that further efforts would be made by the Clerk of the Committee to contact the applicants with outstanding responses.

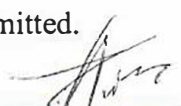
Selection for the position of Accountant

15. At the 12th Meeting held on June 20, 2016, the Committee acknowledged responses received from applications with respect to declaration of a "Politically Exposed Person". Thereafter, ten (10) applicants were shortlisted to appear before the Committee for interviews.
16. At the 13th Meeting held on Monday, June 27, 2016, starting at 9.30 a.m., the Committee conducted a preliminary interview of nine (9) persons, since one (1) person was absent for the interview. Applicants were informed via email and follow-up telephone calls of the scheduled time for their interviews.

17. Following the interview, a meeting commenced shortly and the Committee agreed on the successful candidate for the position of Accountant and this was communicated to the person so identified.
18. At the 14th Meeting held on July 13, 2016, the Committee was informed that the top ranked candidate had declined the offer of appointment for the Accountant position.
19. At the 17th Meeting held on January 25, 2017, the Committee shortlisted two (2) applicants for the position. The Clerk was instructed to verify with the applicants whether they were still interested in the position and be informed of the salary offered. It was also agreed that should one (1) of two (2) applicants agree to the post, then due diligence should be carried out. Should both applicants indicate an interest, then the Committee would meet and make a decision on the most suitable candidate.
20. At the 18th Meeting held on February 15, 2017, the Committee was informed that contact was made with both applicants. Enquiry was done to verify whether the applicants were still interested in the position. One applicant indicated that she was no longer interested and Mr. Surendra Lall Boodhoo indicated his interest.
21. Following Mr. Boodhoo's verification of interest to fill the position of Accountant, the Committee agreed to carry out due diligence on him.

Due Diligence for the position of Accountant

22. Subsequent to the Committee's decision, at the 18th Meeting, held on February 15, 2017, it was agreed that the Commissioner of Police would conduct due diligence, additionally his current place of employment would be written to requesting any relevant information.
23. At the 19th Meeting held on March 22, 2017, Members reviewed and accepted the results of the due diligence process.
24. The Committee hereby submits for the consideration of the National Assembly, Mr. Surendra Lall Boodhoo for the position of Accountant within the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).
25. The Committee examined and adopted the Report and Motion.
26. The Report is accordingly hereby submitted.



Hon. Dr. George Norton, M.P.,
Minister of Social Cohesion,
Chairperson,
Committee on Appointments
April 5, 2017