

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION OF
THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002 - 2006)**

**FINAL REPORT OF
THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE
ON THE
NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE
GUYANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Presented to the National Assembly

By

The Chairman of the Committee

On

10th April, 2006.

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Appointment of a Special Select Committee

The Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly Report of the Commonwealth Senior Parliamentary Staff Advisor to the Guyana National Assembly and Addendum of the Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly dated 18th February, 2005 and 18th May, 2005 respectively, were laid in the National Assembly on the 4th August, 2005. The two documents make recommendations in connection with the functioning of the National Assembly.

2. On the 27th October, 2005, the National Assembly passed Resolution No. 80 which:

- (i) accepted in general the recommendations of the Report;
- (ii) appointed a Select Committee to make recommendations to the National Assembly on the implementation of the recommendations after considering prioritization, methodology and the advisory papers by James Pender on the recommendations, and
- (iii) mandated the Select Committee to report to the National Assembly by January 31, 2006.

3. The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P., The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P., Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P., Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P., Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. and Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P. of the **People's Progressive Party/Civic**; Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P., Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P., Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P. of the **People's National Congress/Reform** and Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. of the **Rise, Organise and Rebuild**, were nominated its Members on 2nd November, 2005.

4. Following this, the Committee met on 7th November, 2005 and elected the Hon. Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P. as its Chairman.

Other Meetings of the Committee

5. At the submission of this Report the Committee met on eighteen (18) other occasions.

Procedure of the Committee

6. After considering the scope of its work at its second meeting, the Committee decided on the following procedure:

- (i) compare and contrast the recommendations in Sir Michael Davies' Report on the Needs Assessment of the National Assembly dated 18th February, 2005, with those in his Addendum to the Needs Assessment dated 18th May, 2005;
- (ii) identify those recommendations that referred to administrative issues and recommend to the National Assembly that they be channelled to the appropriate officer or body for implementation;
- (iii) submit interim reports to the National Assembly on (ii), and thereafter
- (iv) consider the remaining recommendations which treated mainly with the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

7. In comparing and contrasting the recommendations in the two reports, the Committee observed that there were thirty-eight (38) distinct recommendations relating to –

- (i) administrative issues;
- (ii) Standing Order issues.

8. It agreed that an interim report should be submitted to the National Assembly on the recommendations as identified as dealing with administrative issues and advise the Assembly how the recommendations were to be treated.

New Mandate

9. However, before this could have been accomplished, on 15th December, 2005, the National Assembly passed Resolution No. 85 which:

- (i) *referred the recommendations in Study I of the Guyana Fiduciary Oversight Project Report(The Bradford Report) and the Draft Revised Standing Orders to the Select Committee;*
- (ii) *approved the twenty (20) recommendations relating to Parliament Fiduciary Oversight and identified in the action plan for implementation;*
- (iii) *required that the Select Committee, in considering the Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly Report and its Addendum, the recommendations in Study I of the Guyana Fiduciary Oversight Project Report (The Bradford Report) and the Draft Revised Standing Orders, ensured that all recommendations relating to the rules, procedures and Standing Orders of the National Assembly be comprehensively considered in the light of the aforesaid reports and reported on to the National Assembly by January 31, 2006.*

10. The Committee, adopting its new mandate, proceeded to identify the areas of similarity between the recommendations in Study 1 of the Guyana Fiduciary Oversight Project and the Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly Report and its Addendum.

11. On 23rd January, 2006, after careful consideration of the aforementioned documents the Committee submitted its interim report to the National Assembly which indicated –

- (i) the action that had been taken up to that date with regard to its mandate, and
- (ii) the specific action that should be taken with regard to those issues considered by the Committee and which had been identified as purely administrative.

Submission of a Second and Third Interim Report

12. The Select Committee, thereafter, proceeded to consider the remaining ten (10) recommendations contained in Sir Michael Davies' Reports and, on completing this, submitted a second interim report to the National Assembly with its recommendations on 1st February, 2006.

13. This second interim report became necessary because of the Committee's inability to meet its deadline and because of its expanded mandate. It, therefore, informed the Assembly accordingly and requested an extension of the deadline to the end of February, 2006. This extension was granted by Resolution No. 97 dated 1st February, 2006.

14. The Select Committee then embarked on the consideration of ten of Bradford's recommendations in Study 1 which bore no similarity to Sir Michael Davies' recommendations and, therefore, were not included in the Committee's First or Second Interim Report. The Committee's findings and recommendations arising from its consideration of those ten recommendations were the subject of a Third Interim Report which was submitted to the Assembly on 16th February, 2006.

Consolidation of Recommendations

15. The Select Committee's recommendations and comments on the recommendations contained in Sir Michael Davies' and Bradford's Reports in its three interim reports have been consolidated and are presented in Section A of Appendix I herein.

The Other Bradford's Recommendations On Parliamentary Oversight

16. The Select Committee after finalizing its third interim report turned its attention to consideration of Bradford's other twenty recommendations on parliamentary oversight which dealt with issues not touched by Sir Michael Davies.

17. The Committee's recommendations and comments on its findings on these other recommendations are reported in Section B of Appendix I.

Pender's Advisory Papers

18. The Committee examined the Advisory Papers by Mr. James Pender and submits in Section C of Appendix I the issues they have addressed, the recommendations of Sir Michael

Davies to which they give effect and where Mrs. Sampson's Draft Revised Standing Orders have taken them into account.

Draft Revised Standing Orders

19. The Committee recognizes that much work was involved in redrafting the Standing Orders of the National Assembly and agrees that the process would have entailed –

- (a) removing whole Standing Orders or parts of Standing Orders that appeared to be no longer relevant;
- (b) incorporating changes as a consequence of the recent constitutional revisions; and
- (c) incorporating changes based on the recommendations of Sir Michael Davies and Bradford, and the advisories of Mr. James Pender.

20. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Committee in its endeavour to abide by its mandate to “ensure that all recommendations relating to rules, procedures and Standing Orders of the National Assembly be comprehensively considered”, scrupulously compared the existing Standing Orders with the Draft Revised Standing Orders.

21. This process adopted by the Committee also enabled it to keenly discern:

- (i) what elements of a draft revised Standing Order could be suitably incorporated in an existing Standing Order,
- (ii) which of the existing Standing Orders were to be retained in preference to the proposed new drafted ones,
- (iii) what aspects of an existing Standing Order could be incorporated in a proposed new drafted one, and
- (iv) what Standing Orders were omitted in the Sampson's Draft but which the Committee felt were necessary to be retained.

22. The Committee, guided by the four principles set out above, proceeded to consider the Draft Revised Standing Orders and, where it thought fit, amended them.

23. The Select Committee is pleased to submit at Appendix II the Draft Revised Standing Orders as amended by it to the National Assembly.

Minutes

24. The Minutes of the proceedings of the meetings of the Committee are at Appendix III.

Verbatim Records

25. The Verbatim records of the proceedings of meetings of the Committee have been prepared and can be seen at the Parliament Office.



Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.,
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Chairman, Special Select Committee on the
Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly.

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10th April, 2006.

APPENDIX I

Section A

Special Select Committee on Needs Assessment Report

The matrix contains the following 79 recommendations:

- Summary of the recommendations contained in the Davies 1st report and in the Davies Addendum (total of 38 recommendations)
- The recommendations contained in Study 1 of the Guyana Fiduciary Oversight Report (Bradford's Report), which the Government and the NA had previously agreed to (total of 20 recommendations).
- The remaining recommendations from Bradford's Study #1, not included in the recommendations previously approved by the NA (total of 21 recommendations).

The Columns: The matrix is constructed of three columns. Column 1 is a summary of the recommendations in the respective report (Davies and Bradford). Column 2 are the Committee's recommendations/comments for the consideration of the NA. Column 3 is a summary of the recommendations for Standing Order changes and, thus for referral to the Standing Orders Committee of the National Assembly.

Recommendations	Committee's Position	SO Change Required
<p>Sir Michael Davies – First report</p> <p>1. The Government should answer written questions within a reasonable time or explain why it is not possible</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that Ministers should respond in writing to written questions within 21 days. If they are unable to do so they are to explain this in the National Assembly within the 21 days deadline, and the answer must then not be delayed for more than 7 additional days. The Committee further recommends that this recommendation be referred to the Standing Orders Committee for implementation.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Pender Advisory #2: Recommended change to SO 16(4).</p> <p>Ms. Sampson's: Changes to SO 16-18.</p> <p>Please see revised SO 16A(1) and 18(9).</p>
<p>2. A settled parliamentary calendar should be observed and sittings held on a regular basis.</p>	<p>The Committee accepts this recommendation in principle, but the Committee believes that the existing Standing Orders adequately provide for this. The Committee therefore recommends that the National Assembly:</p> <p>(i) Retain the existing Standing Orders, and</p> <p>(ii) Urge the Government to indicate on a quarterly basis its parliamentary programme, provided that provisions are contained therein for modifications to such programmes.</p>	<p>The Select Committee recommends no change.</p> <p>Please note the following:</p> <p>Pender Advisory #1: Recommended changes to SOs 8-11.</p> <p>Ms. Sampson: Changes recommended to SOs 8-10</p>

<p>3. Time should be allowed for the proper scrutiny of legislation and bills should be presented to the Assembly before publication.</p> <p>4. There should be two weeks between publication of a Bill and its Second Reading.</p> <p>5. The Standing Orders should be amended to prevent Ministers moving that bills be considered in committee "forthwith".</p> <p>The Standing Orders should not allow for Bills to be taken through all their stages in one day.</p>	<p>The Committee considers that recommendations 3, 4 and 5 are interrelated and recommends as follows:</p> <p>(i) that the National Assembly refer the following amendment of the Standing Order to the Standing Orders Committee for implementation:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Substitute the words "An interval of not less than seven days" for the words "An interval of not less than three days at the beginning of Standing Order No. 46 (2).</p> <p>(ii) that the National Assembly retains Standing Order No. 46 (3) while providing for the publication of a Bill in the Official Gazette no less than 7 days before the second reading.</p> <p>(iii) that the provision of Standing Order No. 46 (2) pertaining to the proceeding with a Bill forthwith be modified to discourage the practice while at the same time enabling the Government to proceed with the various stages of a Bill at the same sitting in the case of an emergency.</p>	<p>None required</p> <p>SO 46(2)</p> <p><u>Pender Advisory #4:</u> Recommends changes to SO 46</p> <p><u>Ms. Sampson:</u> Recommends changes to SO 46-50</p> <p>See Revised SO #47</p>
<p>6. Committees should begin to work on a much more regular basis, choosing subjects for inquiry which are focused and capable of being completed within two or three months</p>	<p>The Committee notes that this is declaratory and recommends that the National Assembly adopt it and refer it to the P.M.C.</p>	<p>None required.</p> <p><u>Pender:</u> See SO 73(6) and Pender Advisory #8 para 3.</p> <p><u>Sampson:</u> Recommends changes in SO 74. Broader recommendations to SOs 69-84 (Chapter XII).</p>
<p>7. Specific time should be set aside for debates on Committee Reports and on Government's response to them</p>	<p>The Committee acknowledges that all Sectoral Committee Reports are currently presented to the National Assembly and adopted by a motion in accordance with Standing Order No. 76 (5). It recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Standing Orders Committee for the amendment of Standing Order No. 76 in order to formalise this practice, by amending the title from "Report from Select Committee" to "Report from Select Committee or Sectoral</p>	<p>SO 76. Amend so that SO applies to Sector Committees in addition to Select Committees.</p> <p><u>Pender:</u> Advisory #8 (2)</p> <p><u>Sampson:</u> Insertion of new 69F</p> <p>See Revised SO # 81</p>

	Committee" and by amendment of Standing Order 76 (5) by inserting the words "or Sectoral" after the word "Select" where it appears in Standing Order 76 (5).	
8. Committees should recognize that they are bodies in which party differences should be largely forgotten. To begin with, they should chose subjects for investigation which give rise to as little political controversy as possible	The Committee notes that this Recommendation is declaratory and recommends that the National Assembly adopt it and refer it to the PMC for implementation.	None required
9. The Government should be more cooperative in dealing with the committees. Government's response should be prompt and should provide the necessary documentations required by the Committees.	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the PMC, Speaker and Clerk for implementation.	None required. Note resolution #19 (15-05-03)
10. Government backbenchers should be encouraged to participate in question time and table their own questions	The Committee notes that this recommendation is declaratory and refers it to the National Assembly for adoption.	None required
11. Assent (or refusal of Assent) to Bills should be given immediately after they are sent to the President and the Assembly should be notified.	The Committee recommends that Bills passed by the National Assembly should be given Presidential assent in accordance with the Constitution and where he does not assent he must follow the prescriptions of the Constitution.	None required. Pender: None Sampson: See recommendations for changes of SO 58-60
12. The National Assembly should consider the employment of a qualified lawyer to assist Members in the preparation of amendments and support legal advice to the Speaker and the Clerk	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation with the omission of the word "qualified" and refer it to the Speaker and Clerk for implementation.	None required
Sir Michael Davis – Addendum (Summary) 1. Parliament Office should draw up a strategic plan.	The Committee noting that the Strategic Plan refers to the Parliament Office recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Speaker and Clerk for implementation.	None required
2. Capacity building for MPs and staff should be arranged this year and should be arranged on a regular basis in the future. The International Community should support capacity building for the National Assembly. The CPA workshop is an example.	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Parliamentary Management Committee, the Speaker and Clerk and arrange regularly (at	None required

	least annually) for building the capacity of MPs and Staff.	
3. The Order Paper should no longer be sent outside the Parliament building to any member of the Government until it is finalized	A majority of Members of the Committee accepts that the Government must retain its right to be engaged in ensuring that its business are on the Order Paper as required. On the other hand the Members of the PNC/R record their agreement with the recommendation as written. The Committee, therefore, recommends that this recommendation be referred to the National Assembly for a decision.	None required. Please see Sampson's proposed new SO 12A Please see Revised SO #12A
4. The notice for questions should be reduced to no more than 14 days	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation but that notice should be 21 days. Further the National Assembly should refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for implementation.	Amend SO 16(4) Pender: Advisory #2 Sampson: Changes to SO 16 Please see Revised SO #16A (1)
5. Amendments to legislation should be tabled in advance so that they can be circulated. Manuscript amendments should be discouraged.	The Committee agrees that Standing Orders Nos. 31 (6) and 51 (2) adequately provide for the needs of the Assembly and, therefore, recommends that the National Assembly retain the existing Standing Orders 31 (6) and 51 (2).	None required. Pender: None Sampson: Recommends changes to SO 51
6. The concept of Opposition time one day a month should be agreed. The Opposition should be encouraged to use the opportunities that already exist to question the Government	The Committee agrees that this recommendation is provided for by Standing Order No. 20(2) but, notwithstanding, recommends that the National Assembly adopt it and refer it to the Parliamentary Management Committee for scheduling of "Opposition Time".	None required. Pender: None Sampson: SO 20
7. A procedural manual as an aid to understanding the Standing Orders should be written once the changes to the Standing Orders have been made. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural training should be arranged with other Parliaments • The Deputy Clerk should become familiar with all procedures of the National Assembly 	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Speaker and Clerk for implementation.	None required

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Registry should keep procedural precedents and other statistics concerning the work of the National Assembly 		
<p>8. The National Assembly should insist by means of a Resolution on a new Standing Order that Reports of the PAC are responded to within, say, three months.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee Clerk should draft reports of the PAC 	<p>The Committee notes that the provision of Treasury Memorandum in response to the report of the Public Accounts Committee, has superseded the Bradford's recommendation, and the Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt it for inclusion in the new SO.</p>	<p>None required</p> <p>Pender: Advisory #8</p> <p>Sampson: SO 69B</p> <p>Please see Revised SO # 73 B(3)</p>
<p>9. Guidelines should be agreed between the Government and the National Assembly about the questioning of Public Servant by Committees</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the PMC to draft the guidelines, without prejudice to the existing arrangements, for approval of the National Assembly</p>	<p>None required.</p> <p>Please see Sampson's proposed new Chapter XII on Committees</p> <p>Please see revised SO # 73 F(5)</p>
<p>10. While recognizing that the annual turn-over of sectoral committee chairpersons was a political compromise, consideration should be given to allowing greater continuity so as to enhance the performance of the committees.</p>	<p>The Committee notes that by its Resolution No. 19 passed on 15th May, 2003, the National Assembly adopted a mechanism for chairing of Sectoral Committees. The Committee recommends that this mechanism be retained.</p>	<p>Note Resolution #19 of 15-5-03.</p> <p>Pender: Advisory #7</p> <p>Sampson: Proposed new SO 69F(3)</p> <p>Please see revised SO # 73 F(3)</p>
<p>11. Changes to the Standing Orders should be implemented by reference to Mr. James Pender's advisories</p>	<p>Agreed</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>12. The problems over the production of the verbatim report should be vigorously tackled and an Editor of Debates appointed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Editor of Debates (or other suitable title) should be appointed 	<p>The Committee recommends that an Editor (or other suitably titled officer) should be appointed to ensure the timely production and distribution of the records of proceedings of the National Assembly of verbatim reports on the basis of contract and that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Speaker and Clerk for implementation.</p>	<p>None required. SO already caters for the timely presentation of the Hansards.</p>
<p>13. A Table Office should be created to assist the Clerk procedurally. Members could go the Table Office to table questions, motions and amendments to Bills.</p> <p>A legislation office should be considered in the future, if the work of receiving and processing amendments becomes too much for the Table Office</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Speaker and Clerk for implementation.</p>	<p>None required</p>

<p>14. Consideration should be given to reaching agreement with the University on internships</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Parliamentary Management Committee for its consideration of the principle of internship.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>15. Salary payments in cash should be ended except for lower staff who have no bank accounts</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this matter to the Clerk for consideration and that the Clerk should take into consideration the preference of employees.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>16. Mock Parliaments in which school children participate should be held</p>	<p>The Committee notes that such mock parliaments are being held and that the practice continue and recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Speaker and Clerk to continue the programme.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>17. In order to reach out to the public and the private sector, some "open days" might be arranged where MPs could meet representatives of NGOs and the business community</p>	<p>The Committee agrees that the Sectoral Committees and Special Select Committees provide for the interactions suggested in the recommendation and recommends that current practice continue.</p>	<p>None required. Pender: Advisory #9 recommends an examination of SO 13</p>
<p>18. Agreement should be reached on giving the National Assembly the authority to manage its own budget and a start should be made in establishing a Finance Office with the necessary expertise to manage the finances of the Assembly.</p> <p>The International Community should consider supporting this as part of capacity building.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Budget should be submitted to the MoF by the Speaker and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs after it has been agreed to by a Special Committee established for this purpose. • A new Finance Office should be established to estimate for, control, monitor and account for all expenditures • Training for staff • The Clerk should be the Accounting Officer 	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Parliamentary Management Committee, Speaker and Clerk for implementation.</p>	<p>None required</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Office should be computerized 		
<p>19. Agreement should be reached on establishing an independent Parliamentary cadre with a professional human resources office to manage the new responsibilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration should be given to altering working hours in order to conform more with parliamentary hours • Staff handbook should be prepared • The Clerk of the national Assembly should become the employer and should have complete control over all aspects of employment • Personnel training should be arranged with the support of the donor community • Training budget should be prepared 	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the PMC, Speaker and Clerk for implementation.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>20. A review of the staffing structure of the Parliament Office should be undertaken so as to ensure that staffing matches the needs of the National Assembly</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the PMC, Speaker and Clerk for implementation.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>21. A Document Centre convenient for Members should be created</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Parliamentary Management Committee and the Clerk for implementation.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>22. The making available Bills etc. at Post Offices or other public places should be agreed</p>	<p>The Committee noted that Bills, Notice Papers, Order Papers were already made available to the public and recommends that future use be made of Post Offices and other public places. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Clerk for implementation.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>23. All the National Assembly's documents should be placed on the website</p>	<p>The Committee notes that the National Assembly documents were being placed on the Website and recommends that the practice continue.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>24. The establishment of a library</p>	<p>The Committee notes that these</p>	<p>None required</p>

<p>which is pleasant to work in, with a relevant book collection and a modest research capability.</p> <p>International donor support should be pursued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A qualified Librarian should be employed in a new post as Head of Research and Library Services • A catalogue collection should be created • Improved infrastructure • A Parliamentary Librarian should be invited to give further advice. • Newspapers should be kept in internet archive or kept as microfilm documents 	<p>issues pertaining to the Library were ongoing and recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the PMC, Speaker and Clerk for implementation of measures to attract international Donor Support.</p>	
<p>25. The appointment of a Public Information Officer</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Parliamentary Management Committee and the Clerk for immediate implementation.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>26. Broadcasting of proceedings</p>	<p>The Committee notes that there are delayed broadcast of proceedings and recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Parliamentary Management Committee for action.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p><u>Bradford's [Study 1]</u> <u>Recommendation Agreed to</u></p>		
<p>1[1] Parliament must be in control of its own budget.</p>	<p>Same as Davies Addendum #18. See Davies #18 – Addendum above.</p>	<p>None required.</p>
<p>2[2]. An oral question time should be set each sitting day, and Ministers must answer OQs in the House [within a time frame to be defined]</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for implementation as proposed by Mrs Jacqueline Sampson at Standing Order No. 16 (1) (b) of her draft.</p>	<p><u>Sampson:</u> SO 16 Please see revised SO #16</p>
<p>3[4]. Ministers must be required to respond in writing to written questions [within a time frame to be defined]</p>	<p>See Davies – 1st Report #1 above.</p>	<p>SO changes required. <u>Pender Advisory #2:</u> Recommended change to SO 16(4). <u>Ms. Sampson's:</u> Changes to SO 16-18. Please see revised SO 16A (4) and 18 (9)</p>
<p>4[7]. Bills passed by Parliament should be given Presidential Assent</p>	<p>Same as Davies 1st report #11. Select Committee recommends that Assent</p>	<p>None required.</p>

in accordance with the Constitution	mechanism already exists within the Constitution and the SOs.	Pender: None Sampson: See recommendations for changes of SO 58-60
5[12]. Debates, OQs, WQs and answers, accountability documents, reports and the Auditor General's and Ombudsman, Committee reports should be posted on Parliamentary website	Same as Davies Addendum #23	None required. Pender: None Sampson: None
6[14]. Members should be able to petition the Speaker for an urgent (i.e same day sitting) Debate on a matter of national importance	The Committee notes that Standing Order No. 11 addresses this recommendation in principle and recommends that the National Assembly refer it to the Standing Orders Committee for possible refinement including possible criteria for such terms as urgent and public importance.	None required since the select committee agreed this SO already exists. Pender: None Sampson: None
7[24]. The Committees should use their powers to call officials and Ministers, as well as witnesses outside Government, before them to question any matter. Ministers and Officials should be required to attend, and if not submit their reasons in writing expeditiously to the Chair of the Committees	Relate to Davies Addendum #9.	None required. Sampson: SO 69F Please see revised SO # 73 F (5)
8 [25]. Ministers and Officials should be required to respond to requests for information by the Committee on a timely manner, as if they do not, the Committee Chair should report this formally to the House	Select Committee recommends that the NA approves this recommendation and that the NA issues an advisory to the Sector Committees to refer non-compliance for the Speaker to act on.	None required. Note resolution #19 (15-05-03) Sampson: SO 69F Please see revised SO # 73 F (5)
9[26]. Following an Oversight Committee Report to Parliament which has recommendations for action, the Executive must report in writing to Parliament within three (3) months the action it proposes to make or reasons why action has not or cannot be taken	Relate to Davies Addendum #8 See also Bradford's #13[35]	SO Change required. Sampson: 84 (4) Please see revised SO # 73 F (7)
10[27]. The President should be asked to present an Annual State of the Nation Speech to Parliament at the beginning of each year.	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee to make provision in the Standing Orders for an Annual State of the Nation Address by the President at the Opening of a New session of Parliament which the Committee understands to be October each year.	Yes. Standing Order Committee to formulate
11[31]. Ministers should make	The Committee recommends that the	SO 12(h)

major policy statements in the House if they are not foreshadowed in the President's annual State of the Nation Speech, or the Budget	National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for insertion of the words "(including policy statements)" at the end of Standing Order No. 12 (h).	Please see revised SO #12 (j)
12[34]. Recommendations made by the Auditor General in his annual reports to the PAC should be addressed and acted on by Parliament expeditiously	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the PMC, Speaker and Clerk for implementation.	None required
13[35]. <u>Original</u> : The Executive should report to Parliament not later than 2 months after the Auditor General's Report is tabled and approved in Parliament on action taken on particular recommendations made by the AG <u>Revised</u> : The Executive should report to Parliament not later than 2 months after the PAC's report on its examination of the AG's report is adopted by Parliament	Relate to Bradford's #9[26]. Similar to Davies Addendum #8. It is noted that this is already in place and that the Government has tabled its Treasury Memorandum.	None required <u>Pender</u> : Advisory #8 <u>Sampson</u> : SO 69B Please see revised SO # 73 B (3)
14[9]. Key MPs should be given training in how to undertake Fiduciary Oversight Role	Relate to Davies Addendum #2	None required
15[18]. Resource each committee with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full time analyst • A full time research assistant • An experienced writer drawn from Clerk's Office • A Committee Clerk 	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the PMC, Speaker and Clerk for implementation.	None required
16[19]. Fund the Committees to allow engagement of specialist advisors (e.g. on tax or financial matters)	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the PMC, Speaker and Clerk for implementation.	None required
17[20]. The Committees should use their inquiry powers to undertake in depth investigations of Government matters, with the requirement they report to Parliament within 6 months of commencing investigation	Relate to Davies 1 st Report #6	Pender Advisory #8 para 3. <u>Sampson</u> : Recommends changes in SO 74. Broader recommendations to SOs 69-84 (Chapter XII). Please see revised SO #73 F(5) and (7)
18[39]. Ombudsman's report should be tabled in the House through the Speaker and become the subject of Parliamentary debate	The Committee notes that the Ombudsman's report is laid in the National Assembly by the Speaker and recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for	Refer to SO Committee for inclusion SO Committee to formulate new SO

	provision to be made in the Standing Orders for debate on this Report.	
19[41]. The Ombudsman Office should be resourced adequately to ensure it can employ investigatory and prosecutorial staff to undertake inquiries on its own behalf.	Agreed.	None required
20[29]. All Bills should be reviewed and certify for constitutional consistency by the Attorney General.	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for incorporation in the relevant Standing Orders.	Refer to SO Committee SO Committee to formulate new SO

Section B

The Other Bradford's Recommendations

Recommendations	Select Committee's Position	SO Changes Required
<p>1[3]. Parliament should establish a Parliamentary Appointment's Committee to oversee the appointment of key members and independent oversight agencies and commissions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ombudsman • Integrity Commission • Auditor-General 	<p>The Select Committee notes that the appointments of the Ombudsman and the Auditor General are provided for in the Constitution and that the appointment of the Integrity Commission is provided for by statute. It agrees that the Select Committee should request the NA to refer this recommendation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Constitutional Reform for further consideration.</p> <p>The Committee agrees that the NA should advise the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Constitutional Reform of the additional position of the Members of the Select Committee. The Members of the People's National Congress/Reform note that the recommendation was made in the context of providing Parliament with greater oversight role and believe that Parliament should have a greater role in the appointment of the named positions.</p> <p>The Members of the Government believe that the Constitution and the laws of Guyana already catered adequately for the appointments of the named positions.</p>	<p>To be determined, depending on the decision of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Constitutional Reform</p>

<p>2[5]. All major bills presented by the Executive to Parliament should be sent to a select committee for analysis and review before passage</p>	<p>The Committee notes that the PMC considered this matter previously and it agreed that all major and/or complex bills would be sent to special select committees. The Select Committee, therefore, accepts this recommendation in principle. It agreed that the NA should ask the PMC to further define the criteria (guidelines) by which bills would be classified as major and/or complex and that the NA should ask the PMC to complete the definition of the criteria within a stipulated timeline. The Select Committee further recommends that provisions be made within the SOs to accommodate this recommendation.</p>	<p>The criteria determined by the PMC should be referred to SO Committee for inclusion in the SOs.</p>
<p>3[6]. Parliament should employ its own staff, and the Speaker should appoint the Clerk of the House after consultation with all parties</p>	<p>The Committee notes that the first part of this recommendation has been previously dealt with in the Davies Report. It divided on the second part: (i) the Government Members favoured the retention of the <i>status quo</i>; (ii) the Opposition Members strongly advocated that the appointment be made by the National Assembly.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>4[8]. Parliament should be given a Legislative Timetable at the beginning of each annual session, which should be regularly updated and announced and the practice of adjourning the House <i>sine die</i> should cease</p>	<p>The Committee notes that this matter was determined in the consideration of the Davies Report.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>5[10]. MPs should be paid a salary and allowances commensurate with their responsibilities</p>	<p>The Select Committee agreed to ask the National Assembly to appoint a Joint Committee of the House to further consider this recommendation.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>6[11] Hansard reports of the House and key select committee debates should be available in two days</p>	<p>The Committee notes that this recommendation was previously dealt with during the consideration of the Davies Report.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>7[13]. Parliament should establish a Regulations review Committee chaired by a senior legally qualified Opposition MP</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that Ms Jacqui Sampson's draft proposal 70D (The Statutory Instruments Committee) be accepted.</p>	<p>None required Please see revised SO # 74D</p>
<p>8[15]. The Executive should take a leadership role in promoting an effective Fiduciary Oversight and accountability regime in Parliament</p>	<p>The Committee notes that several initiatives are ongoing and that the NA should commend these initiatives and encourage the Executive to continue to promote effective Fiduciary Oversight and</p>	<p>None required</p>

	Accountability by Parliament.	
9[16]. The Opposition should agree never to use the "Parliamentary boycott", but commit to staying engaged in Parliament and its processes in the future	The members on the Government side strongly supports this recommendation, but notes that this will be a matter for the Opposition parties to consider. The Members of the Opposition will accept this recommendation, but only on the understanding that the recommendations of the Bradford and Davies' Reports will be substantially accepted, given form in the Constitution, other laws or SOs and adhered to in practice.	None required
10[17]. MPs should become more persistent in questioning the Government and utilize the opportunities which exist already in the SOs to praise and challenge the Government of the day	The Committee agrees that this was already dealt with during the consideration of the Davies Report. See Davies 1 st Report #10 and Addendum #6	None required
11[21] Committees should meet weekly for at least a half day during Parliamentary sessions, and meet for extended periods as the workload requires	The Committee agrees that Committees should determine their meeting schedules according to their workload.	None required. See Sampson proposed new Chapter XII
12[22]. PSCES should consider Budget Estimates before the Committee-of-the-Whole considers and passes the annual budget. They should also have the right to delegate consideration of parts of the Budget to other committees for review before the House considers the Budget	The Committee agrees that consideration of the budget estimates is guided by the FMAA. However, it recommends that the NA refer this recommendation to the Ministry of Finance and request the Ministry of Finance to make suggestions vis-à-vis this recommendation within the context of the FMAA. The Ministry of Finance should submit its recommendations to the NA.	Will depend on actions taken by MOF
13[23]. All financial bills after the First Reading should be sent either to PAC or PSCES, with a direction to report back their deliberations to the House by a nominated date. Adequate time should be given for consideration, and the public invited to make representations on the Bill	The Committee accepts this recommendation in principle on the basis of Resolution No. 19 dated 15 th May, 2003 but believes that this recommendation is for future consideration.	
14[28]. The Executive should present a Freedom of Information Bill to Parliament to enable the independent bodies (e.g. the Ombudsman) or any member of the public to seek non-commercial information held by central and local government public bodies and SOEs	The Committee accepts the recommendation and refers it to the NA for the NA to urge the Government to bring a Freedom of Information Bill at the earliest possible time. The Committee notes the Government's previous commitment on this matter.	None required

<p>15[30]. The Government agree to refer to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional reform the effect that the present electoral system has on the ability of MPs to undertake their responsibility for ensuring the fiduciary oversight and accountability processes of Parliament are administered effectively, recognizing the Constitutional principle of the separation of powers between the Executive and Parliament</p>	<p>The Committee agrees in principle but with an affirmation that any future consideration of the electoral system must retain the principle of PR</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>16[32]. The Government and the international donor community agree to allow legislation required as a result of donor conditionality to be scrutinized by a Parliamentary Select Committee before passage in the House</p>	<p>The Committee agrees that the recommendations in #2 above will provide the opportunity for adequate scrutiny. However, the Committee urges the Government and the donor community to take cognizance of the oversight role of the National Assembly.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>17[33]. Establish a Constitutional Division of the High Court to allow citizens of Guyana to challenge the constitutionality of the Executive or Parliamentary action, or proposed legislation</p>	<p>The Committee notes that the need for citizens to access the means for redress was imperative and agrees to refer the recommendation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional Reform for further consideration.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>18[36]. Make the Ombudsman a Parliamentary Officer</p>	<p>The Committee decided that this recommendation should be linked to action taken for #1 above</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>19[37]. Require central and local government bodies to provide information requested by the Ombudsman's Office expeditiously</p>	<p>The Committee agrees that the recommendation should be referred to the National Assembly and that the NA should refer the recommendation to the relevant body for the strengthening of the Ombudsman legislation to give effect to the recommendation.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>20[38]. Appoint an Ombudsman</p>	<p>The Committee notes that the vacancy has now existed for approximately one year and urges the Government to use existing mechanisms to conclude the appointment of an Ombudsman.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>21[40]. The OO budget should be processed through and approved by Parliament to ensure independence</p>	<p>The Committee notes that this should be linked to action taken for #1 and #18 above.</p>	<p>None required.</p>

Section C

Mr. James Pender's Advisory Papers

ADVISORIES	COMMITTEE'S POSTION	Standing Order Change Required
1. Meeting of the Assembly: Suggested amendment to Standing Orders 8, 9, 10 and 11	This is addressing the Davies recommendation listed as #2 (1 st Report) in the matrix above, relating to a settled parliamentary timetable. Select Committee recommends no change in standing orders, but requests the NA, through the PMC, to ensure the Government provides a quarterly (at least) program.	None required
2. Questions and Motions: Amend Standing Order 16(4) This is addressing the Davies Recommendation listed as #1 (1 st Report) and as # 4 (Addendum) in the matrix.	Refer to Standing Order Committee to formulate changes according to the Select Committee's recommendations as listed in the matrix for Davies Recommendation #1 (1 st report) and #4 (Addendum).	Reformulate SO according to Sampson's draft Please see revised SO #16 A(1) and 18 (9) and also revised SO # 47
3. Order Paper: Amendments to Standing Order 6(4-6) and Standing Orders 16, 22, 23 and 25		None required Please see revised SO #12
4. Legislation: Amend Standing Orders 45 to 47	Addressing Davies recommendation #4 in matrix and #4,5 and 6 in Addendum matrix	SO 46 and see Sampson Please see revised SO Chapter X
5. Appropriation Bills and Financial Procedure: Amend Standing Orders 61,62 and 49	The Select Committee recommends no change	None
6. Opposition time: Amending Standing Order 20(2)	Recommendation #6 of Davies addendum	None required
7. Committee chairs: Add standing order 71A	Davies recommendation #10 in addendum matrix	None. See revised SO # 73 F (3)
8. Committees: Recommendations pertaining to Standing Order 71 and meetings of the various committees		See revised SO Chapter XII
9. Relations with Civil Society and Private Sector and other Miscellaneous Matters: Recommends addition of Standing Order 3A	Referring to Davies recommendation # 17 in Addendum.	None required

APPENDIX II

Draft Revised Standing Orders As Amended by the Special Select Committee on the Needs Assessment Of the Guyana National Assembly

Revised Standing Orders	Status
Chapter I – Oath of Members, Election of Speaker, Duties of Clerk, Quorum	Amended title
Standing Orders 1 - 7	Unchanged
Chapter II – Sittings of the Assembly	Amended title
8(1) Save as otherwise provided by the Constitution or resolved by the Assembly upon a motion moved by the Minister, the Assembly may sit every day except Saturdays and Sundays and, unless the Assembly otherwise decide, every adjournment of the Assembly shall be to the next sitting day.	Amended
8(2) If, during an adjournment of the Assembly, it is represented to the Speaker by the Government, or the Speaker is of the opinion, that the public interest requires that the Assembly should meet on a day earlier than that to which it stands adjourned, the Speaker may give notice accordingly and the Assembly shall meet at the time stated in such notice. The Clerk shall as soon as possible inform each Member in writing or, by telegram of any such earlier meeting.	Unchanged
8(3). Every direction under paragraph (2) of this Standing Order shall be in writing and shall be signed by the Speaker and shall bear the business to be transacted at the meeting to which it relates.	New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 8A(2) from Ms. Sampson
8(4) Forthwith upon receipt of any direction under paragraph 3 of this Standing Order, the Clerk shall inform every Member of the Assembly, personally, if practicable, of the day and hour appointed by the Speaker for the holding of the extraordinary Sitting of the Assembly and of the business to be transacted at such meeting	New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 8A(3) from Ms. Sampson.
8(5). Except by leave of the Assembly, no business other than the business specified in the direction under paragraph (2) of this SO shall be transacted at any Extraordinary Sitting of the Assembly under said paragraph. At the conclusion of the business, unless the Assembly has otherwise decided, the Assembly shall stand adjourned without question being put to the day to which it had originally been adjourned at its last meeting.	New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 8A(4) from Ms. Sampson
8A. Recess for National Assembly	Unchanged
Notwithstanding anything contained in SO #8, unless there are special reasons for so doing, no sitting of the National Assembly shall be held from 10 th August to 10 th October in any year.	
9(1) Save as otherwise provided by the Constitution and subject to paragraph (2) of this SO, every sitting shall begin at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and unless previously adjourned, shall end at 10 o'clock on the same day.	Unchanged
9(2) The Speaker may at any time suspend the sitting for a stated period but, unless the Assembly otherwise resolve, the Speaker shall at 4 o'clock suspend the sitting for half an hour, and at 7 o'clock suspend the sitting for 1 hour.	Amended
9(3) The Assembly may at any time by motion made and carried without amendment or debate suspend or vary the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of	Unchanged

<p>this SO.</p> <p>9(4) The Assembly may from time to time alter, by resolution, the hours provided in this rule for beginning and ending a sitting.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 8(8) from Ms. Sampson</p>
<p>10. Adjournment of the Assembly</p> <p>(1) A Minister may move "That this Assembly do now adjourn" at any time after the conclusion of Questions to Ministers at any sitting, but any other member may only move such a motion under SO #11 (Adjournment – Definite Matter of Urgent Public Importance).</p> <p>10(2) The Speaker shall at 09:55 p.m. interrupt the business under consideration which shall stand deferred to the next sitting day, unless the member in charge of the business names a different sitting day to which that business should be deferred. If the Assembly is in Committee at that time the Chairman shall leave the Chair forthwith, report to the Assembly and the committee shall be directed to sit again on such day as the Leader of the Assembly shall direct. Then at the time appointed for the termination of the sitting in paragraph one (1) of this rule, the speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put.</p> <p>10(3) A Minister may, without notice, at the time appointed in Standing Order No. 12 (Order of Business), move that the proceedings on any specified business be exempted at that day's sitting from the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Order and any such motion shall be decided without amendment or debate. Any business so exempted shall not be interrupted at 09:55 o' clock. Upon the conclusion of all business so exempted, the Speaker shall call upon a Minister, to move "That this Assembly do now adjourn", and, if it is then after 10:00 p.m., the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put.</p> <p>10(4). Upon any Motion "That this Assembly do now adjourn", a debate may take place in which any matter for which the Minister is responsible may be raised by a Member who has obtained the right to raise a matter on the motion for the adjournment that day. The Minister responsible for the matter raised shall reply. Both the Member who has obtained such a right and the Minister replying shall each be entitled to address Parliament for fifteen minutes and this time shall not be extended. Thereafter, if time permits, any other member who has obtained the right may similarly raise another matter subject to the same conditions. Any such debate shall cease at 10PM.</p> <p>10(5). If the motion upon which a debate under the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Standing Order takes place has been made before the moment of interruption, such motion shall not lapse and such debate shall not be interrupted at the moment of interruption but shall continue for a maximum of thirty minutes. Thereafter the motion shall lapse.</p> <p>10(6). The right to raise a matter on the motion for the adjournment of the Assembly shall be allotted to a maximum of two Members only for each sitting day, if necessary by vote, under the directions of the Speaker.</p> <p>10(7). Any member wishing to obtain the right to raise a matter on the motion for the adjournment shall give not less than three days' written notice thereof to the Speaker specifying the matter which he proposes to raise.</p>	<p>Amend numbering</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 8(4) from Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 8(6) from Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 10(2) from Ms. Sampson but changed Cabinet to Minister</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 10(3) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 10(4) from Ms. Sampson but changed "ballot" to "vote"</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 10(5) from Ms. Sampson</p>

<p>10(8): Should the Member fail to obtain such right for the sitting day named in his notice, he shall, at his request, be included in any vote held for the next succeeding sitting day, subject to such arrangements as the Speaker may make.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 10(6) from Ms. Sampson</p>
<p>11. Adjournment – Definite Matter of Urgent Public Interest Chapter III – Arrangements of Business</p>	<p>Unchanged</p>
<p>12. Order of Business Unless the Assembly otherwise direct, the business of each sitting day shall be transacted in the following order –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Prayers (b) Oath of a New Member (c) Messages from the President (d) Announcements by the Speaker (e) Presentation of Petitions (f) Presentation of Papers (g) Reports from Committees (h) Oral questions without notice (i) Questions on Notice (j) Statement by Ministers, including policy statements (k) Personal Explanations (l) Requests for Leave to Move the Adjournment of the Assembly on Definite Matters of Urgent Public Importance (m) Motions Relating to the Business of Sitzings of the Assembly and Moved by a Minister (n) Introduction of Bills (o) Public Business <p>Government Business Private Business Committee Business</p>	<p>Amended as suggested by Ms. Sampson. However, the Committee is still to determine whether the addition to o) is necessary.</p>
<p>12 A Order Paper (1) In accordance with Standing Orders, the Clerk of the Assembly shall prepare an Order Paper for each sitting of the Assembly showing the business before the National Assembly in the sequence in which orders of business are called on.</p> <p>12A(2) The Order Paper shall be circulated as early as possible before each sitting.</p> <p>12A(3) An order may be postponed on motion moved without notice by the Member in charge of the order or, in his or her absence, by another Member he or she has asked.</p> <p>12A(4) If any notices or orders of the day on the Order Paper have not been called on before the adjournment of the Assembly, they shall be listed on the Order Paper for the next sitting.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 12A(1) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 12A(2) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 12A(3) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 12A(4) from Ms. Sampson</p>
<p>13. Petitions Presentation of Petitions</p>	<p>Unchanged</p>
<p>14. Presentation of Papers</p>	

<p>14(1) Every paper shall be presented by the Speaker or a Minister and its presentation shall be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings.</p> <p>14(2) A Minister presenting a paper may make a short explanatory statement of its contents but no debate shall then take place upon any such statement.</p> <p>14(3) All papers presented to the Assembly shall be ordered to lie upon the Table without question put and any motion for the printing thereof shall be determined without amendment or debate.</p> <p>14(4) A report from any Committee shall be presented to the Assembly by the Chairman of that Committee or by such other member thereof as he may designate and shall be ordered to be published without question put.</p> <p>14(5) The Leader of the Assembly may present any paper containing the reply of the Government to the recommendations or opinions expressed by a Committee of the Assembly and tabled in a report. Such a paper shall be ordered to be published without question put.</p>	<p>Amended.</p> <p>No change</p> <p>No change.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 14(4) from Ms. Sampson. the Committee is yet to determine inclusion in the SOs.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 14(5) from Ms. Sampson</p>
Chapter IV - Questions	
<p>15. Nature of Questions</p> <p>(1) Questions may be put to Minister relating to the responsibility with which he has been assigned.</p> <p>15(2) The right to ask a question shall be subject to the following rules, as to the interpretation of which the speaker shall be the sole judge.</p>	<p>No change</p> <p>No change. Existing 17(1)</p>
<p>16. Oral Questions without Notice</p> <p>(1) There shall be a 20 minute Period for Oral Questions without Notice at the appropriate stage in the Order of Business at each sitting of the Assembly which shall be subject to the following rules:</p> <p>a) The permission of the Speaker to ask the question must be obtained before the start of the sitting;</p> <p>b) Only questions that are urgent and important or relate to the business of the day shall be permitted;</p> <p>c) Questions and answers shall be brief and precise and stated without argument or opinion;</p> <p>d) Supplementary questions, not exceeding two (2) per original question, may be permitted at the discretion of the Speaker.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 16 (1) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>Existing 16(1) is now separated into the new 16(1)(a) and (b)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(e and f)</p> <p>Replaces 18(2)</p>
<p>16A. Question on Notice</p> <p>(1) Notice of a Question on Notice shall be given by a Member in writing to the clerk, not later than 21 clear days before the sitting day on which the answer is required.</p>	<p>Same as existing 16(4), but amended as indicated</p>

<p>(2) Notice of a Question may be handed by a Member to the Clerk when the Assembly is sitting, or may be sent to or left at the Parliament Office at any time during the hours prescribed for the purpose. Every such notice must be signed by the Member given it.</p> <p>16A(3) A member may have up to five questions on the Order Paper at any one time and not more than three of these questions shall be for oral answers. A Member requiring an oral answer to his question shall so indicate or mark it with an asterisk.</p> <p>16A(4) A Member who has given notice of a question for oral answer may request that it be converted to a question for written answer. Notice of such a request shall be given by the Member in writing to the Clerk on any working day before the sitting day on which the answer is required.</p> <p>16A(5) A member who has given notice of a question for written answer may request that it be converted to a question for oral answer. Notice of such a request shall be given by the Member in writing to the Clerk not less than seven clear days before the sitting day on which the answer is required.</p> <p>16A(6) If in the opinion of the Speaker a question for oral answer is of such a nature as to require a lengthy reply, the Speaker may direct that such question be converted to a question for written answer.</p>	<p>Same as existing 16(2)</p> <p>Same as existing 16(3) and existing 18(12), with amendment as shown</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 16A(4) from Sampson</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 16A(5) from Sampson</p> <p>New</p>
<p>17. Contents of Question</p> <p>(1) Every question shall conform to the following rules –</p> <p>(a) a question shall not contain more than one issue and shall be concise;</p> <p>(b) a question shall not include the names of persons or statements not strictly necessary to render the question intelligible;</p> <p>(c) a question shall not contain statements which the Member who asks the question is not prepared to substantiate;</p> <p>(d) a question shall not contain arguments, inferences, opinions, imputations, epithets or offensive expressions;</p> <p>(e) a question shall not refer to proceedings in a Committee of Parliament which have not been reported to Parliament;</p> <p>(f) a question shall not seek information about any matter which is of its nature secret;</p> <p>(g) a question shall not reflect on the decision of a court of law and no question shall be asked on any matter which is sub judice;</p> <p>(h) a question shall not be asked for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinion, the solution of an abstract legal case or the answer to a hypothetical proposition;</p> <p>(i) a question shall not be asked as to whether statements in the Press or of private individuals or bodies or persons are accurate;</p> <p>(j) a question shall not be asked as to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity;</p>	<p>Existing 17(1)(e)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(b)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(c)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(f)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(g iii)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(g ii)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(g vi)</p> <p>Existing 17(h)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(g viii)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(g v)</p>

<p>(k) a question shall not be asked reflecting on the character or conduct of any person whose conduct can only be challenged on a substantive motion;</p> <p>(l) a question shall not refer discourteously to, or seek information about, the internal affairs of any territory within the Commonwealth or of a friendly foreign state;</p> <p>(m) a question shall not be asked making or implying a charge of a personal character;</p> <p>(n) a question shall not be asked seeking for information set forth in accessible or ordinary works of reference;</p> <p>(o) a question fully answered shall not be asked again during the same session.</p>	<p>Existing 17(1)(g vii)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(g x)</p> <p>New</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(g ix)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(g i)</p>
<p>17(2) If the Speaker is of opinion that any question of which a Member has given notice to the Clerk or which a Member has sought permission to ask without notice, is an abuse of the right of questioning or infringes any of the provisions of this or any other Standing Order, he may direct –</p> <p>(a) That it be printed or asked with such alterations as he may direct; or</p> <p>(b) That the Member concerned be informed that the question is inadmissible.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>17A: Notice Paper – Questions</p> <p>Once a Question on Notice has been approved by the Speaker, the Clerk of the Assembly shall immediately prepare and circulate to Members, a Notice Paper setting out the Following:</p> <p>Question Number, Member Asking, Question Details, Minister Answering, Date Received, Date for Order Paper.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 17A from Ms Sampson</p>
<p>18 Manner of asking and answering questions</p> <p>(1) Questions on Notice shall be raised at the time appointed by Standing Order No. 12[Order of Business]and the time allotted for such Questions and answers shall not exceed forty minutes</p> <p>(2) At the time for the asking and answering of questions on Notice under Standing Order No. 12 (Order of Business), the Speaker shall call in turn upon each Member in whose name a question stands upon the Order Paper, in the order in which the questions are printed. The Member so called shall then rise in his place and ask the question by reference to its number on the Order Paper.</p> <p>(3) In the case of a question for oral reply, the Minister questioned shall rise in his place and give his reply. However, a Minister may decline to answer a question, if the publication of the answer would in his opinion be contrary to the public interest.</p> <p>(4) In the case of a question for written reply, the Minister questioned shall immediately pass copies of the answer to the Clerk of the Assembly who shall circulate the answer to members at that sitting and record the question and the reply in the Minutes of the Proceedings.</p> <p>(5) In the absence of the Minister to whom it is addressed, a Question may be answered by any other Minister duly authorized to give the answer on behalf of the absent Minister.</p>	<p>Amend Existing 18(13).</p> <p>Amend Existing 18(1)</p> <p>Amend existing 18(3)</p> <p>Same as existing 18(11)</p> <p>Same as existing 18(6)</p>

<p>professional human resources office to manage the new responsibilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration should be given to altering working hours in order to conform more with parliamentary hours • Staff handbook should be prepared • The Clerk of the national Assembly should become the employer and should have complete control over all aspects of employment • Personnel training should be arranged with the support of the donor community • Training budget should be prepared 	<p>the PMC, Speaker and Clerk for implementation.</p>	
<p>20. A review of the staffing structure of the Parliament Office should be undertaken so as to ensure that staffing matches the needs of the National Assembly</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the PMC, Speaker and Clerk for implementation.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>21. A Document Centre convenient for Members should be created</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Parliamentary Management Committee and the Clerk for implementation.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>22. The making available Bills etc. at Post Offices or other public places should be agreed</p>	<p>The Committee noted that Bills, Notice Papers, Order Papers were already made available to the public and recommends that future use be made of Post Offices and other public places. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Clerk for implementation.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>23. All the National Assembly's documents should be placed on the website</p>	<p>The Committee notes that the National Assembly documents were being placed on the Website and recommends that the practice continue.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>24. The establishment of a library which is pleasant to work in, with a relevant book collection and a modest research capability. International donor support should</p>	<p>The Committee notes that these issues pertaining to the Library were ongoing and recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the PMC, Speaker and Clerk for</p>	<p>None required</p>

<p>be pursued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A qualified Librarian should be employed in a new post as Head of Research and Library Services • A catalogue collection should be created • Improved infrastructure • A Parliamentary Librarian should be invited to give further advice. • Newspapers should be kept in internet archive or kept as microfilm documents 	<p>implementation of measures to attract international Donor Support.</p>	
<p>25. The appointment of a Public Information Officer</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Parliamentary Management Committee and the Clerk for immediate implementation.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>26. Broadcasting of proceedings</p>	<p>The Committee notes that there are delayed broadcast of proceedings and recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Parliamentary Management Committee for action.</p>	<p>None required</p>
<p>Bradford's [Study 1] Recommendation Agreed to</p>		
<p>1[1] Parliament must be in control of its own budget.</p>	<p>Same as Davies Addendum #18. See Davies #18 – Addendum above.</p>	<p>None required.</p>
<p>2[2]. An oral question time should be set each sitting day, and Ministers must answer OQs in the House [within a time frame to be defined]</p>	<p>The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for implementation as proposed by Mrs Jacqueline Sampson at Standing Order No. 16 (1) (b) of her draft.</p>	<p>Sampson: SO 16</p>
<p>3[4]. Ministers must be required to respond in writing to written questions [within a time frame to be defined]</p>	<p>See Davies – 1st Report #1 above.</p>	<p>SO changes required.</p> <p>Pender Advisory #2: Recommended change to SO 16(4). Ms. Sampson's: Changes to SO 16-18.</p>
<p>4[7]. Bills passed by Parliament should be given Presidential Assent in accordance with the Constitution</p>	<p>Same as Davies 1st report #11. Select Committee recommends that Assent mechanism already exists within the Constitution and the SOs.</p>	<p>None required.</p> <p>Pender: None</p> <p>Sampson: See recommendations for changes of SO 58-60</p>
<p>5[12]. Debates, OQs, WQs and answers, accountability documents,</p>	<p>Same as Davies Addendum #23</p>	<p>None required.</p>

reports and the Auditor General's and Ombudsman, Committee reports should be posted on Parliamentary website		Pender: None Sampson: None
6[14]. Members should be able to petition the Speaker for an urgent (i.e same day sitting) Debate on a matter of national importance	The Committee notes that Standing Order No. 11 addresses this recommendation in principle and recommends that the National Assembly refer it to the Standing Orders Committee for possible refinement including possible criteria for such terms as urgent and public importance.	None required since the select committee agreed this SO already exists. Pender: None Sampson: None
7[24]. The Committees should use their powers to call officials and Ministers, as well as witnesses outside Government, before them to question any matter. Ministers and Officials should be required to attend, and if not submit their reasons in writing expeditiously to the Chair of the Committees	Relate to Davies Addendum #9.	None required. Sampson: SO 69F
8 [25]. Ministers and Officials should be required to respond to requests for information by the Committee on a timely manner, as if they do not, the Committee Chair should report this formally to the House	Select Committee recommends that the NA approves this recommendation and that the NA issues an advisory to the Sector Committees to refer non-compliance for the Speaker to act on.	None required. Note resolution #19 (15-05-03) Sampson: SO 69F
9[26]. Following an Oversight Committee Report to Parliament which has recommendations for action, the Executive must report in writing to Parliament within three (3) months the action it proposes to make or reasons why action has not or cannot be taken	Relate to Davies Addendum #8 See also Bradford's #13[35]	SO Change required. Sampson: 84 (4)
10[27]. The President should be asked to present an Annual State of the Nation Speech to Parliament at the beginning of each year.	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee to make provision in the Standing Orders for an Annual State of the Nation Address by the President at the Opening of a New session of Parliament which the Committee understands to be October each year.	Yes. Standing Order Committee to formulate
11[31]. Ministers should make major policy statements in the House if they are not foreshadowed in the President's annual State of the Nation Speech, or the Budget	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for insertion of the words "(including policy statements)" at the end of Standing Order No. 12 (h).	SO 12(h)
12[34]. Recommendations made by	The Committee notes that this	None required

the Auditor General in his annual reports to the PAC should be addressed and acted on by Parliament expeditiously	recommendation has been addressed at item 4 on page 13 of the First Interim Report.	
13[35]. <u>Original</u> : The Executive should report to Parliament not later than 2 months after the Auditor General's Report is tabled and approved in Parliament on action taken on particular recommendations made by the AG <u>Revised</u> : The Executive should report to Parliament not later than 2 months after the PAC's report on its examination of the AG's report is adopted by Parliament	Relate to Bradford's #9[26]. Similar to Davies Addendum #8. It is noted that this is already in place and that the Government has tabled its Treasury Memorandum.	None required <u>Pender</u> : Advisory #8 <u>Sampson</u> : SO 69B
14[9]. Key MPs should be given training in how to undertake Fiduciary Oversight Role	Relate to Davies Addendum #2	None required
15[18]. Resource each committee with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A full time analyst • A full time research assistant • An experienced writer drawn from Clerk's Office • A Committee Clerk 	The Committee accepts the principle of adequately resourcing each Committee and recommends that the National Assembly refer these recommendations to the Speaker, Parliamentary Management Committee and Clerk to be considered in conjunction with the previous recommendation at item 12 on page 15 of the First Interim Report.	None required
16[19]. Fund the Committees to allow engagement of specialist advisors (e.g. on tax or financial matters)	The Committee accepts the principle of adequately resourcing each Committee and recommends that the National Assembly refer these recommendations to the Speaker, Parliamentary Management Committee and Clerk to be considered in conjunction with the previous recommendation at item 12 on page 15 of the First Interim Report.	None required
17[20]. The Committees should use their inquiry powers to undertake in depth investigations of Government matters, with the requirement they report to Parliament within 6 months of commencing investigation	Relate to Davies 1 st Report #6	Pender Advisory #8 para 3. <u>Sampson</u> : Recommends changes in SO 74. Broader recommendations to SOs 69-84 (Chapter XII).
18[39]. Ombudsman's report should be table in the House through the Speaker and become the subject of Parliamentary debate	The Committee notes that the Ombudsman's report is laid in the National Assembly by the Speaker and recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for provision to be made in the Standing Orders for debate on this Report.	Refer to SO Committee for inclusion

19[41]. The Ombudsman Office should be resourced adequately to ensure it can employ investigatory and prosecutorial staff to undertake inquiries on its own behalf.	Agreed.	None required
20[29]. All Bills should be reviewed and certify for constitutional consistency by the Attorney General.	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for incorporation in the relevant Standing Orders.	Refer to SO Committee

Section B

The Other Bradford's Recommendations

Recommendations	Select Committee's Position	SO Changes Required
<p>1[3]. Parliament should establish a Parliamentary Appointment's Committee to oversee the appointment of key members and independent oversight agencies and commissions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ombudsman • Integrity Commission • Auditor-General 	<p>The Select Committee notes that the appointments of the Ombudsman and the Auditor General are provided for in the Constitution and that the appointment of the Integrity Commission is provided for by statute. It agrees that the Select Committee should request the NA to refer this recommendation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Constitutional Reform for further consideration.</p> <p>The Committee agrees that the NA should advise the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Constitutional Reform of the additional position of the Members of the Select Committee. The Members of the People's National Congress/Reform note that the recommendation was made in the context of providing Parliament with greater oversight role and believe that Parliament should have a greater role in the appointment of the named positions.</p> <p>The Members of the Government believe that the Constitution and the laws of Guyana already catered adequately for the appointments of the named positions.</p>	To be determined
2[5]. All major bills presented by the Executive to Parliament should	The Committee notes that the PMC considered this matter previously and	The criteria determined by the PMC should be referred

be sent to a select committee for analysis and review before passage	it agreed that all major and/or complex bills would be sent to special select committees. The Select Committee, therefore, accepts this recommendation in principle. It agreed that the NA should ask the PMC to further define the criteria (guidelines) by which bills would be classified as major and/or complex and that the NA should ask the PMC to complete the definition of the criteria within a stipulated timeline. The Select Committee further recommends that provisions be made within the SOs to accommodate this recommendation.	to SO Committee for inclusion in the SOs.
3[6]. Parliament should employ its own staff, and the Speaker should appoint the Clerk of the House after consultation with all parties	The Committee notes that the first part of this recommendation has been previously dealt with in the Davies Report. It divided on the second part: (i) the Government Members favoured the retention of the <i>status quo</i> ; (ii) the Opposition Members strongly advocated that the appointment be made by the National Assembly.	None required Incomplete
4[8]. Parliament should be given a Legislative Timetable at the beginning of each annual session, which should be regularly updated and announced and the practice of adjourning the House <i>sine die</i> should cease	The Committee notes that this matter was determined in the consideration of the Davies Report.	None required
5[10]. MPs should be paid a salary and allowances commensurate with their responsibilities	The Select Committee agreed to ask the National Assembly to appoint a Joint Committee of the House to further consider this recommendation.	None required
6[11] Hansard reports of the House and key select committee debates should be available in two days	The Committee notes that this recommendation was previously dealt with during the consideration of the Davies Report.	None required
7[13]. Parliament should establish a Regulations review Committee chaired by a senior legally qualified Opposition MP	The Committee recommends that Ms Jacqui Sampson's draft proposal 70D (The Statutory Instruments Committee) be accepted.	None required
8[15]. The Executive should take a leadership role in promoting an effective Fiduciary Oversight and accountability regime in Parliament	The Committee notes that several initiatives are ongoing and that the NA should commend these initiatives and encourage the Executive to continue to promote effective Fiduciary Oversight and Accountability by Parliament.	None required

9[16]. The Opposition should agree never to use the "Parliamentary boycott", but commit to staying engaged in Parliament and its processes in the future	The members on the Government side strongly supports this recommendation, but notes that this will be a matter for the Opposition parties to consider. The Members of the Opposition will accept this recommendation, but only on the understanding that the recommendations of the Bradford and Davies' Reports will be substantially accepted, given form in the Constitution, other laws or SOs and adhered to in practice.	None required
10[17]. MPs should become more persistent in questioning the Government and utilize the opportunities which exist already in the SOs to praise and challenge the Government of the day	The Committee agrees that this was already dealt with during the consideration of the Davies Report. See Davies 1 st Report #10 and Addendum #6	None required
11[21] Committees should meet weekly for at least a half day during Parliamentary sessions, and meet for extended periods as the workload requires	The Committee agrees that Committees should determine their meeting schedules according to their workload.	None required. See Sampson proposed new Chapter XII
12[22]. PSCES should consider Budget Estimates before the Committee-of-the-Whole considers and passes the annual budget. They should also have the right to delegate consideration of parts of the Budget to other committees for review before the House considers the Budget	The Committee agrees that consideration of the budget estimates is guided by the FMAA. However, it recommends that the NA refer this recommendation to the Ministry of Finance and request the Ministry of Finance to make suggestions vis-à-vis this recommendation within the context of the FMAA. The Ministry of Finance should submit its recommendations to the NA.	Will depend on actions taken by MOF
13[23]. All financial bills after the First Reading should be sent either to PAC or PSCES, with a direction to report back their deliberations to the House by a nominated date. Adequate time should be given for consideration, and the public invited to make representations on the Bill	The Committee accepts this recommendation in principle on the basis of Resolution No. 19 dated 15 th May, 2003 and recommends that provisions be made in the SOs to accommodate it.	
14[28]. The Executive should present a Freedom of Information Bill to Parliament to enable the independent bodies (e.g. the Ombudsman) or any member of the public to seek non-commercial information held by central and local government public bodies and SOEs	The Committee accepts the recommendation and refers it to the NA for the NA to urge the Government to bring a Freedom of Information Bill at the earliest possible time. The Committee notes the Government's previous commitment on this matter.	None required
15[30]. The Government agree to refer to the Parliamentary Standing	The Committee agrees in principle but with an affirmation that any	None required

Committee on Constitutional reform the effect that the present electoral system has on the ability of MPs to undertake their responsibility for ensuring the fiduciary oversight and accountability processes of Parliament are administered effectively, recognizing the Constitutional principle of the separation of powers between the Executive and Parliament	future consideration of the electoral system must retain the principle of PR	
16[32]. The Government and the international donor community agree to allow legislation required as a result of donor conditionality to be scrutinized by a Parliamentary Select Committee before passage in the House	The Committee agrees that the recommendations in #2 above will provide the opportunity for adequate scrutiny. However, the Committee urges the Government and the donor community to take cognizance of the oversight role of the National Assembly.	None required
17[33]. Establish a Constitutional Division of the High Court to allow citizens of Guyana to challenge the constitutionality of the Executive or Parliamentary action, or proposed legislation	The Committee notes that the need for citizens to access the means for redress was imperative and agrees to refer the recommendation to the CRC for further consideration.	None required
18[36]. Make the Ombudsman a Parliamentary Officer	The Committee has decided that this recommendation should be linked to action taken for #1 above	None required
19[37]. Require central and local government bodies to provide information requested by the Ombudsman's Office expeditiously	The Committee agrees that the recommendation should be referred to the National Assembly and that the NA should refer the recommendation to the relevant body for the strengthening of the legislation to give effect to the recommendation.	None required
20[38]. Appoint an Ombudsman	The Committee notes that the vacancy has now existed for approximately one year and urges the Government to use existing mechanisms to conclude the appointment of an Ombudsman.	None required
21[40]. The OO budget should be processed through and approved by Parliament to ensure independence	The Committee notes that this should be linked to action taken for #1 above.	None required.

Section C

Mr. James Pender's Advisory Papers

ADVISORIES	COMMITTEE'S POSTION	Standing Order Change Required
1. <u>Meeting of the Assembly:</u> Suggested amendment to Standing Orders 8, 9, 10 and 11	This is addressing the Davies recommendation listed as #2 (1 st Report) in the matrix above, relating to a settled parliamentary timetable. Select Committee recommends no change in standing orders, but requests the NA, through the PMC, to ensure the Government provides a quarterly (at least) program.	None required
2. <u>Questions and Motions:</u> Amend Standing Order 16(4) This is addressing the Davies Recommendation listed as #1 (1 st Report) and as # 4 (Addendum) in the matrix.	Refer to Standing Order Committee to formulate changes according to the Select Committee's recommendations as listed in the matrix for Davies Recommendation #1 (1 st report) and #4 (Addendum).	Reformulate SO according to Sampson's draft
3. <u>Order Paper:</u> Amendments to Standing Order 6(4-6) and Standing Orders 16, 22, 23 and 25		None required
4. <u>Legislation:</u> Amend Standing Orders 45 to 47	Addressing Davies recommendation #4 in matrix and #4,5 and 6 in Addendum matrix	SO 46 and see Sampson
5. <u>Appropriation Bills and Financial Procedure:</u> Amend Standing Orders 61,62 and 49		None
6. <u>Opposition time:</u> Amending Standing Order 20(2)	Recommendation #6 of Davies addendum	None required
7. <u>Committee chairs:</u> Add standing order 71A	Davies recommendation #10 in addendum matrix	See Sampson
8. <u>Committees:</u> Recommendations pertaining to Standing Order 71 and meetings of the various committees		See Sampson
9. <u>Relations with Civil Society and Private Sector and other Miscellaneous Matters:</u> Recommends addition of Standing Order 3A	Referring to Davies recommendation # 17 in Addendum.	None required

APPENDIX II

Draft Revised Standing Orders As Amended by the Special Select Committee on the Needs Assessment Of the Guyana National Assembly

Revised Standing Orders	Status
Chapter I – Oath of Members, Election of Speaker, Duties of Clerk, Quorum	Amended title
Standing Orders 1 - 7	Unchanged
Chapter II – Sittings of the Assembly	Amended title
8(1) Save as otherwise provided by the Constitution or resolved by the Assembly upon a motion moved by the Minister, the Assembly may sit every day except Saturdays and Sundays and, unless the Assembly otherwise decide, every adjournment of the Assembly shall be to the next sitting day.	Amended
8(2) If, during an adjournment of the Assembly, it is represented to the Speaker by the Government, or the Speaker is of the opinion, that the public interest requires that the Assembly should meet on a day earlier than that to which it stands adjourned, the Speaker may give notice accordingly and the Assembly shall meet at the time stated in such notice. The Clerk shall as soon as possible inform each Member in writing or, by telegram of any such earlier meeting.	Unchanged
8(3). Every direction under paragraph (2) of this Standing Order shall be in writing and shall be signed by the Speaker and shall bear the business to be transacted at the meeting to which it relates.	New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 8A(2) from Ms. Sampson
8(4) Forthwith upon receipt of any direction under paragraph 3 of this Standing Order, the Clerk shall inform every Member of the Assembly, personally, if practicable, of the day and hour appointed by the Speaker for the holding of the extraordinary Sitting of the Assembly and of the business to be transacted at such meeting	New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 8A(3) from Ms. Sampson.
8(5). Except by leave of the Assembly, no business other than the business specified in the direction under paragraph (2) of this SO shall be transacted at any Extraordinary Sitting of the Assembly under said paragraph. At the conclusion of the business, unless the Assembly has otherwise decided, the Assembly shall stand adjourned without question being put to the day to which it had originally been adjourned at its last meeting.	New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 8A(4) from Ms. Sampson
8A. Recess for National Assembly	Unchanged
Notwithstanding anything contained in SO #8, unless there are special reasons for so doing, no sitting of the National Assembly shall be held from 10 th August to 10 th October in any year.	
9(1) Save as otherwise provided by the Constitution and subject to paragraph (2) of this SO, every sitting shall begin at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and unless previously adjourned, shall end at 10 o'clock on the same day.	Unchanged
9(2) The Speaker may at any time suspend the sitting for a stated period but, unless the Assembly otherwise resolve, the Speaker shall at 4 o'clock suspend the sitting for half an hour, and at 7 o'clock suspend the sitting for 1 hour.	Amended
9(3) The Assembly may at any time by motion made and carried without amendment or debate suspend or vary the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of	Unchanged

<p>this SO.</p> <p>9(4) The Assembly may from time to time alter, by resolution, the hours provided in this rule for beginning and ending a sitting.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 8(8) from Ms. Sampson</p>
<p>10. Adjournment of the Assembly</p> <p>(1) A Minister may move "That this Assembly do now adjourn" at any time after the conclusion of Questions to Ministers at any sitting, but any other member may only move such a motion under SO #11 (Adjournment – Definite Matter of Urgent Public Importance).</p> <p>10(2) The Speaker shall at 09:55 p.m. interrupt the business under consideration which shall stand deferred to the next sitting day, unless the member in charge of the business names a different sitting day to which that business should be deferred. If the Assembly is in Committee at that time the Chairman shall leave the Chair forthwith, report to the Assembly and the committee shall be directed to sit again on such day as the Leader of the Assembly shall direct. Then at the time appointed for the termination of the sitting in paragraph one (1) of this rule, the speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put.</p> <p>10(3) A Minister may, without notice, at the time appointed in Standing Order No. 12 (Order of Business), move that the proceedings on any specified business be exempted at that day's sitting from the provisions of paragraph 4 of this Order and any such motion shall be decided without amendment or debate. Any business so exempted shall not be interrupted at 09:55 o' clock. Upon the conclusion of all business so exempted, the Speaker shall call upon a Minister, to move "That this Assembly do now adjourn", and, if it is then after 10:00 p.m., the Speaker shall adjourn the Assembly without question put.</p> <p>10(4). Upon any Motion "That this Assembly do now adjourn", a debate may take place in which any matter for which the Minister is responsible may be raised by a Member who has obtained the right to raise a matter on the motion for the adjournment that day. The Minister responsible for the matter raised shall reply. Both the Member who has obtained such a right and the Minister replying shall each be entitled to address Parliament for fifteen minutes and this time shall not be extended. Thereafter, if time permits, any other member who has obtained the right may similarly raise another matter subject to the same conditions. Any such debate shall cease at 10PM.</p> <p>10(5). If the motion upon which a debate under the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Standing Order takes place has been made before the moment of interruption, such motion shall not lapse and such debate shall not be interrupted at the moment of interruption but shall continue for a maximum of thirty minutes. Thereafter the motion shall lapse.</p> <p>10(6). The right to raise a matter on the motion for the adjournment of the Assembly shall be allotted to a maximum of two Members only for each sitting day, if necessary by vote, under the directions of the Speaker.</p> <p>10(7). Any member wishing to obtain the right to raise a matter on the motion for the adjournment shall give not less than three days' written notice thereof to the Speaker specifying the matter which he proposes to raise.</p>	<p>Amend numbering</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 8(4) from Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 8(6) from Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 10(2) from Ms. Sampson but changed Cabinet to Minister</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 10(3) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 10(4) from Ms. Sampson but changed "ballot" to "vote"</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 10(5) from Ms. Sampson</p>

<p>10(8): Should the Member fail to obtain such right for the sitting day named in his notice, he shall, at his request, be included in any ballot held for the next succeeding sitting day, subject to such arrangements as the Speaker may make.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 10(6) from Ms. Sampson</p>
<p>11. Adjournment – Definite Matter of Urgent Public Interest</p>	<p>Unchanged</p>
<p>Chapter III – Arrangements of Business</p>	
<p>12. Order of Business Unless the Assembly otherwise direct, the business of each sitting day shall be transacted in the following order –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Prayers (b) Oath of a New Member (c) Messages from the President (d) Announcements by the Speaker (e) Presentation of Petitions (f) Presentation of Papers (g) Reports from Committees (h) Oral questions without notice (i) Questions on Notice (j) Statement by Ministers (k) Personal Explanations (l) Requests for Leave to Move the Adjournment of the Assembly on Definite Matters of Urgent Public Importance (m) Motions Relating to the Business of Sitzings of the Assembly and Moved by a Minister (n) Introduction of Bills (o) Public Business <p>Government Business Private Business Committee Business</p>	<p>Amended as suggested by Ms. Sampson. However, the Committee is still to determine whether the addition to o) is necessary.</p>
<p>12 A Order Paper (1) In accordance with Standing Orders, the Clerk of the Assembly shall prepare an Order Paper for each sitting of the Assembly showing the business before the National Assembly in the sequence in which orders of business are called on.</p> <p>12A(2) The Order Paper shall be circulated as early as possible before each sitting.</p> <p>12A(3) An order may be postponed on motion moved without notice by the Member in charge of the order or, in his or her absence, by another Member he or she has asked.</p> <p>12A(4) If any notices or orders of the day on the Order Paper have not been called on before the adjournment of the Assembly, they shall be listed on the Order Paper for the next sitting.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 12A(1) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 12A(2) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 12A(3) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 12A(4) from Ms. Sampson</p>
<p>13. Petitions</p>	<p>Unchanged</p>
<p>Presentation of Petitions</p>	
<p>14. Presentation of Papers</p>	

<p>14(1) Every paper shall be presented by the Speaker or a Minister and its presentation shall be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings.</p> <p>14(2) A Minister presenting a paper may make a short explanatory statement of its contents but no debate shall then take place upon any such statement.</p> <p>14(3) All papers presented to the Assembly shall be ordered to lie upon the Table without question put and any motion for the printing thereof shall be determined without amendment or debate.</p> <p>14(4) A report from any Committee shall be presented to the Assembly by the Chairman of that Committee of by such other member thereof as he may designate and shall be ordered to be published without question put.</p> <p>14(5) The Leader of the Assembly may present any paper containing the reply of the Government to the recommendations or opinions expressed by a Committee of the Assembly and tabled in a report. Such a paper shall be ordered to be published without question put.</p>	<p>Amended.</p> <p>No change</p> <p>No change. But please note that Ms. Sampson suggested the replacement of the word printing with the word publication.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 14(4) from Ms. Sampson. the Committee is yet to determine inclusion in the SOs.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 14(5) from Ms. Sampson</p>
<p>Chapter IV - Questions</p>	
<p>15. Nature of Questions</p> <p>(1) Questions may be put to Minister relating to the responsibility with which he has been assigned.</p> <p>15(2) The right to ask a question shall be subject to the following rules, as to the interpretation of which the speaker shall be the sole judge.</p>	<p>No change</p> <p>No change. Existing 17(1)</p>
<p>16. Oral Questions without Notice</p> <p>(1) There shall be a 20 minute Period for Oral Questions without Notice at the appropriate stage in the Order of Business at each sitting of the Assembly which shall be subject to the following rules:</p> <p>a) The permission of the Speaker to ask the question must be obtained before the start of the sitting;</p> <p>b) Only questions that are urgent and important or relate to the business of the day shall be permitted;</p> <p>c) Questions and answers shall be brief and precise and stated without argument or opinion;</p> <p>d) Supplementary questions, not exceeding two (2) per original question, may be permitted at the discretion of the Speaker.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 16 (1) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>Existing 16(1) is now separated into the new 16(1)(a) and (b)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(e and f)</p> <p>Replaces 18(2)</p>
<p>16A. Question on Notice</p> <p>(1) Notice of a Question on Notice shall be given by a Member in writing to the clerk, not later than 21 clear days before the sitting day on which the answer is required.</p>	<p>Same as existing 16(4), but amended as indicated</p>

<p>(2) Notice of a Question may be handed by a Member to the Clerk when the Assembly is sitting, or may be sent to or left at the Parliament Office at any time during the hours prescribed for the purpose. Every such notice must be signed by the Member given it.</p> <p>16A(3) A member may have up to five questions on the Order Paper at any one time and not more than three of these questions shall be for oral answers. A Member requiring an oral answer to his question shall so indicate or mark it with an asterisk.</p> <p>16A(4) A Member who has given notice of a question for oral answer may request that it be converted to a question for written answer. Notice of such a request shall be given by the Member in writing to the Clerk on any working day before the sitting day on which the answer is required.</p> <p>16A(5) A member who has given notice of a question for written answer may request that it be converted to a question for oral answer. Notice of such a request shall be given by the Member in writing to the Clerk not less than seven clear days before the sitting day on which the answer is required.</p> <p>16A(6) If in the opinion of the Speaker a question for oral answer is of such a nature as to require a lengthy reply, the Speaker may direct that such question be converted to a question for written answer.</p>	<p>Same as existing 16(2)</p> <p>Same as existing 16(3) and existing 18(12), with amendment as shown</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 16A(4) from Sampson</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 16A(5) from Sampson</p> <p>New</p>
<p>17. Contents of Question</p> <p>(1) Every question shall conform to the following rules –</p> <p>(a) a question shall not contain more than one issue and shall be concise;</p> <p>(b) a question shall not include the names of persons or statements not strictly necessary to render the question intelligible;</p> <p>(c) a question shall not contain statements which the Member who asks the question is not prepared to substantiate;</p> <p>(d) a question shall not contain arguments, inferences, opinions, imputations, epithets or offensive expressions;</p> <p>(e) a question shall not refer to proceedings in a Committee of Parliament which have not been reported to Parliament;</p> <p>(f) a question shall not seek information about any matter which is of its nature secret;</p> <p>(g) a question shall not reflect on the decision of a court of law and no question shall be asked on any matter which is sub judice;</p> <p>(h) a question shall not be asked for the purpose of obtaining an expression of opinion, the solution of an abstract legal case or the answer to a hypothetical proposition;</p> <p>(i) a question shall not be asked as to whether statements in the Press or of private individuals or bodies or persons are accurate;</p> <p>(j) a question shall not be asked as to the character or conduct of any person except in his official or public capacity;</p>	<p>Existing 17(1)(e)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(b)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(c)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(f)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(g iii)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(g ii)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(g vi)</p> <p>Existing 17(h)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(g viii)</p> <p>Existing 17(1)(g v)</p>

<p>(k) a question shall not be asked reflecting on the character or conduct of any person whose conduct can only be challenged on a substantive motion;</p>	<p>Existing 17(1)(g vii)</p>
<p>(l) a question shall not refer discourteously to, or seek information about, the internal affairs of any territory within the Commonwealth or of a friendly foreign state;</p>	<p>Existing 17(1)(g x)</p>
<p>(m) a question shall not be asked making or implying a charge of a personal character;</p>	<p>New</p>
<p>(n) a question shall not be asked seeking for information set forth in accessible or ordinary works of reference;</p>	<p>Existing 17(1)(g ix)</p>
<p>(o) a question fully answered shall not be asked again during the same session.</p>	<p>Existing 17(1)(g i)</p>
<p>17(2) If the Speaker is of opinion that any question of which a Member has given notice to the Clerk or which a Member has sought permission to ask without notice, is an abuse of the right of questioning or infringes any of the provisions of this or any other Standing Order, he may direct –</p> <p>(a) That it be printed or asked with such alterations as he may direct; or</p> <p>(b) That the Member concerned be informed that the question is inadmissible.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>17A: Notice Paper – Questions</p> <p>Once a Question on Notice has been approved by the Speaker, the Clerk of the Assembly shall immediately prepare and circulate to Members, a Notice Paper setting out the Following:</p> <p>Question Number, Member Asking, Question Details, Minister Answering, Date Received, Date for Order Paper.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 17A from Ms Sampson</p>
<p>18 Manner of asking and answering questions</p>	
<p>(1) Questions on Notice shall be raised at the time appointed by Standing Order No. 12[Order of Business]and the time allotted for such Questions and answers shall not exceed forty minutes</p>	<p>Amend Existing 18(13).</p>
<p>(2) At the time for the asking and answering of questions on Notice under Standing Order No. 12 (Order of Business), the Speaker shall call in turn upon each Member in whose name a question stands upon the Order Paper, in the order in which the questions are printed. The Member so called shall then rise in his place and ask the question by reference to its number on the Order Paper.</p>	<p>Amend Existing 18(1)</p>
<p>(3) In the case of a question for oral reply, the Minister questioned shall rise in his place and give his reply. However, a Minister may decline to answer a question, if the publication of the answer would in his opinion be contrary to the public interest.</p>	<p>Amend existing 18(3)</p>
<p>(4) In the case of a question for written reply, the Minister questioned shall immediately pass copies of his answer to the Clerk of the Assembly who shall circulate the answer to members at that sitting and record the question and the reply in the Minutes of the Proceedings.</p>	<p>Same as existing 18(11)</p>
<p>(5) In the absence of the Minister to whom it is addressed, a Question may be answered by any other Minister duly authorized to give the answer on behalf of the absent Minister.</p>	<p>Same as existing 18(6)</p>

<p>(6) After an oral answer to a question has been given, supplementary questions may be asked for the purpose of elucidating the answer given orally, but the Speaker may refuse any such question which in his opinion introduces matters not relative to the original question, or which infringes any of the provisions of Standing Order No? (Contents of Questions)</p> <p>(7) When all the questions on notice have been called, the Speaker, if time permits, shall call again any question which has not been asked by reason of the absence of the Member in whose name it stands; in which case another Member may, if deputed by the absent Member, on his behalf either ask the question or request its postponement.</p> <p>(8) Questions on the Order Paper for oral answer which remain outstanding at the expiration of forty Minutes shall be answered in writing by the Minister to whom the question was addressed, who shall immediately pass copies of his answer to the Clerk of the Assembly for circulation to Members at that sitting and for inclusion in the Minutes of Proceedings, unless at any time before the expiration of time a member having a question on the Order Paper for oral answer but whose name has not yet been called by the Speaker signifies to the Clerk at the Table his desire to postpone the question to a later sitting or to withdraw it.</p> <p>(9) At the request of a Minister and with the approval of the Assembly, the answer to a Question on the Order paper may be deferred, once only, for a period of 12 clear days.</p> <p>(10) A Question may be withdrawn only at the request of the Member in whose name the Question stands on the Order Paper.</p> <p>(11) A question withdrawn from the Order Paper may be asked again provided that notice as required by these Standing Orders is given.</p>	<p>Same as existing 18(2)</p> <p>Same as existing 18(4) and 18(5)</p> <p>Same as existing 18(14)</p> <p>Amend existing 18(7)</p> <p>Same as existing 18(8)</p> <p>Same as existing 18(10)</p>
Chapter v – Personal Explanations	
19. Personal Explanations	Unchanged
Chapter VI – Public Business	
20 Arrangement of Public Business	
<p>(1) Public Business shall consist of motions and public Bills.</p> <p>(2) Subject to the provisions of these SOs, the Government Business shall have precedence on every day except Wednesdays when Private members' Business shall have precedence.</p> <p>(3) Government Business shall consist of Motions proposed to be made and Bills sponsored by Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries, and shall be set down in such order as the Government think fit.</p> <p>(4) Private Members' business shall be set down on the Order Paper by the Clerk of the Assembly in the order in which they qualify for the order paper.</p>	<p>Amend existing 20(1)</p> <p>Existing 20(2). No change.</p> <p>Amend existing 20(3)</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 20(4) from Ms. Sampson.</p>
21. Questions for Debate	
<p>(1) Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and these Standing Orders, any Member may introduce any Bill or propose any motion for debate in the Assembly, or may present any petition to the Assembly, and the same shall be disposed of in accordance with these Standing Orders:</p>	<p>Retain existing 21(1) with slight amendment</p>

<p>Provided that, except on the recommendation or with the consent of the Cabinet signified by a Minister, the Assembly shall not –</p> <p>(a) proceed upon any Bill (including any amendment to a Bill) which, in the opinion of the person presiding, makes provision for any of the following purposes</p> <p>(i) for imposing or increasing any tax;</p> <p>(ii) for imposing any charge upon the Consolidated Fund or any other public fund of Guyana or for altering any such charge otherwise than by reducing it;</p> <p>(iii) for the payment, issue or withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund or any other public fund of Guyana of any moneys not charged thereon or any increase in the amount of such a payment, issue or withdrawal; or</p> <p>(iv) for compounding or remitting any debt due to Guyana; or</p> <p>(b) Proceed upon any motion (including any amendment to a motion) the effect of which, in the opinion of the person presiding, would be to make provision for any of the purposes aforesaid.</p> <p>21(2) The signification of the recommendation of consent of the Cabinet shall be recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings.</p> <p>21(3) When a question for debate has been proposed, debated and decided, it shall not be competent for any Member to raise a question substantially identical thereto in the same session except upon a substantive motion for rescission.</p> <p>21A Admissibility of Motions</p> <p>(1) In order that a motion may be admissible, it shall satisfy the following conditions, namely:</p> <p>a) It shall raise substantially one definite issue;</p> <p>b) It shall not contain ironical, unbecoming or offensive expressions or words that would not be permitted in debate;</p> <p>c) It shall not contain the names of persons unless they are strictly necessary to render the motion intelligible;</p> <p>d) It shall not refer to the conduct or character of persons except in their public capacity;</p> <p>e) It shall not revive discussion of a matter which has been discussed in the same session;</p> <p>f) It shall not anticipate discussion of a matter which is likely to be discussed in the same session;</p> <p>g) It shall not relate to any matter which is under adjudication by a court of Law;</p> <p>h) It shall not relate to matters which have been referred to a Committee of the Assembly for consideration and report;</p> <p>i) It shall not relate to a matter with which the Government is not officially concerned.</p>	<p>Retain existing SO 21(1)(a)</p> <p>Retain existing 21(2)</p> <p>Retain existing 21(3)</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 21B from Ms. Sampson.</p>
<p>22. Notice of Motions or Amendments</p> <p>22(1) Where under Standing Order notice is required such notice shall be given in writing, signed by the Member and addressed to the Clerk. Such notice shall be handed to the Clerk when the Assembly is sitting or sent to, or left at, the Parliament Office at any time during the hours prescribed for the purpose.</p>	<p>Retain existing 22(1).</p>

<p>2) If the Speaker is of opinion that any notice of motion which has been received by the Clerk infringes the provisions of any Standing Order or is in any other way out of order, he may direct –</p> <p>a) that the Member concerned be informed that the notice motion is out of order; or</p> <p>b) that the notice of motion be entered in the Order Book with such alterations as he may direct.</p>	
<p>23. Period of Notice</p> <p>(1) Except as provided in paragraph 2 of this Standing order, a Government motion shall not be placed upon the Order Paper for a day earlier than seven days from the day on which the notice was given to the Clerk</p> <p>2) With the Consent of the Speaker, a Government motion may be placed upon the Order Paper for the sitting of the day following that on which notice was given to the Clerk.</p> <p>3) Except as provided in paragraph (5) of Standing Order #76 (Reports from Select Committees), a private Member's motion shall not be placed upon the Order Paper, for a day earlier than twelve days from the day on which the notice was published in the Notice Paper.</p>	<p>Amend existing 23(1) to be in keeping with the proposed 23(1) from Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>Retain existing 23(2)</p> <p>Retain existing 23(3) but with amendment to be in keeping with the proposed 23(3) of Ms. Sampson.</p>
<p>23A: Notice Paper – Motions</p> <p>Once a Motion has been approved by the Speaker, the Clerk of the Assembly shall immediately prepare and circulate to Members, a Notice Paper setting out the following: Date Received, Member giving Notice, Motion, Date for Order Paper</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 23B of Ms. Sampson</p>
<p>Standing Orders 24-30</p>	<p>Unchanged</p>
<p>31. Amendments to Motions</p> <p>31(1) When any motion is under consideration in the Assembly or in a Committee thereof an amendment may be proposed to the motion if it is relevant thereto.</p> <p>31(2) An amendment may be proposed to any such amendment if it is relevant thereto.</p> <p>31(3) Any amendment shall not be moved which has merely the effect of a negative vote;</p> <p>31(4) An amendment to a motion may be moved and seconded at any time after the question upon the motion has been proposed by the Speaker or Chairman, and before it has been put by the Speaker or Chairman at the conclusion of the debate upon the motion. When every such amendment has been disposed of, the Speaker or Chairman shall either again propose the question upon the motion or shall propose the question upon the motion as amended, as the case may require and after any further debate which may arise thereon, shall put the question to the Assembly or Committee for its decision.</p> <p>31(5) (a) Upon any amendment to leave out any of the words of the motion, the question to be proposed shall be "That the words proposed to be left out of the question.</p>	<p>Retain existing 31(1)</p> <p>Retain existing 31(2)</p> <p>The Committee incorporated the proposed 31(1)(b) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>Retain existing 31(3) but amend numbering</p> <p>Retain existing 31(4)(a) but amend numbering</p>

<p>(b) Upon any amendment to insert words, in or add words at the end of a motion, the question to be proposed shall be "That those words be there inserted" (or "added").</p>	<p>Retain existing 31(4)(b) but amend numbering</p>
<p>(c) Upon any amendment to leave out words and insert or add other words instead, a question shall first be proposed "That the words proposed to be left out of the question", and only if that question is agreed to, shall the question then be proposed "That those words be there inserted" (or added").</p>	<p>Retain existing 31(4)(c) but amend numbering</p>
<p>(d) When two or more amendments are proposed to be moved to the same motion, the Speaker shall call upon the movers in the order in which their amendments relate to the text of the motion, or in case of doubt in such order as he shall decide.</p>	<p>Retain existing 31(4)(d) but amend numbering</p>
<p>(e) Any amendment may be withdrawn at the request of the mover, by leave of the Assembly, before the question is fully put thereon, provided that there is no original amendment.</p>	<p>Retain existing 31(4)(e) but amend numbering</p>
<p>31(6) (a) Any amendment to an amendment may be moved and seconded at any time after the question upon the original amendment has been proposed, and before it has been put at the conclusion of the debate on the original amendment.</p>	<p>Retain existing 31(5) (a, b and c) but amend numbering</p>
<p>(b) The provisions of paragraph (4) of this Standing Order shall apply to the discussion of amendment to amendment except that in any question to be put, the words "original amendments" shall be substituted for the word "question".</p>	<p>Retain as above</p>
<p>(c) When every such amendment to an amendment has been disposed of, Speaker shall either again propose the question upon the original amendment, or shall propose the question upon the original amendment as amended, as the case may require.</p>	<p>Retain as above</p>
<p>31(7) Any amendment, whether in the Assembly or in Committee of the whole Assembly, shall be put into writing by the mover and delivered to the Clerk before the question is proposed thereon.</p>	<p>Retain existing 31(6) but amend numbering</p>
<p>31(8) When the question upon an amendment to a motion has been proposed by the Speaker or Chairman an earlier part of the motion may not be amended unless the amendment under discussion is withdrawn.</p>	<p>Retain existing 31(7) but amend numbering</p>
<p>31(9) Amendment shall not raise any question which, by these Standing Orders, can only be raised by a substantive motion after notice.</p>	<p>Retain existing 31(8) but amend numbering</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER VII – Rules of Debate</p> <p>Standing Orders 32-39</p>	<p>Retain unchanged</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER VIII – Rules of Order</p> <p>Standing Orders 40 -41</p>	<p>Retain unchanged</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER IX – Voting</p> <p>Standing Orders 42-44</p>	<p>Retain unchanged</p>
<p>CHAPTER X: Legislation</p> <p>45. Private Members' Bills</p> <p>(1) Subject to the provisions of these rules, any member, other than a Minister, desiring to introduce a Bill, shall give written notice to the Clerk of his intention to do so and shall together with the notice submit three copies of the Bill to the Clerk,</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 45 (1) from Ms. Sampson</p>

<p>along with an explanatory statement of objects and reasons which shall not contain arguments.</p> <p>(2) Copies of the Bill together with the explanatory statement of objects and reasons shall be circulated to Members by the Clerk.</p> <p>45A Introduction and First Reading of Private Members' Bill</p> <p>45A(1) Having regard to the provisions of Standing Order 21A, a Motion for leave to introduce a Private Members' Bill shall be set down under Private Business on the Order Paper not earlier than fourteen clear days from the date on which written notice was given to the Clerk.</p> <p>45A(2) If a motion for leave to introduce a Private Member's Bill is opposed, the Speaker, after permitting a brief explanatory statement by the member moving for leave and by the member opposing it, may without further debate or amendment, put the question.</p> <p>45A(3) If leave is granted, the Clerk shall then read aloud the title of the Bill, which shall be recorded in the Minutes of proceedings as having been read a first time and ordered to be published, without question put.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 45(2) from Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>New.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 45A(1) from Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 45A(2) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 45A(3) from Ms. Sampson</p>
<p>46. Introduction and First Reading of Bills</p> <p>(1) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this Standing Order any Member may move for leave to introduce a Bill of which he has given notice but a Bill may be presented to the Assembly on behalf of the Government after notice without an order of the Assembly for its introduction.</p> <p>(2) A notice of the presentation of Bill on behalf of the Government may be entered on the Order Paper for the day of the sitting on which the Bill is to be presented.</p> <p>(3) Except on the recommendation or with the consent of the Cabinet signified by a Minister, the Assembly shall not precede upon any Bill (including any amendment to a Bill) which, in the opinion of the person presiding, makes provision for any of the following purposes –</p> <p>(i) for imposing or increasing any tax;</p> <p>(ii) for imposing any change upon the Consolidated Fund or any other public fund of Guyana or for altering any such change otherwise than by reducing it;</p> <p>(iii) for the payment, issue or withdrawal from the Consolidated Fund or any other public fund of Guyana or any moneys not changed thereon or any increase in the amount of such a payment, issue or withdrawal, or</p> <p>(iv) for compounding or remitting any debt due to Guyana</p>	<p>Amend numbering (Change 45 to 46)</p> <p>Retain existing 45(1)</p> <p>Retain existing 45(2)</p> <p>Retain existing 45(3)</p>
<p>47. Appointment of Days for Stages of Bills</p> <p>(1) After a Bill has been introduced, the member-in-charge may either:</p> <p>(a) Name a day to be appointed for the next stage of the Bill, provided an</p>	<p>Retain but amend numbering (change 46 to 47)</p> <p>The Committee incorporated the proposed 48 from Ms. Sampson to</p>

<p>interval of not less than seven days must elapse between the first and second reading of a Bill, unless the Assembly, on motion made and question put, agree to proceed with the Bill at an earlier date; or</p> <p>(b) Move that the Bill be referred to a Sectoral Committee for consideration and report; or</p> <p>(c) Move that the bill be referred to a Special Select Committee for consideration and report.</p> <p>(2) No Bill shall be read a second time before the expiration of seven days from the date of its publication in the Gazette and until it has been printed and circulated to Members</p>	<p>replace existing 46(1) and (2). Same principles but time has changed in keeping with Davies and Bradford recommendations.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 48(1)(b) and (c) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>Retain existing 46(3)</p>
<p>48. Printing and Circulation of Bills</p> <p>(1) The Clerk shall be responsible for the printing of Bills from the draft handed to him by the Member in charge of the Bill and before any Bill is printed, he shall satisfy himself that-</p> <p>(a) the Bill is divided into successive clauses numbered consecutively;</p> <p>(b) the Bill has in the margin a short summary of each clause; and</p> <p>(c) the provisions of the Bill do not go beyond its title.</p> <p>(2) As soon as possible after the printing of a Bill the Clerk shall circulate a copy to every Member. The Bill may be accompanied by a short memorandum explanatory of the contents and objects of the Bill.</p> <p>(3) The Clerk shall as soon as possible cause every Bill to be published in the Gazette.</p>	<p>Retain existing 47(1). Ms. Sampson has proposed the deletion of this SO.</p> <p>Retain existing 47(2).</p> <p>Retain existing 47(3)</p>
<p>49. Second Reading of Bills</p> <p>(1) On the second reading of a Bill a debate may arise covering the general merits and principles of the Bill.</p> <p>(2) To the question "that the Bill be now read a second time" an amendment may be proposed to leave out the word "now" and add at the end of the question "upon this day six months", or an amendment may be moved to leave out all the words after the word "That" in order to add words stating the object and motive on which the opposition to the Bill is based, but such words must be strictly relevant to the Bill and not deal with its details.</p>	<p>Retain existing 48(1)</p> <p>Retain existing 48(2)</p>
<p>50. Procedure after Presentation of Report of Sectoral/ Special Select Committee</p> <p>1) Where a Bill has been referred to a Sectoral or Special Select Committee, the Committee may circulate the Bill for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.</p> <p>2) After presentation of the final report by the Committee the member-in-charge may move that the Bill, as reported by the Sectoral or Special Select Committee as the case may be, be read a Second time, provided that copies of the report of the Sectoral or Special Select Committee, as the case may be,</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 49 from Ms. Sampson</p>

<p>have been made available to Members for at least seven days before the day on which the motion is made.</p>	
<p>51. Committal of Bills after Second Reading</p> <p>(1) When a Bill has been read a second time it shall stand committed to a Committee of the whole Assembly, unless the Assembly on motion made commits it to a Select Committee. Such motion shall not require notice and must be made immediately after the Bill has been read a second time and may be moved by any Member. The question thereon shall be put without amendment or debate.</p> <p>(2) When a Bill has been committed to a Select Committee, no further proceedings shall be taken thereon until the Select Committee has presented its report to the Assembly.</p> <p>(3) A Bill, while under consideration in Committee of the Whole Assembly, may, on motion made in the Assembly, be withdrawn from that Committee and be referred to a Select Committee, and the reference to a Select Committee may be in respect of the Bill as a whole, or to specified clauses.</p>	<p>Amend numbering from 49 to 51</p> <p>Retain existing 49(1).</p> <p>Retain existing 49(2)</p> <p>Retain existing 49(3)</p>
<p>52. Functions of Committees on Bills</p> <p>(1) Any Committee to which a Bill is committed shall not discuss the general merits and principles of the Bill but only its details</p> <p>(2) Any such Committee shall have power to make such amendments therein as they shall think fit, provided that the amendments, including new clauses and new schedules, are relevant to the subject matter of the Bill; but if any such amendments are not within the title of the Bill, they shall amend the title accordingly, and shall report the same to the Assembly</p>	<p>Amend numbering from 50 to 52</p> <p>Retain existing 50(1)</p> <p>Retain existing 50(2)</p>
<p>53. Procedure in Committee of the whole Assembly on a Bill</p> <p>(1) The Chairman in Committee of the whole Assembly shall call the number of each clause in succession. If no amendment is proposed thereto, or when all proposed amendments have been disposed of, he shall propose the question "That the clause (or the clause as amended) stand part of the Bill" and, when all Members who wish to speak thereon have spoken, he shall put that question to the Committee for its decision.</p> <p>(2) Any proposed amendments of which notice has not been given shall be handed to the Chairman in writing.</p> <p>(3) The following provisions shall apply to amendments relating to Bills-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) An amendment must be relevant to the subject matter of the Bill, and to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates. (b) An amendment must not be inconsistent with any clause already agreed to or with any previous decision of the Committee. (c) An amendment must not be such as to make the clause which it proposes to amend unintelligible or ungrammatical. (d) If an amendment refers to, or is not intelligent without, a subsequent amendment or schedule, notice of the subsequent amendment or schedule must be given before or when the first amendment is moved so as to make the series of amendments intelligible as a whole. (e) In order to save time and repetition of arguments, the Chairman may allow 	<p>Retain SO 51 and amend numbering from 51 to 53.</p>

a single discussion to cover a series of inter-dependent amendments.

- (f) The Chairman may refuse to allow an amendment, which is, in his opinion, frivolous or meaningless, to be moved
- (g) Except on the recommendation or with the consent of the Cabinet, to be signified by a Minister and recorded in the Minutes of Proceedings, the Committee shall not proceed upon any amendment which, in the opinion of the Chairman, would make provision for any of the purposes described in paragraph (3) of Standing Order #45 (Introduction and First reading of Bills).
- (h) The Chairman may at any time during the discussion of the proposed amendment withdraw it from the consideration of the Committee if, in his opinion, the discussion shall have shown that the amendment violates the provisions of this Standing Order.

(4) The provisions of paragraph (5) and (6) of Standing Order 31 (Amendments to Motions) shall apply to the discussion of amendments to Bills, with the substitution where appropriate of the word "clause" for the word "motion" or the word "question", and of the word "Chairman" for the word "Speaker" and the word "Committee" for the word "Assembly" throughout.

(5) A clause may be postponed, unless a decision has already been taken upon the amendment thereto. Postponed clauses shall be considered after the remaining clauses of the Bill have been considered and before new clauses are brought up.

(6) Any proposed new clause shall be considered after the clauses of the Bill have been disposed of and before consideration of any schedule to the Bill:

Provided that a new clause proposed in substitution for a clause which has been disagreed to may be considered immediately after such disagreement.

(7) When the number of a new clause is called, amendments may be proposed thereto. If no amendment is proposed, or when all the proposed amendments have been disposed of, the chairman shall propose the question "That the clause (or the clause as amended) be added to the Bill" and when all Members who wish speak thereon have spoken, he shall put that question to the Committee for its decision.

(8) Schedules shall be disposed of in the same way as clauses and any proposed new schedule shall be considered after the schedules to the Bill have been disposed of, and shall be treated in the same manner as a new clause.

(9) When every clause or schedule or proposed new clause or schedule has been dealt with, the preamble, if there is one, shall be considered and the question put "That this be the preamble to the Bill". No amendment to the preamble shall be considered which is not made necessary by a previous amendment to the Bill.

(10) If any amendment to the title of the Bill is made necessary by an amendment to the Bill, it shall be made at the conclusion of the proceedings detailed above, but no question shall be put that the title (as amended) stand part of the Bill; nor shall any question be put upon the enacting formula

(11) At the conclusion of the proceedings in Committee on a Bill, the Chairman shall put the question "that the Bill (or the Bill as amended) be reported to the Assembly" which question shall be decided without amendments or debate.

(12) If any Member, before the conclusion of proceedings on a Bill, moves to report progress and such motion is carried, the Assembly shall resume and the Member in

<p>charge of the Bill shall report progress to the Assembly and ask leave to sit again, and name a day for the resumption of the proceedings.</p> <p>(13) A committee having met to consider a Bill shall proceed with its consideration, except that during the proceedings on a Bill the Member in charge of the Bill may, subject to the discretion of the Chairman, move a motion "That the Committee do not proceed further with the Bill". If the motion is carried the Member in charge of the Bill shall then report the Bill to the Assembly as so far amended or without amendments, as the case may be, explaining the proceedings of the Committee on the Bill.</p>	
<p>54. Procedure in Committee on a Bill</p> <p>A Select Committee on a Bill shall be subject to Standing Orders #77 (Procedure in Select Committees) and #73 (Divisions in Select Committees) but before reporting the Bill to the Assembly, it shall go through the Bill as provided in Standing Order #53 (Procedure in Committee of the Whole Assembly on a Bill)</p>	<p>Retain existing 52 but amend numbering. <u>This was omitted in Ms. Sampson's revision.</u></p>
<p>55. Procedure on reporting of Bills from Committee of the Whole Assembly</p> <p>So soon as a committee of the whole Assembly has agreed that a Bill be reported, the Assembly shall resume, and the Member in charge of the Bill shall report it to the Assembly and either name a future day for the third reading of the Bill or move that it be read the third time forthwith.</p>	<p>Retain existing 53.</p>
<p>56. Recommittal of Bill Reported from Committee of the Whole Assembly</p> <p>(1) If any Member desires to delete or amend any provision contained in a Bill as reported from a Committee of the whole Assembly or to introduce any new provision therein he may at any time before a Member rises to move the third reading of the Bill, move that the Bill be recommitted either wholly or in respect only of some particular part or parts of the Bill or some proposed new clause or new schedule, no notice of such motion being required, and if the motion is agreed to the Bill shall stand so recommitted. The Assembly may then, upon motion made, resolve itself into Committee to consider the business so recommitted either forthwith or upon a later day.</p> <p>(2) When the whole Bill has been recommitted, the Committee shall go through the Bill as provided in SO 51 (procedure in Committee of the Whole Assembly)</p> <p>(3) When the Bill has been recommitted in respect only of some particular part or parts or of some proposed new clause or new schedule, the Committee shall consider only the matter so recommitted and any amendment which may be moved thereto</p> <p>(4) At the conclusion of the proceedings in Committee on a Bill recommitted under the provisions of this Standing Order, the Chairman shall put the question "That the Bill (or the Bill as amended on recommittal) be reported to the Assembly" which question shall be decided without amendment or debate. So soon as the Bill has been reported, the Member in charge of the Bill may either name a future day for the third reading of the Bill or move that it be read the third time forthwith</p>	<p>Retain existing 54</p> <p>Retain existing 54</p> <p>Retain existing 54</p> <p>Retain existing 54</p>
<p>57. Procedure on Bills Reported from Select Committees</p> <p>(1) When a Bill has been reported from a Select Committee the Assembly may proceed to consider the Bill as reported from the Select Committee upon a motion "That the report of the Select Committee on theBill be adopted". Moved under paragraph (5) of Standing Order 76 (Reports from Select Committees).</p>	<p>Retain existing 55(1) but amend numbering.</p>

<p>(2) If that motion is agreed to without amendment, the Assembly may proceed to the third reading of the Bill as reported from the Select Committee.</p> <p>(3) Upon a motion to approve the report of the Select Committee on a Bill, any Member may propose an amendment to add, at the end of the motion, the words "Subject to the recommittal of the Bill (either wholly or in respect of some particular part or parts of the Bill or some proposed new clause or new schedule) to a Committee of the whole Assembly" and if that motion is agreed to with such an amendment, the Bill shall stand so recommitted. The Assembly may then, upon motion made, resolve itself into a Committee to consider the business so recommitted.</p> <p>(4) A Committee of the whole Assembly upon a Bill recommitted under the provisions of this Standing Order shall proceed in accordance with paragraph (2) or paragraph (3) of Standing Order # 56 (Recommittal of Bills reported from Committee of the Whole Assembly) and the conclusion of its proceedings and the remaining proceedings on the Bill shall be subject to paragraph (4) of that Standing Order.</p>	<p>Retain existing 55(2) but amend numbering.</p> <p>Retain existing 55(3) but amend numbering.</p>
<p>58. Third Reading of Bills</p> <p>(1) On the third reading of a Bill no amendments may be proposed to the question "That the bill be now read a third time and passed" and the question shall be put without amendment or debate".</p> <p>(2) Where a Bill is passed by the Assembly, the Speaker shall have the power to correct patent errors and make such other changes in the Bill as are consequential upon the amendments accepted by the Assembly.</p> <p>(3) Where amendments are made in the Bill, the renumbering or lettering of the clauses, sub-clauses and all references therein, the numbering or lettering or clause or sub-clauses as required by such renumbering, re-lettering or amendments and any clerical errors may be rectified by the Clerk of the Assembly.</p>	<p>Retain existing 56(1) but amend numbering</p> <p>The Committee deleted existing 56(2) and substituted the proposed 56(1) of Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 56(3).</p>
<p>59. Private Bills</p>	<p>Retain entire 57, which was omitted by Ms. Sampson. However, amend numbering</p>
<p>60. Custody of Bills</p> <p>Every Bill passed by the Assembly shall remain in the custody of the Clerk who shall, subject to article 164 of the Constitution, at the earliest opportunity, submit the Bill to the President for his assent, and the President shall assent in accordance with article 170 of the Constitution.</p>	<p>Retain existing 58, but with the suggested amendment</p>
<p>61. Withdrawal of Bills</p> <p>The Member in charge of a Bill may move a motion, without notice, for its withdrawal, either before the commencement of Public Business or when any stage of the Bill is reached, but before the question is put.</p>	<p>Retain existing 59, but amend numbering</p>
<p>62. Bills Containing the Same Provisions</p> <p>Once the second reading of any Bill has been agreed to or negatived, no question shall be proposed during the same session for the second reading of any other Bill containing substantially the same provisions.</p>	<p>Retain existing 60, but amend numbering</p>

CHAPTER XI- Financial Procedures	
63 – 72	Retain entire existing 61 to 69A with no change but renumber by amending numbering starting with changing 61 to 63 etc. The existing 69A becomes 72.
CHAPTER XII – Committees	
This new Chapter contains SO #73 to 81	This new chapter replaces existing 70 to 76.
<p>73) Standing Committees</p> <p>1) The following Standing Committees shall be established at the commencement of each Parliament:</p> <p>a) The Committee of Selection;</p> <p>b) The Public Accounts Committee;</p> <p>c) The Constitution Reform Committee;</p> <p>d) The Committee on Appointments;</p> <p>e) The Parliament Management Committee, and</p> <p>f) The Sectoral Committees specified in Standing Order 69 F.</p> <p>(2) Standing Committees shall continue for the duration of an Assembly, unless the Assembly provided otherwise. The business and proceedings before a Standing Committee shall not lapse by reason of prorogation and shall be proceeded with in the next ensuring session of the same Assembly.</p> <p>(3) The Assembly may establish and appoint further Standing Committees as it considers necessary.</p> <p>(4) Unless otherwise provided for in Standing Orders, a Standing Committee shall consist of such Members of the Assembly as the Committee of Selection shall determine.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 69(1) from Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 69(2) from Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>The Committee incorporated the proposed 69(3) from Ms. Sampson to replace existing 70A(1).</p> <p>The Committee incorporated the proposed 69(4) from Ms. Sampson to replace existing 70A(2).</p>
<p>73A The Committee of Selection</p> <p>(1)(a) There shall be a Standing Committee to be known as the Committee of selection appointed as soon as may be after the beginning of every National Assembly to perform the functions allotted to it by these Standing Orders, and for such other matters as the Assembly may from time refer to it.</p> <p>(b) The Committee of Selection shall consist of the Speaker as Chairman, and not less than six or more than ten Members to be nominated by the Assembly. The committee shall inform the Assembly by means of its Minutes of Proceedings when any Member has been nominated to any Committee.</p>	<p>Retain existing 70(1)(a)</p> <p>Retain existing 70(1)(b)</p>

<p>(c)The Committee shall not have power to send for persons, papers and records.</p> <p>(d) Every information or decision of the Committee of Selection shall be reported to the Assembly at the next subsequent sitting.</p>	<p>Retain existing 70(1)(c)</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 69A(4) from Ms. Sampson.</p>
<p>73B The Public Accounts Committee</p> <p>(1) There shall be a Committee to be known as the Public Accounts Committee to be consist of not less than six or more than ten Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection as soon as may be after the beginning of each session. It shall be the duty of the Committee to examine the accounts showing the appropriation of the sums granted by the Parliament to meet public expenditure and such other accounts laid before the Assembly as the Assembly may refer to the Committee together with the Auditor General's report thereon.</p> <p>(2) The Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee must be a Member of the main opposition in the Assembly.</p> <p>(3) Within ninety days of the presentation of a report from the Public Accounts Committee, the government shall table its Treasury Memorandum, as its response thereto.</p>	<p>Retain existing 70(2)</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 69B(2) from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 69B(4) from Ms. Sampson as amended</p>
<p>73C The Constitution Reform Committee</p> <p>(1) Pursuant to article 119A of the Constitution as soon as may be after the beginning of each National Assembly there shall appointed a Standing Committee for Constitutional Reform for the purpose of continually reviewing the effectiveness of the working of the Constitution and making periodic reports thereon to the National Assembly, with proposals for reform as necessary. The Constitution Reform Committee shall consist of not less than six or more than ten Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection.</p> <p>(2) To assist in its work, the Committee shall have the same power to co-opt experts or enlist the aid of other persons of appropriate expertise, whether or not such experts or other persons are members of the National Assembly.</p> <p>(3) The Constitution Reform Committee shall have the same powers, duties and responsibilities in relation to its functions as conferred on Sectoral Committees by Standing Order 73F.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 69C from Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>This is mainly from Resolution 19</p>
<p>73 D) The Committee on Appointments</p> <p>(1) Pursuant to article 119C of the Constitution as soon as may be after the beginning of each National Assembly there shall be appointed a Standing Committee of the National Assembly which shall have responsibility for initiating or otherwise taking such action or addressing such matters as may be entrusted to the Committee by the National Assembly in respect of functions required to be discharged by the National Assembly under the Constitution in relation to the appointment of a member for a Commission established under the Constitution.</p> <p>(2) The Committee on Appointments shall consist of not less than six or more than ten Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 69D from Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>Query by some Members as to whether Members are nominated by Committee of Selection or by the</p>

<p>(3) It shall be the duty of the Committee to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Identify the appropriate bodies for consultation in the appointment of the relevant members of the Commission, conduct the necessary consultation with them and, where necessary, receive nominations from appropriate bodies; (ii) Shall make recommendations to the National Assembly; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) For a consensual mechanism for the Ethnic Relations Commission, the women and Gender Equality Commission, the Indigenous Peoples' Commission, and the Rights of the Child Commission; b) For the appointment of members of the Commissions with the exception of the Public Procurement Commission; c) In connection with any other matter referred to it by the Assembly from time to time. (iii) Report to the National Assembly in relation to each Commission as soon as possible upon the discharge of its functions in relation thereto. 	<p>Assembly.</p>
<p>73E The Parliamentary Management Committee</p> <p>(1) There shall be Standing Committee to be known as the Parliamentary Management Committee to be appointed as soon as may be after the beginning of each National Assembly to consider and decide on matters relating to the business of the National Assembly, such other matters which the Committee may wish to consider and such other matters referred to it by the National Assembly.</p> <p>(2) The Committee shall comprise ten members, five representing the Government and five representing the Opposition to be nominated by the Committee of Selection, with the Speaker as the Chair and in his/her absence, the Deputy Speaker. <u>The Speaker, and the Deputy Speaker, if he/she is not a member of the Committee, shall have neither an original nor a casting vote.</u></p> <p>(3) A quorum shall be five members, two representing the Government and two representing the Opposition one of whom shall be representative of the main Opposition Party and the Speaker or, in his/her absence, the Deputy Speaker. If a meeting which is convened cannot be held for the lack of a quorum, members of the Committee shall be given forth-eight hours notice of the holding of another meeting at which other meeting the members present shall comprise a quorum provided at least one member of the Opposition is present.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 69E from Ms. Sampson.</p>
<p>73F The Sectoral Committees</p> <p>(1) Pursuant to article 119B of the Constitution as soon as may be after the beginning of each National Assembly there shall be appointed Standing Committees to be known as Parliamentary Sectoral Committees as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Committee on Natural Resources; b) Committee on Economic Services; c) Committee on Foreign Relations; d) Committee on Social Services <p>with responsibility for the scrutiny of all areas of Government Policy and administration.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 69F from Ms. Sampson.</p>

<p>(2) Each Committee shall consist of seven members, four representing the Government and three representing the Opposition, to be nominated by the Committee of Selection. The Government and Opposition are entitled to elect one alternate member each for each Sectoral Committee.</p> <p>(3) (Each Sectoral Committee shall have a Chairman and a Vice Chairman elected from among members of the Government and Opposition respectively and shall alternate annually with two Sectoral Committee each to be chaired by the Government and Opposition respectively).</p> <p>(4) Sectoral Committees shall, in the exercise of their responsibilities, 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.</p> <p>(5) Sectoral Committees shall have the authority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) determine areas of Government activity for scrutiny or specific examination; b) 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; c) review existing legislation on government policy administration for any of the sector; d) summon persons to give evidence in accordance with the Legislative Bodies (Evidence) Act Chapter 1:08 of the Laws of Guyana; e) scrutinize government documents, papers and records; f) visit any government activity or project in Guyana as agreed and arranged by the Sectoral Committee; g) in the discharge of their mandate, utilize the services of experts, specialists and other sources of advise as the Committees may determine; h) establish a time table for the conduct of their work; i) make recommendations to the Assembly on the Assembly on legislation or any other action to be taken on matters falling within their purview; j) submit periodic reports to the National Assembly on their work; <p>(6) The National Assembly may request a Sectoral Committee to inquire into and report on any aspect of the policy or administration of the Government within its terms of reference.</p> <p>(7) Within sixty days of the presentation of a report from a Sectoral Committee, the government shall, upon the request of the Committee, table a comprehensive response thereto.</p>	
<p>74. Select Committees</p> <p>The following Sessional Select Committees shall be appointed at the commencement of each session of Parliament:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Assembly Committee; The Standing Orders Committee; The Privileges Committee; and The Statutory Instruments Committee 	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 70 from Ms. Sampson</p>

<p>74A The Standing Orders Committee</p> <p>(1) There shall be a Committee to be known as the Standing Orders Committee to consist of the Speaker as Chairman and not less than six or more than ten Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection as soon as may be after the beginning of each session. It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider from time to time and report on all matters relating to the Standing Orders which are referred to it by the Assembly.</p> <p>(2) The Committee shall not have the power to send for persons, papers and records unless the Assembly so resolve</p>	<p>Retain existing 70(3)(a)</p> <p>Retain existing 70(3)(b)</p>
<p>74B The Assembly Committee</p> <p>There shall be appointed a Committee to be known as the Assembly Committee to consist of the Speaker as Chairman and not less than six or more than ten Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection as soon as may be after the beginning of each session , to consider and advise the Speaker upon all matters connected with the comfort and convenience of Members of the Assembly. The Committee shall from time to time report to the Assembly but shall not have power to send for persons, papers and records unless the Assembly to resolve.</p>	<p>Retain existing 70(4)</p>
<p>74C The Privileges Committee</p> <p>There shall be appointed a Committee to be known as the Committee of Privileges to consist of the Speaker as Chairman and not less than six or more than ten Members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection as soon as maybe after the beginning of each session. There shall be referred to this Committee any matters which appear to affect the powers and privileges of the Assembly. It shall be the duty of the Committee to consider any matter so referred, and to report thereon to the Assembly.</p>	<p>Retain existing 70(5)</p>
<p>74D The Statutory Instruments Committee</p> <p>(1) As soon as may be after the beginning of each session, there shall be appointed a Sessional Select Committee to known as the Statutory Instruments Committee to consist of the Speaker as Chairman and not less than six or more than ten members to be nominated by the Committee of Selection.</p> <p>(2) The Statutory Instruments Committee shall have the duty of considering all such instruments (as defined by the Interpretations and General Clauses Act for the time being in force) as under the authority of any law are to be laid before the Assembly, and are to be subject to negative resolution within the meaning of the Interpretation and General Clauses Act, and to bring to the special attention of the Assembly any instrument—</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Which involves the expenditure of public moneys or impose or fixes fees for licensed or for services; b) Which cannot be challenged in the Courts on the ground that it is Ultra vires, or is only temporarily so challengeable; c) The making of which appears to constitute an unusual or unexpected use of the powers conferred by the Law under which it is was made; d) Which purports to have retroactive effect although the law under which it was made does not, in terms give the Minister such a power; 	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 70D from Ms. Sampson</p>

<p>e) The publication or the laying before the Assembly of which appears to have been unduly delayed;</p> <p>f) In respect of which there has been unjustifiable delay in notifying the President that the instrument had come into operation before it was laid before the Senate;</p> <p>g) The purport or form of which appears to require elucidation;</p> <p>h) Which may be in conflict with any provision of the Constitution of the Republic of Guyana; or</p> <p>i) Which it considers is not in accordance with the letter, spirit or intention of its enabling Act.</p> <p>(3) The Statutory Instruments Committee shall not consider or report on the merits or policy of any regulations.</p>	
<p>75. Special Select Committees</p> <p>(1) A Select Committee other than a Sessional Select Committee shall be known as a Special select Committee. It shall be nominated by resolution of the Assembly and shall consist of such Members as may be nominated by the Committee of Selection.</p> <p>(2) A Special Select Committee shall have power to elect its own Chairman.</p>	<p>Retain existing 71(1)</p> <p>Retain existing 71(2)</p>
<p>76. Constitution of Select Committees</p> <p>(1) Every Select Committee shall be so constituted as to ensure as far as possible, that the balance of parties in the Assembly is reflected in the Committee.</p> <p>(2) Unless otherwise provided in Standing Orders or by resolution of the Assembly, the Committee of Selection may determine the size of each committee.</p> <p>(3) In the event of the death of a Member nominated to a Committee, or if his seat become vacant for any other reason, the Assembly or the Committee, as the case may require, shall nominate another Member in his place, and in so doing shall observe the provisions of paragraph (1) of this rule.</p>	<p>Retain existing 72(1).</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 72(2) from Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>Retain existing 72(2)</p>
<p>77. Procedure in Select Committees</p> <p>(1) Except as otherwise provided in Standing Order # 74 (Select Committee) this Standing Order shall apply to all Standing and Select Committees.</p> <p>(2) A written notice informing members of the Committee of a meeting of the Committee shall ordinarily be circulated by the Clerk of the Committee no later than three days before the meeting unless the Committee by agreement adjourn to a time, earlier than three days. The notice must contain a summary of the items of business proposed to be dealt with at the meeting.</p> <p>(3) The business to be transacted at every meeting of a Committee shall be confined to the matter referred to it by the Assembly and any extension or limitation thereof made by the Assembly, and in the case of a Select Committee on a Bill to the Bill committed to it and relevant amendments.</p>	<p>Retain existing 73(1) but with amendment</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 76(1) from Ms. Sampson as amended.</p> <p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 76(2) from Ms. Sampson.</p>

<p>(4) If the Chairman is unable to be present at any meeting, the Committee shall elect another Chairman whose tenure of office shall be for the day of his election.</p>	<p>Retain existing 73(2)</p>
<p>(5) A Select Committee may send for persons, papers and records, and shall have leave to report its opinion and observations together with the minutes of evidence taken before it to the Assembly.</p>	<p>Retain existing 73(3)</p>
<p>(6) Unless the Assembly otherwise direct, three Members shall be the quorum. In ascertaining whether there is a quorum present, the Member in the Chair shall not be excluded.</p>	<p>Retain existing 73(4)</p>
<p>(7) Absenteeism If a Member is absent from three or more consecutive sittings of a committee, without the permission of the Chairman of the Committee, the Chair shall so advise the Committee of Selection, which shall discharge that Member and nominate another Member to fill the vacancy.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 73 from Ms. Sampson.</p>
<p>(8) Sittings of a Committee may be held within the precincts of the National Assembly, and if it becomes necessary, a Committee may meet at any other place within Guyana, with the consent of the Speaker.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 73(3) from Ms. Sampson.</p>
<p>(9) The deliberations of a Select Committee shall be confined to the matter referred to it by the Assembly and any extension or limitation thereof made by the Assembly and, in the case of a Select Committee on a Bill, to the Bill committed to it and relevant amendments.</p>	<p>Amend existing 73(5)</p>
<p>(10) (a) The sittings of a Committee shall be held in private. (b) However, the Sectoral Committees and the Public Accounts Committee may sit in Public, unless the Committee determines otherwise. In determining what proceedings shall be held in private, the Committee shall strive to reach a decision by consensus, failing which the provisions of standing Order No. 42 (Voting) shall apply.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 80 from Ms. Sampson.</p>
<p>(c) All persons other than members of the Committee and officers of the Committee shall withdraw whenever the Committee is deliberating.</p>	
<p>(11) The first meeting of a Select Committee shall be held at such time and place as the Chairman in the case of a Sessional Select Committee, or the Speaker in the case of a Select Committee, shall appoint. Subsequent meetings shall be held at such time and place as the Committee may determine: Provided that if the Committee fail to do so the Chairman shall, in consultation with the Clerk of the Committee, appoint such time and place.</p>	<p>Retain existing 73(6)</p>
<p>(12) Except by leave of the Assembly no Select Committee may sit while the Assembly is sitting, but a Select Committee may sit at any time when the Assembly is adjourned.</p>	<p>Retain existing 74(7)</p>
<p>(13) (a) When it is intended to examine any witness, the Member requiring such witness shall deliver to the Clerk of the Committee the name, residence and occupation of any witness he desires to examine.</p>	<p>Retain existing 73(8)</p>

<p>(b) If the Committee desires to send for any witness, the Chairman shall supply the name, residence and occupation of every such witness to the Clerk of the Committee at least seven days before his evidence is required. The Clerk shall then send for every such witness on behalf of the Committee.</p>	
<p>(14) (a) A witness shall ordinarily be given the opportunity to make a submission in writing before appearing to give oral evidence.</p>	<p>New. Incorporate proposed 82(1) from Ms. Sampson.</p>
<p>(b) A committee may expunge from any transcript of proceedings, any evidence or statement that it considers to be irrelevant to it proceedings, offensive or possibly defamatory.</p>	<p>New. Incorporate proposed 82(2) from Ms. Sampson.</p>
<p>(c) The evidence of every witness shall be taken down verbatim and sent in proof to the witness by the Clerk of the Committee. The witness shall be at liberty, within twelve days from that on which the Clerk sent out the proof, to suggest corrections due to inaccurate reporting, and the evidence shall be printed with such of the corrections as may be approved by the Chairman.</p>	<p>Retain existing 73(9)</p>
<p>(15) The Committee may at its discretion refuse to hear any irrelevant evidence or any recalcitrant witness.</p>	<p>Retain existing 73(10)</p>
<p>(16) Subject to this rule, any Member of the Assembly (not being a Member of the Committee) may attend any meeting of a Committee, but such a Member will not be able to join in the deliberations; only Members of the Privileges Committee may attend any meeting of that Committee while the Committee is deliberating.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 78 from Ms. Sampson. To be further reviewed by the Committee</p>
<p>(17) A committee may seek the assistance of persons as Advisors or Expert Witnesses to the Committee during its consideration of a matter.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 79(1) from Ms. Sampson.</p>
<p>(18) Advisers may remain present during relevant proceedings that are not open to the public, unless excluded by the committee.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 79(2) from Ms. Sampson.</p>
<p>(19) The Chairman or Vice Chairman of a Committee shall maintain order in the Committee and may order any stranger or other person, not being a Member of the Committee, to withdraw from a meeting if that person's conduct is disorderly; but disorder by Members of a Committee can only be censured by the House on receiving a report thereof.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 81 Disorder from Ms. Sampson.</p>
<p>(20) Power to appoint Subcommittees</p>	
<p>(a) A Committee may appoint a subcommittee or subcommittees.</p>	
<p>(b) Committee may prescribe rules for the conduct of subcommittee proceedings provided that these rules are consistent with Standing Orders. Subject to any such rules, the same rules for the conduct of proceedings in a Committee apply to a subcommittee.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 81A from Ms. Sampson.</p>
<p>(21) (a) Any Member of a Select Committee may bring up a report for its consideration, and all such reports shall be entered in full upon the Minutes of Proceedings of the Committee. When all the reports have been brought up, the Chairman shall propose the reports in order until one is accepted as a basis for</p>	<p>Retain existing 73(11)</p>

<p>discussion, beginning with his own report and proceeding with the remainder in the order in which they were brought up. The question to be proposed by the Chairman on any report shall be "That the Chairman's or (Mr. or Ms. -----'s) report be considered paragraph by paragraph". When this question has been agreed to it shall not be proposed on any further reports, but any portions thereof may be offered as amendments to the report under consideration, if they are relevant to it.</p> <p>(b) The Committee shall then proceed to go through the report paragraph by paragraph and paragraphs (1) to (7) of Standing Order # 53 (Procedure of the Whole Assembly on a Bill) shall apply to such consideration as if the report were a Bill and the paragraphs thereof the clauses of the Bill.</p> <p>© Upon the conclusion of the consideration of the report paragraph by paragraph and when all proposed new paragraphs have been considered the Chairman shall put the question that this report be the report of the Committee to the Assembly.</p>	
<p>77A Matter of concern before giving evidence</p> <p>A person who is to appear before a Committee may raise any matters of concern relating to that evidence with the Clerk of the Committee before appearing before the committee. Any such matters shall be brought to the attention of the Committee.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 82A from Ms. Sampson. But check with AG to determine its consistency with Evidence Act.</p>
<p>77B Conduct of examination</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Committee shall, before a witness is called for examination, decide the mode of procedure and the nature of questions that may be asked of the witness. 2) The Chairman of the Committee shall first ask the witness such question or questions as he may consider necessary with reference to the subject matter under consideration or any subject connected therewith according to the mode of procedure mentioned in clause (i) of this rule. 3) The Chairman will recognize and call other Members of the Committee to ask any other questions. 4) The Chairman will take care to ensure that all questions put to a witness are relevant to the Committee's mandate. 5) A witness may object to a question on the ground that it is not relevant. However, the Chairman will then determine whether the question is relevant to the committee's proceedings and the Chairman's decision is this matter shall not be open to dispute. 6) A witness may be asked to place before the Committee any other relevant points that have not been covered and which a witness thinks are essential to be placed before the Committee. 7) The evidence of every witness shall be taken down verbatim and sent in proof to the witness by the Clerk of the Committee. The witness shall be at liberty, within twelve days from that on which the Clerk sent out the proof, to suggest corrections due to inaccurate reporting, and the evidence shall be printed with such of the corrections as may be approved by the Chairman. 	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 82B from Ms. Sampson. But check with AG to determine its consistency with Evidence Act.</p>

<p>77C. Counsel</p> <p>(1) A witness may be accompanied by counsel (of witness's choice) and may consult counsel in the course of a meeting at which the witness appears.</p> <p>(2) Counsel may-</p> <p>(a) With the committee's agreement, address the committee on the procedure to be followed by the committee before counsel's client is heard;</p> <p>(b) When, in his opinion, the client's reputation maybe seriously damaged by proceedings of a Committee, request that further witnesses give evidence in the client's interest.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 82C from Ms. Sampson</p> <p>But check with AG to determine its consistency with Evidence Act.</p>
<p>77D. Witnesses' expenses</p> <p>No expenses may be paid to any witness or proposed witness except with the permission of the Speaker.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 82D from Ms. Sampson. But check with AG to determine its consistency with Evidence Act.</p>
<p>77E. Evidence Containing Allegations</p> <p>1) Committees empowered to sit in public, may, at any stage during its proceedings, consider hearing in private evidence that contains an allegation that may also invite that person to be present during the hearing of such evidence.</p> <p>2) A person who is to appear before a Committee will be informed of or given a copy of any evidence (other than secret evidence) or material in the Committee's possession that contains an allegation that may seriously damage the reputation of that person.</p> <p>3) Any person whose reputation may be seriously damaged by proceedings of a Committee may request from the Clerk of the Committee a copy of all material and evidence (except secret evidence) that the Committee possesses concerning that person.</p> <p>4) The Committee shall consider any such request and may furnish such material if it considers it to be necessary to prevent serious damage to that person's reputation.</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 82E from Ms. Sampson.</p> <p>But check with AG to determine its consistency with Evidence Act.</p>
<p>78. Confidentially of Proceedings</p> <p>(1) The deliberations of a Committee and proceedings of a Committee of a Subcommittee (other than proceedings during the hearing of public evidence, where permissible by these Standing Orders or the Assembly), are not open to the public and remain strictly confidential to the committee until it reports to the Assembly.</p> <p>(2) Paragraph (1) does not prevent-</p> <p>(a) the disclosure, by the Committee or by a member of the Committee, of proceedings to a member of Parliament or to the Clerk or another officer of the Assembly in the course of their duties;</p> <p>(b) the disclosure, by the committee of proceedings to any person for the purpose of assisting in the Committee's consideration of a matter</p> <p>(c) the disclosure of proceedings in accordance with Standing Orders.</p> <p>(3) A Committee making an interim report or a special report to the Assembly may</p>	<p>New. The Committee incorporated the proposed 83 from Ms. Sampson</p>

resolve that some or all proceedings relating to the report remain confidential to the Committee until it reports finally to the Assembly.	
79. Divisions in Committees	Retain existing 74
80. Premature Publication of Evidence	Retain existing 75
81. Reports	Amend title of existing 76
(1) Every Committee shall before the end of the session in which it was appointed, make a report to the Assembly upon the matters referred to it; but if a Committee finds itself unable to conclude its investigation before the end of the session, it may so report to the Assembly, and the Assembly may on consideration of the report resolve that the Committee shall remain in being and continue its investigation notwithstanding the end of the session.	Retain existing 76(1). Amend by deleting Select.
(2) A Committee shall have leave to make a special report relating to the powers, functions and proceedings of the Committee on any matter which it thinks fit to bring to the notice of the Assembly.	Retain existing 76 (2)
(3) A report or special report together with the minutes of any evidence taken before that committee shall be presented to the Assembly by the Chairman or other Member deputed by the Committee and shall be order to lie upon the Table and be printed without question put.	Retain existing 76(3)
(4) Interim reports A committee may from time to time make an interim report informing the Assembly of the progress of its investigation into the matter before it.	
(5) Special reports A Committee may from time to make a special report to the Assembly seeking authority from the Assembly to do something, or seeking guidance from the Assembly on some procedural question which has occurred in the Committee, or informing the Assembly of some other matter connected with its proceedings which it considers should be reported to the Assembly.	
(6) Minority views A Committee may, in its report, indicate the differing views of its Members.	
(7) The Minutes of Proceedings of a Committee shall record all proceedings upon the consideration of any report or Bill in the Committee and upon every amendment proposed to such a report or Bill together with a note of any division taken in the Committee and of the names of Members voting therein or declining to vote.	Retain existing 76(4)
(8) The report of a Committee may be taken into consideration by the Assembly on a motion "That the report of the Committee on be adopted". Such a motion may be moved by any member after one day's notice.	Retain existing 76(5)
CHAPTER XIII - Miscellaneous	Existing 77-84
Standing Orders 82-89	

APPENDIX III

Minutes of the Meetings of the Committee

Minutes of 1st Meeting held on 7th November, 2005

Minutes of 2nd Meeting held on 2nd December, 2005

Minutes of 3rd Meeting held on 12th December, 2005

Minutes of 4th Meeting held on 16th December, 2005

Minutes of 5th Meeting held on 12th January, 2006

Minutes of 6th Meeting held on 18th January, 2006

Minutes of 7th Meeting held on 24th January, 2006

Minutes of 8th Meeting held on 25th January, 2006

Minutes of 9th Meeting held on 15th February, 2006

Minutes of 10th Meeting held on 24th February, 2006

Minutes of 11th Meeting held on 28th February, 2006

Minutes of 12th Meeting held on 6th March, 2006

Minutes of 13th Meeting held on 13th March, 2006

Minutes of 14th Meeting held on 17th March, 2006

Minutes of 15th Meeting held on 23rd March, 2006

Minutes of 16th Meeting held on 29th March, 2006

Minutes of 17th Meeting held on 30th March, 2006

Minutes of 18th Meeting held on 5th April, 2006

Minutes of 19th Meeting held on 10th April, 2006

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2005)**

**MINUTES OF THE
1ST MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 4.05 P.M
ON MONDAY 7th NOVEMBER, 2005
IN THE SPEAKER'S CEREMONIAL OFFICE, PARLIAMENT OFFICE**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P - Absent

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (3)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P.

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P - Excused

OFFICERS:

Mr. Sherlock Issacs - Clerk of the National Assembly
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 The Presiding Officer (Speaker of the National Assembly) called the meeting to order at 4.05 p.m.

ITEM 2: ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

2.1 Nominations:

- 2.1.1 Members were asked to nominate a Chairman of the Committee.
- 2.1.2 Mrs. Chandarpal proposed and Dr. Moti Lall seconded the nomination of the Hon. Dr. Ramsammy as Chairman of the Committee.
- 2.1.3 There were no other nominations and the Presiding Officer declared the Hon. Dr. Ramsammy, Chairman of the Special Select Committee.
- 2.1.4 The Hon. Dr. Ramsammy expressed gratitude to the Committee for his nomination.

ITEM 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 Implementation of Recommendations:

- 3.1.1 The Speaker informed members of the Committee that he was having some consultations with the USAID with regard to securing funding for the implementation of some of the recommendations coming out of the Needs Assessment Report.
- 3.1.2 He, however, cautioned that these discussions were very preliminary.

3.2 Next Scheduled Meeting:

- 3.2.1 It was agreed that the Chairman would communicate with the Clerk of the National Assembly with regard to a date for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 4.10 p.m the meeting was adjourned *sine die*.

Confirmed this ^{1st} ~~.....~~ day of November, 2005



The Hon. Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P
Chairman

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2005)**

**MINUTES OF THE
2nd MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 5.00 P.M
ON FRIDAY 2ND DECEMBER, 2005
IN THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

**(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)
(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)**

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P - Excused
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P. - Excused
Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P - Absent
Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (3)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. - Absent
Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P
Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip
Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P.

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P - Absent

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5.00 p.m and welcomed those Members present.

ITEM 2: ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1 Members were informed that the following persons had asked to be excused from the meeting:
- Mrs. Indra Chandarpal, M.P
 - Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P

ITEM 3: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 3.1 The Minutes of the 1st Meeting held on 7th November, 2005 were confirmed without correction, on a motion moved by Dr. Max Hanoman and seconded by Dr. Motilall.

ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF SCOPE OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

4.1 Approach:

- 4.1.1 The Chairman made reference to the reports submitted by both Sir Michael Davies and Mr. James Penda and reminded Members that the Committee had to be working against a deadline of January 31st, 2006.
- 4.1.2 Members were then invited to make suggestions with regard to a practical approach to consider the recommendations.
- 4.1.3 A number of suggestions came out of the discussion that ensued. The Chairman, however, advised Members that he had done some preliminary assessment of the Reports and had identified five areas mentioned in the 1st Report, that were not captured in the addendum. He further stated that he had developed a matrix of all recommendations and was willing to share this with the Committee as a way to begin.

4.1.4 It was agreed that the Chairman would, therefore, submit both a 'hard and electronic' copy to the Head of the Committees Division for circulation to Members, to be studied for discussion at the next meeting.

4.2 Amendment to Standing Orders:

4.2.1 Reference was made to a document that was recently prepared, in accordance with the amendments to the Standing Orders proffered by Mr. James Penda and the proposed seminar to discuss those proposals.

4.2.2 Mrs. Riehl posited that Members of the Committee should have been involved in such a seminar to discuss the proposals.

4.2.3 In response to a question that was raised, the Chairman reminded Members that the Committee had a mandate to *consider the recommendations of the Davies' Reports and classify them appropriately.*

4.3 Schedule of Meetings:

4.3.1 The Chairman sought suggestions with regard to a suitable time for the Committee to be meeting, bearing in mind the limited time-frame with which it had to work.

4.3.2 Members discussed and agreed that they would be guided by the advice from the Committees Division, giving cognizance to the current schedule of meetings. In this regard, the Head of the Committees Division would propose two meeting dates for December, 2005, as it was generally agreed that the Committee needed to complete at least two meetings before the end of the year.

Adjournment

At 5.30 p.m the meeting was adjourned *sine die*.

Confirmed this 13th day of December, 2005


.....
Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P
Chairman

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2005)**

**MINUTES OF THE
3RD MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 3.10 P.M
ON MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER, 2005
IN THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P. - Absent

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P.

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P. - Absent

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P.

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

ITEM 2: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

2.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:

- Memorandum dated 8th December, 2005 re 3rd meeting of the Report and Addendum of the Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly;
- Notice dated 5th December 2005, to attend the 3rd meeting;
- Minutes of the 2nd meeting held on 2nd December, 2005;
- Table of corresponding and dissimilar recommendations from the Needs Assessment Report;
- Matrix of recommendations and proposed time-frame submitted by the Hon. Minister Ramsammy.

ITEM 3: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 2ND MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 2ND DECEMBER, 2005.

3.1 Page 2, paragraph 3.1, line 3:

3.1.1 Substitution of the words "Moti Lall" for the word "Motilall".

3.2 Page 2, paragraph 4.1.1, line 2:

3.2.1 Substitution of the word "Pender" for the word "Penda".

3.3 Page 2, paragraph 4.1.3, line 3:

3.3.1 Substitution of the word "several" for the word "five".

3.4 Page 3, paragraph 4.2.1, line 3:

3.4.1 Substitution of the word "Pender" for the word "Penda".

3.4.2 It was felt that the paragraph did not adequately represent what was discussed and the Committee agreed to restructure it to read as follows:

"It was agreed that in consideration of the James Pender proposal for the amendment of the Standing Orders, Members may consider other proposals, including the proposed Standing Orders that was prepared by Mrs. Jacqui Sampson".

3.4.3 Without further corrections, the Minutes of the 2nd Meeting were adopted on a motion moved by Dr. Moti Lall and seconded by the Hon. Dr. Ramsammy.

ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Page 3, paragraph 4.1.4:

4.1.1 In keeping with the decision of the last meeting, Members were provided with copies of the matrix that was prepared by the Chairman.

4.2 Proposed Seminar:

4.2.1 The Chairman reminded Members that the seminar had been postponed.

4.2.2 In response to a question from Mr. Murray, he informed the Committee that he proposed having discussions with the Speaker of the National Assembly regarding the Committee's role in relation to the proposed seminar. He, however, re-iterated that the Committee's primary focus should remain on its mandate.

ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF SCOPE OF WORK

5.1 Matrix of recommendations:

5.1.1 After perusal of the submissions that were presented by the Committee's Division and the Chairman, Mr. Murray indicated that his Party was prepared to proceed, using the matrix as the focus of their attention.

- 5.1.2 The Chairman acknowledged Mr. Murray's statement and further, encouraged Members to bring to the Committee's attention, anything that they felt was not captured in the matrix.
- 5.1.3 The Chairman shared the view that some of the recommendations were purely administrative and suggested that the Committee should identify those which could be referred to the Speaker and the Clerk of the National Assembly, and/or the Parliamentary Management Committee.
- 5.1.4 Mr. Carberry observed that even though it appeared on the surface that some matters could be dealt with administratively by the PMC, they might require the input of external agencies.
- 5.1.5 The Chairman advised the meeting that the issue could be determined when the Committee made its submission to the National Assembly.

5.2 Discussion of recommendations:

5.2.1 The Committee agreed to examine the summary of recommendations that were presented by Sir Michael Davies in the Addendum with a view to extracting those that could be referred to the Speaker, the Clerk and/or the PMC for attention. It was felt that such an approach would assist in hastening its (the committee) work.

5.2.2 The following recommendations were extracted:

Recommendation	Committee's recommendation
<p>1. Parliament Office should draw up a strategic plan.</p> <p>2. A procedural manual as an aid to understanding the Standing Orders should be written once the changes to the Standing Orders have been made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedural training should be arranged with other Parliaments • The Deputy Clerk should become familiar with all procedures of the National Assembly 	<p>The Committee agreed but suggested that the recommendation should be referred to the PMC, the Speaker of the National Assembly and/or the Clerk of the National Assembly. However, it was posited that all constitutional, legal and relations aspects should be taken into account.</p> <p>The Committee recommended that the PMC, Speaker of the National Assembly and the Clerk of the National Assembly be tasked with the implementation of this recommendation.</p>

<p>The Registry should keep procedural precedents and other statistics concerning the work of the National Assembly.</p>	<p>-do-</p>
<p>3. Changes to the Standing Orders should be implemented by reference to Mr. James Pender's advisories.</p>	<p>The Committee recommended that this should be done in accordance with the Constitutional.</p>
<p>4. The problems over the production of the verbatim report should be vigorously tackled and an Editor of Debates appointed.</p>	<p>The Committee recommended that this should be referred to the PMC/Speaker of the National Assembly and the Clerk of the National Assembly.</p>
<p>An Editor of Debates (or other suitable title) should be appointed</p>	
<p>5. A Table Office should be created to assist the Clerk procedurally. Members could go the Table Office to table questions, motions and amendments to Bills.</p>	<p>The Committee recommended that this should be referred to the PMC/Speaker of the National Assembly and the Clerk of the National Assembly.</p>
<p>A legislation office should be considered in the future, if the work of receiving and processing amendments becomes too much for the Table Office.</p>	<p>The Committee agreed with this recommendation but felt that it was an administrative issue that could be discussed among the Clerk of the National Assembly and staff members.</p>
<p>6. Salary payments in cash should be ended except for lower staff who have no bank accounts</p>	<p>The Committee recommended that this be referred to the PMC for attention.</p>
<p>7. Agreement should be reached on establishing an independent Parliamentary cadre with a professional human resources office to manage the new responsibilities.</p>	<p>-do-</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration should be given to altering working hours in order to conform more with parliamentary hours • Staff handbook should be prepared • The Clerk of the national Assembly 	<p>-do-</p>

<p>should become the employer and should have complete control over all aspects of employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel training should be arranged with the support of the donor community <p>Training budget should be prepared.</p> <p>8. A review of the staffing structure of the Parliament Office should be undertaken so as to ensure that staffing matches the needs of the National Assembly.</p> <p>9. A Document Centre convenient for Members should be created.</p> <p>10. The appointment of a Public Information Officer.</p> <p>11. Broadcasting of proceedings.</p> <p>12. The National Assembly should consider the employment of a qualified lawyer to assist Members in the preparation of amendments and support legal advice to the Speaker and the Clerk.</p>	<p>-do-</p> <p>The PMC, Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly should address this issue.</p> <p>The PMC is to address this issue.</p> <p>The PMC should address this issue.</p> <p>-do-</p> <p>The PMC should consider this issue.</p>
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5.3 Recommendations considered as Declarations:

5.3.1 The Committee agreed that the following recommendations should be treated as mere declarations and no action should be taken on them:

- Committees should recognize that they are bodies. In-party differences should be largely forgotten. To begin with, they should choose subjects for investigation which give rise to as little political controversy as possible;

- The Government should be more co-operative in dealings with the Committees. Government's response should be prompt and should provide the necessary documents required by the Committees;
- Government back-benchers should be encouraged to participate in question-time and table their own questions.

5.4: Recommendation on Assent to Bills:

5.4.1 Further, the Committee examined the under-mentioned recommendation and agreed to recommend that the assent of the President should be given in accordance with *article 170* of the Constitution:

Assent(or refusal of Assent) to Bills should be given immediately after they are sent to the President and the Assembly should be notified.

5.4.2 Having identified the areas, the Committee agreed upon the following:

- A list of the recommendations that were agreed on would be prepared and,
- A preliminary report for submission to the National Assembly would be prepared by the Head of the Committees Division. This would form the basis for discussion at the Committee's next meeting.

5.4.3 The Chairman informed the meeting that he was aware the government was having other engagements and had already arrived at agreement on some recommendations. He, further, suggested that the Committee could begin discussions on the other areas.

Adjournment

At 4.45 p.m the meeting was adjourned to 3.00 p.m on Friday, 16th December, 2005.

Confirmed thisday of December, 2005


 Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P.
 Chairman

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2005)**

**MINUTES OF THE
4TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 3.10 P.M
ON FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER, 2005
IN THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)
(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.
Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P. - Excused
Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip
Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P.

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. - Absent

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

ITEM 2: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

2.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:

- Notice dated 14th December 2005, to attend the 4th meeting on Friday, 16th December, 2005;
- Minutes of the 3rd meeting held on 12th December, 2005;
- Copy of draft Report of the Special Select Committee on the Needs Assessment of the Guyana National Assembly.

ITEM 3: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 3RD MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 12TH DECEMBER, 2005.

Corrections:

3.1 Page 4, paragraph 5.1.4, line 3:

3.1.1 Substitution of the word "involvement" for the word "input".

3.2 Page 4, Committee's recommendation 1:

3.2.1 Insertion of the word "labour" before the word "relations" and after the word "and".

3.3 Page 5, Committee's recommendation 3:

3.3.1 Substitution of the word "Constitution" for the word "Constitutional".

3.4 Page 5, Committee's recommendation 4:

3.4.1 Insertion of the words "for implementation" after the words "National Assembly".

3.5 Page 5, Committee's recommendation 5:

3.5.1 Insertion of the words "for implementation" after the words "National Assembly".

3.6 Page 5, Committee's recommendation 6:

3.6.1 Substitution of the word "should" for the word "could".

3.7 Page 5, Committee's recommendation 7:

3.7.1 Substitution of the word "implementation" for the word "attention".

3.7.2 Align "Committee's recommendations 6 and 7" with "Recommendations 6 and 7", respectively.

3.8 Page 6, paragraph 5.3.1, bullet 1:

3.8.1 Substitution of the word "inter-party" for the word "in-party".

3.9 Page 7, paragraph 5.4.2, bullet 2:

3.9.1 Substitution of the word "interim" for the word "preliminary".

3.10 Page 7, paragraph 5.4.3

3.10.1 Deletion of paragraph.

3.11 The undermentioned Recommendations were also considered and agreed upon as indicated:

Recommendations	Committee's Recommendations
16. Mock Parliaments in which school children participate should be held	The Committee noted that Mock Parliaments were being staged by secondary school children and recommended that the practice should continue.
21. A document Centre convenient for Members should be created.	The Committee recommended that the Parliamentary Management Committee, Speaker and Clerk should address this issue.

<p>22. The making available Bills etc. at Post Offices or other public places should be agreed</p>	<p>The Committee noted that Bills, Notice Papers, Order Papers were already made available to the public, but agreed that steps should be taken in future to make use of Post Offices or other public places.</p>
<p>23. All National Assembly's documents should be placed on the website.</p>	<p>The Committee noted that National Assembly documents were being placed on the website and this practice would be continued.</p>
<p>24. The establishment of a Library which is pleasant to work in, with a relevant book collection and a modest research capability. International donor support should be pursued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A qualified Librarian should be employed in a new post as Head of Research - A catalogue collection should be created - Improved infrastructure - A Parliamentary Librarian should be invited to give further advice - Newspapers should be kept in internet archive or kept as microfilm documents. 	<p>The Committee noted that these issues pertaining to the Library were ongoing but efforts to attract support must be encouraged.</p>
<p>25. The appointment of a Public Information Officer.</p>	<p>The Committee recommended that the Parliamentary Management Committee should address this issue.</p>
<p>26. Broadcasting of proceedings.</p>	<p>The Committee noted that there were delayed broadcast of proceedings, but recommended that movements be made towards live broadcast.</p>

3.12 Without further corrections, the Minutes of the 3rd Meeting were adopted on a motion moved by Mr. Carberry and seconded by Mr. Lumumba.

ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Page 3, paragraph 3.4.2:

- 4.1.1 The Committee agreed that any changes to the Standing Orders would be forwarded to the Standing Orders Committee.

ITEM 5: DISCUSSION OF DRAFT PRELIMINARY REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

5.1 Committee's Draft Report:

- 5.1.1 The Chairman suggested that the Interim Report should only cover what was considered and agreed upon at the Committee's last meeting and also that the corrected version of the Report should be circulated to Members prior to the next sitting of the National Assembly on Thursday, 22nd December, 2005.
- 5.1.2 Mr. Carberry suggested that a matrix of both sets of recommendations from the Bradford and Davies Reports should be developed to identify those recommendations that were not considered. It was decided that the Clerk of the Committee would prepare another matrix, inclusive of both the Bradford and Davies Reports.

ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Committee's approval of Interim Report:

- 6.1.1 Members agreed to attend a brief meeting to approve the final version of the Interim Report before its submission to the National Assembly.

Adjournment

At 4.10 p.m, the meeting was adjourned *sine die*.

Confirmed thisday of January, 2006



Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P
Chairman

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
5TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 3.14 P.M
ON THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

**(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)
(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)**

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P

(Absent)

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P.

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P

(Absent)

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Sherene Warren - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 3.14 p.m.

ITEM 2: ANNOUNCEMENTS

2.1 Welcome

2.1.1 The Chairman welcomed Members to their first meeting of the Committee for the year 2006 and extended best wishes to them.

ITEM 3: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

3.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:

- (i) Notice dated 9th January, 2006 to attend the 5th Meeting on Thursday, 12th January, 2006;
- (ii) Minutes of the 5th Meeting held on Friday, 16th December, 2005; and
- (iii) Second Draft of Interim Report.

3.2 The following document was circulated at the meeting:-

Matrix comprised of recommendations made by Sir Michael Davies First Report (12), Addendum Summary (26) and Bradford Study 1 (20)

ITEM 4: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 16TH DECEMBER, 2005.

4.1 Corrections

4.1.1. Page 3, paragraph 3.11
Substitution of the word "undermentioned" for the word "undermention"
in *line 1*.

4.1.2 Page 3, Table with Recommendations

Substitute the table below for the table of recommendations at page 3 in the previous minutes.

Recommendations	Committee's Recommendations
16. Mock Parliaments in which school children participate should be held	The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopts this recommendation and refer it to the Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly to continue this programme.
21. A document Centre convenient for Members should be created.	The Committee agrees that the National Assembly adopts this recommendation and refer it to the Parliamentary Management Committee, Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly for implementation.
22. The making available Bills etc. at Post Offices or other public places should be agreed	The Committee noted that Bills, Notice Papers, Order Papers were already made available to the public, and recommends that future use be made of Post Offices or other public places. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the National Assembly adopts this recommendation and refer it to the Parliamentary Management Committee, Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly for implementation.
23. All National Assembly's documents should be placed on the website.	The Committee noted that the National Assembly documents were being placed on the website and recommends that the National Assembly adopts the recommendation and to advise the Parliamentary Management Committee, Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly to continue to make use of the website.

<p>24. The establishment of a Library which is pleasant to work in, with a relevant book collection and a modest research capability. International donor support should be pursued.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A qualified Librarian should be employed in a new post as Head of Research - A catalogue collection should be created - Improved infrastructure - A Parliamentary Librarian should be invited to give further advice - Newspapers should be kept in internet archive or kept as microfilm documents. 	<p>The Committee noted that these issues pertaining to the Library were ongoing and recommended that the National Assembly adopts the recommendation and refers it to the Parliamentary Management Committee, Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly for the implementation of measures to attract international donor support.</p>
<p>25. The appointment of a Public Information Officer.</p>	<p>The Committee agrees that the National Assembly adopts this recommendation for implementation and that it refer to the Parliamentary Management Committee, Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly for implementation.</p>
<p>26. Broadcasting of proceedings.</p>	<p>The Committee agreed in principle to this recommendation but deferred it to work out the time period.</p>

4.1.3 Page 5, paragraph 4.1.1
Include the word "proposed" after the word "any" in *line 1*

4.1.4 Thereafter, the Minutes of the 4th Meeting were confirmed as corrected, on a motion moved by Mrs. Chandarpal and seconded by Dr. Moti Lall.

ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF THE SECOND DRAFT OF THE INTERIM REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- 5.1 A Member enquired of the Chairman whether the Interim Report would only cover what was considered and agreed upon up to the Committee's 3rd Meeting held on 12th December, 2005.
- 5.1.1 After the discussions which ensued, the Committee agreed that:-
- (i) the Interim Report should cover what was considered and agreed upon at the Committee's last meeting, that is, the last meeting of the Committee and those elements of the Bradford Study would be discussed at that meeting.
 - (ii) the Clerk of Committee would prepare the corrected version of the Report and circulate to Members prior to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 5.1.2 Consideration of the Second Draft Interim Report was then deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

ITEM 6: CONTINUED CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT AND THE ADDENDUM ON THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TOGETHR WITH THE BRADFORD REPORT AND DRAFT REVISED STANDING ORDERS.

- 6.1 The Committee considered the new matrix in connection with the above caption which resulted in the revised recommendations at the Appendix.

ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Other decisions of the Committee

- 7.1.1 The committee also agreed to the following decisions:-
- (i) to remove from the matrix all the recommendations that were discussed and agreed to by the Committee

- (ii) that the Clerk of Committees, should identify those recommendations related to the Standing Orders that were agreed to by the Committee
- (iii) that the Clerk of Committees should prepare a new matrix comprising of the recommendations in the Needs Assessment Report, the Bradford Study and those related to the Standing Orders, Pender's Advisories and Sampson's draft for discussion at the next meeting of the committee.

Adjournment

At 6.05 p.m, the meeting was adjourned to Wednesday, 18th January, 2006, at 5.00 p.m

Confirmed this day of January, 2006


.....
Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P.,
Chairman

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
6TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 6.00 P.M
ON WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

**(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)
(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)**

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.
Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P. (Excused)
Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip
Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P.

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. (Absent)

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Sherene Warren - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 6.00 p.m.

ITEM 2: ANNOUNCEMENTS

2.1 Excuses

2.1.1 The Chairman informed Members that Mrs. Clarissa Riehl had asked to be excused from the meeting.

2.1.2 Thereafter, Mr. Murray, informed the Chairman that Mr. Carberry would be late for the meeting.

ITEM 3: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

3.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:

- (i) Notice dated 16th January, 2006 to attend the 6th Meeting on Wednesday, 18th January, 2006;
- (ii) Minutes of the 5th Meeting held on Thursday, 12th January, 2006;
- (iii) Second Draft of Interim Report; and
- (iv) Matrix of Recommendations

ITEM 4: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 5TH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 12TH JANUARY, 2006.

4.1 Corrections

4.1.1 Page 4, Table with Recommendations

Substitution of the following for recommendation number "26"

Recommendation	Committee's Recommendation
26. Broadcasting of proceedings	The Committee noted that there were delayed broadcast of proceedings and recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Parliamentary Management Committee for action.

4.1.2 Page 5, paragraph 5.1.1
Substitution of the following for item (i)

"the Interim Report should cover what was considered and agreed upon at the Committee's last meeting and the elements of the Bradford Study discussed at the meeting".

4.1.3 Page 6, paragraph 7.1.1, item (iii)
Delete the word "of" after the word "comprising" in line 2.

4.1.4 Thereafter, the Minutes of the 5th Meeting were confirmed as corrected, on a motion moved by Dr. Moti Lall and seconded by Mr. Lumumba.

ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF THE SECOND DRAFT OF THE INTERIM REPORT FOR SUBMISSION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

5.1 With the agreement of Members the Committee proceeded to consider the report *paragraph by paragraph*.

5.1.1 Paragraphs 1 to 3 were accepted as presented.

5.1.2 **Paragraph 4 – Other Meetings of the Committee**
Insertion of the figure "5" after the word "on" in line 1.

5.1.3 Paragraphs 5 to 13 were accepted as presented.

5.1.4 **Paragraph 14 – Matrix of the Davies Report and Bradford Recommendations**

5.1.5 **First Report**

5.1.6 **Column 3 – Committee’s Recommendations**

No. 1: The following amendment was made-

Substitution of the following for the second paragraph:

“If they are unable to do so they are to explain this in the National Assembly within the 21 days deadline, and the answer must then not be delayed for more than 7 additional days.”

Nos. 2 to 5 were deleted.

Nos. 6 to 10 were accepted as presented

No. 11: The following amendment was made -

Substitution of the words *“in accordance with the Constitution and”* for the words *“immediately. The Committee further recommends that”* after the word *“assent”* **in line 4.**

No. 12: The following amendment was made -

Insertion of the words *“with the omission of the word qualified”* after the word *“recommendation”* **in line 3.**

5.1.7 **Addendum (Summary)**

No. 1: The following amendment was made -

Inclusion of the words *“notes that the strategic plan refers to the Parliament Office”* after the word *“Committee”* **in line 1.**

No. 2 was accepted as presented.

Nos. 3 to 6 were deleted.

No. 7 accepted as presented.

No. 8: The following amendment was made -

Substitution of the following for the paragraph:

“The Committee notes the provision of Treasury Memorandum in response to the report of the Public Accounts Committee, nonetheless the Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopts it”.

No. 9: The following amendment was made -

Inclusion of the words “for approval of the National Assembly” at the end of the sentence.

Nos. 10 and 11 were deleted.

No. 12: The following amendment was made -

Substitution of the following for the paragraph:

“The Committee recommends that an Editor (or other suitably titled officer) should be appointed to ensure the timely production and distribution of the Verbatim Records on the basis of contract, and that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly for implementation”.

No. 13 was accepted as presented.

No. 14 was deleted

No. 15: The following amendment was made -

Inclusion of the words “of National Assembly for consideration” at the end of the sentence.

No. 16: The following amendment was made -

Insertion of the words “notes that such Mock Parliaments are being held and” after the word “Committee” in **line 1**.

No. 17 was accepted as presented.

No. 18: The following amendment was made -

Substitution of the following for the paragraph:

“The Committee recommends that the National Assembly adopt this recommendation and refer it to the Parliamentary Management Committee, Speaker and Clerk for implementation.”

Nos. 19 and 20 were accepted as presented.

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
7TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 5.05 P.M
ON MONDAY 24TH JANUARY, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

**(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)
(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)**

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. - Excused
Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P. - Excused
Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip - Excused
Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P.

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P.

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 5.05 p.m.

ITEM 2: ANNOUNCEMENTS

2.1 Excuses

2.1.1 The Chairman announced that the following Members were excused from the meeting:

- Mrs. Clarissa Reihl, M.P
- Mr. Lance Carberry, M.P
- Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P

ITEM 3: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

3.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:

- (i) Notice dated 20th January, 2006 to attend the 7th meeting on Tuesday, 24th January, 2006;
- (ii) Minutes of the 6th meeting held on Wednesday, 18th January, 2006;

3.2 The following document was circulated at the meeting:

- Notes and Matrix on the Davies recommendations, etc.

ITEM 4: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 6TH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH JANUARY, 2006.

4.1 Confirmation:

4.1.1 The Minutes of the 6th meeting were confirmed without correction, on a motion moved by Mrs. Chandarpal and seconded by Dr. Moti Lall.

ITEM 5: MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Page 3, paragraph 4.1.1

- 5.1.1 The Chairman informed the Committee that the Committee's Interim Report with the twenty-six recommendations considered by it, was presented to the National Assembly on Monday, 25th January.

ITEM 6: CONTINUATION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT AND THE ADDENDUM ON THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TOGETHER WITH THE BRADFORD REPORT AND DRAFT REVISED STANDING ORDERS.

6.1 *Recommendation 2 – Parliamentary Calendar:*

- 6.1.1 The Committee accepted the recommendation in principle but agreed that no change should be made to the Standing Orders. It however recommended that Government should at least on a quarterly basis, indicate adequately what it planned, which would be subject to modification.

6.2 *Recommendations 3,4 and 5:*

- 6.2.1 The Committee agreed to consider the following three recommendations:

- 3 - Scrutiny of Legislation;
- 4 - Bills: Publication and second reading;
- 5 - The stages of Bills.

- 6.2.2 A discussion ensued and the Committee *accepted recommendations 4 and 5 in principle* but deferred formulation of its decision to create a comfort zone for both sides, subject to a mechanism to be found for treating with emergency. However, Members were asked to research the issue.

- 6.2.3 With respect to *recommendation 3*, the Committee agreed that Parliament Office should make Bills available as soon as possible and post them on its Website.

6.3 *Recommendation 7: Time for Debating Committee Reports*

- 6.3.1 The Committee acknowledged that all Sector Committee Reports were currently presented to the National Assembly and adopted by a Motion in accordance with Standing Order No. 76(5).

6.3.2 The Committee agreed that the practice should be formalized by an amendment to Standing Order No. 76(5).

6.2 Addendum:

Recommendation 3: Preparation of Order Paper

6.2.1 Members of the PNC R recorded their agreement with the recommendation as written. The Government Members re-iterated that Government would retain its right to be engaged in ensuring that its business was on the Order Paper.

Recommendation 4: Time lapse between Publication of a Bill and its Second Reading

6.2.2 The Committee *agreed with and accepted this recommendation.*

Recommendation 5: Amendments to Legislation

6.2.3 The Committee agreed that *Standing Orders 31(6) and 51(2)* adequately covered the needs of the Assembly.

Recommendation 6: Opposition Time

6.2.4 The Committee agreed that this recommendation was provided for by *Standing Order 20(2)* and the National Assembly should mandate the PMC to schedule Opposition time.

Recommendation 10: Sectoral Committee Chairpersons

6.2.5 The Committee acknowledged that the present position was created by a resolution of the Assembly, but *deferred* this recommendation to the next meeting for further consideration.

Recommendation 14: Internships

6.2.6 The Committee decided that it would recommend to the *National Assembly to refer this recommendation to the PMC for consideration of the principle of internship.*

Recommendation 17: Indepth Investigations of Government Matters

6.2.7 The Committee agreed that this practice was already provide for by the Sector Committees.

ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Continuation of Committee's work

7.1.1 Members discussed and agreed on the following as the way to proceed at the next meeting:

- The consideration of deferred recommendations;
- Consideration of the Bradford recommendations;
- Identification of the recommendations in conjunction with the Standing Orders.

7.1.2 It was decided that the Chairman would request an extension of the Committee's deadline from the National Assembly. The Committee also considered the need of submitting a second interim report for submission to the National Assembly.

Adjournment

At 6.35 p.m the meeting was adjourned to 5.15 p.m on Wednesday, 25th January, 2006.

Confirmed this ^{25th} day of January, 2006


Hon. Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P
Chairman

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
8TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 5.20 P.M
ON WEDNESDAY 25TH JANUARY, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

**(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)
(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)**

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P. - Excused
Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. - Excused
Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P. - Excused
Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip - Excused
Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P. - Absent

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. - Absent

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

1.1 The meeting was called to order at 5.20 p.m.

ITEM 2: ANNOUNCEMENTS

2.1 Excuses

2.1.1 The Chairman announced that the following Members were excused from the meeting:

- Mrs. Clarissa Reihl, M.P
- Mr. Lance Carberry, M.P
- Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P
- Mr. Odinga Lumumba, M.P

2.2 Agenda

2.1.1 At the Chairman's suggestion, the Committee agreed that it would only address items 3 and 4 on the agenda .

ITEM 3: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

3.1 The following documents were circulated at the meeting:

- (i) Notice dated 25th January, 2006 to attend the 8th meeting on Wednesday, 25th January, 2006;
- (ii) Minutes of the 7th meeting held on Tuesday, 24th January, 2006;

ITEM 4: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 7TH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH JANUARY, 2006.

Correction:

4.1. Page 3 paragraph 6.1.1

- 4.1.1 The Committee agreed that the paragraph should be re-formulated to read as follows:

“The Committee accepted the recommendation in principle but agreed that no change should be made to the Standing Orders. It, however, recommended that Government should at least, on a quarterly basis, indicate its parliamentary programme provided that provisions were made for the modification of the programme”.

4.2 Page 3, paragraph 6.2.

- 4.2.1 The Committee agreed that the paragraph should have been formulated to read as follows:

“The Select Committee agreed that Standing Order 46(2) should be changed from three to seven days. However, Government should be able to move with the various stages of the bill in cases of emergency”.

4.3 Page 4

- 4.3.1 Substitution of 6.4 to 6.4.7 for the numbering of paragraphs 6.2 to 6.2.7.

4.4 Page 5, paragraph 7.1.1

- 4.4.1 Bullet 2 to be re-worded as follows:

“Consideration of the other Bradford recommendations in Study 1 of the Bradford Report”

Thereafter, the Minutes of the 7th meeting were confirmed on a motion moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by the Hon. Minister Nadir.

ITEM 5: MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Page 4, paragraph 6.2.5

Recommendation 10

5.1.1 The recommendation was considered and the Committee agreed that the National Assembly had the mechanism, through a resolution for Sector Committees, and, further recommended that such practice should be retained.

5.2 Page 5, paragraph 7.1.2

5.2.1 The Committee agreed to the preparation and submission of a second Interim Report to the National Assembly which would be prepared by the Committees Division and finalised by the Chairman and Mr. Murray.

5.2.2 It was decided that the Committee would seek an extension of its deadline to the end of February by the submission of a Motion to the National Assembly.

ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Decisions of meetings:

6.1.1 Mrs. Chandarpal suggested that the Committee should give consideration to being provided with a copy of all decisions taken before the adjournment of meetings. She held the view that this could assist Members to ratify any decision taken before the next scheduled meeting.

6.2 Outstanding recommendations:

6.2.1 The Chairman informed Members that the Committee would address the outstanding recommendations when it resumed considerations.

Adjournment

At 6.00 p.m, the meeting was adjourned *sine die*.

Confirmed this ^{15th} day of February, 2006



**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
9TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 2.40 P.M
ON WEDNESDAY 15TH FEBRUARY, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

**(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)
(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)**

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.
Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P. - Excused
Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip
Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P. - Excused

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. - Absent

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2.40 p.m. and apologized to Members for the late cancellation of the meeting which was scheduled for the previous day.

ITEM 2: ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1 The Chairman announced that the following Members were excused from the meeting:
- Mrs. Clarissa Reihl, M.P
 - Dr. Max Hanoman, M.P

ITEM 3: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

- 3.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:
- (i) Notice dated 10th February, 2006 to attend the 9th meeting on Wednesday, 15th February, 2006;
 - (ii) Minutes of the 8th meeting held on 25th January, 2006;
 - (iii) Copy of Third Interim Report(draft); and
 - (iv) Notice dated 14th February, re postponement of 9th meeting.

ITEM 4: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 8TH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25TH JANUARY, 2006.

Correction:

- 4.1 **Page 4, paragraph 5.1.1**
- 4.1.1 The insertion of the words "*for tabling of reports*" after the word "*resolution*" and before the word "*for*" in line 2.

- 4.1.2 Without further correction, the Minutes of the 8th meeting were confirmed on a motion moved by Dr. Motilal and seconded by Mrs. Chandarpal.

**ITEM 5: CONTINUATION OF CONSIDERATION OF THE
OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS IN STUDY 1 OF THE
BRADFORD REPORT**

5.1 3rd Interim Report:

- 5.1.1 The Chairman informed the Committee that it had already dealt with ten(10) of the twenty(20) recommendations in Bradford's Study 1 which corresponded to recommendations in Sir Davies' Report and Addendum.

As a result of a discussion between and Mr. Murray himself concerning the treatment of the remainder of the twenty(20) recommendations of Bradford's Study 1 it was agreed that a 3rd Interim Report should be submitted to the National Assembly. In light of this, a draft Report was prepared by the Secretariat and circulated to Members.

- 5.1.2 The Committee then proceeded to consider the 10 outstanding recommendations in the report.

5.2 Recommendation 2 - Oral Question Time:

- 5.2.1 The Committee recommended that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for implementation as proposed by Mrs. Jacqueline Sampson at Standing Order No. 16(1)(b) of her draft.

5.3 Recommendation 6 - Debate on matters of National Importance:

- 5.3.1 The Committee recommended that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for possible refinement including possible criteria for such terms as urgent and public importance.

5.4 Recommendation 10 - Annual State of the Nation Speech:

- 5.4.1 The Committee recommended that the National Assembly should refer the recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee to make provision in the Standing Orders for an Annual State of the Nation *Address* by the President at the opening of a new session of Parliament which the Committee understood to be October of each year.

5.5 Recommendation 11 - Policy Statements:

- 5.5.1 The Committee recommended that the National Assembly should refer the recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for insertion of the words "*including policy statements*" at the end of *Standing Order No. 12(h)*.

5.6 Recommendation 12 - Auditor General's Report:

- 5.6.1 The Committee noted that this recommendation had been addressed at item 4 on page 13 of the First Interim Report.

5.7 Recommendations 15 and 16 - Human Resource

- 5.7.1 The Committee accepted the principle of adequately resourcing each Committee and recommended that the National Assembly refer these recommendations to the Speaker, Clerk and the Parliamentary Management Committee to be considered in conjunction with the previous recommendation at item 12 on page 15 of the First Interim Report.

5.8 Recommendation 18 - Ombudsman's Reports

- 5.8.1 The Committee noted that the Ombudsman's report was laid in the National Assembly by the Speaker and recommended that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for provision to be made in the Standing Orders for debate on this Report.

5.9 Recommendation 19 - Resourcing of the Ombudsman Office

- 5.9.1 The Committee recommended that the National Assembly refer this recommendation to the Speaker, Clerk and the Parliamentary Management Committee for engagement with the Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Ombudsman for implementation.

5.10 Recommendation 20 - Reviewing of Bills

- 5.10.1 The Committee recommended that the National Assembly refer recommendation to the Standing Orders Committee for incorporation in the relevant Standing Orders.

ITEM 6: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Submission of 3rd Interim Report:

- 6.1.1 The decision was taken to have the 3rd Interim Report finalized and submitted to the National Assembly at its sitting on Thursday, 16th February, 2006.
- 6.1.2 The Chairman, however, reminded Members that it was imperative for the the Committee to address the other outstanding issues expeditiously, bearing in mind that it had to meet its deadline of February, 28th and in view of this, these would be considered at the next scheduled meeting.

Adjournment

At 3.50 p.m the meeting adjourned to 3.00 p.m on Friday, 24th February, 2006 in the Parliamentary Library.

Confirmed this th 24 day of Febraury, 2006



*The Hon. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P.
Chairman*

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
10TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 3.20 P.M
ON FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

**(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)
(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)**

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P - Excused
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P. - Absent
Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P
Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P
Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip - Excused
Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P.

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P - Absent

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3.20 p.m.

ITEM 2: ANNOUNCEMENT

2.1 The following Members were excused from the meeting:

- Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P;
- Mr. Lance Carberry, M.P

ITEM 3: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

3.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:

- Notice dated 20th February, 2006, to attend 10th meeting; and
- Minutes of the 9th meeting held on 15th February, 2006

ITEM 4: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 9TH MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

4.1 page 2, paragraph 2.1

4.1.1 Substitution of the word "*Riehl*" for the word "*Reihl*".

4.2 page 3, paragraph 4.1.2

4.2.1 Substitution of the words "*Moti Lall*" for the word "*Motilall*".

4.2.2 The Minutes of the 9th meeting were then confirmed on a motion moved by Mrs. Sukhai and seconded by the Hon. Minister Nadir.

ITEM 5: MATTERS ARISING

5.1 page 4, paragraph 6.1.1 - Interim Report

- 5.1.1 The Chairman announced that the 3rd Interim Report was submitted to the National Assembly on Thursday, 16th February, 2006.

ITEM 6: CONSIDERATION OF OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS IN BRADFORD'S GUYANA FIDUCIARY OVERSIGHT PROJECT REPORT(VOLUMES 1&2)

6.1 Recommendation 1[3]: Parliamentary Appointment's Committee to oversee Appointments - Ombudsman, Integrity Commission, Auditor General.

- 6.1.1 The Committee acknowledged that there were already in place, procedures for the appointments of the Ombudsman, Members of the Integrity Commission and Auditor General but requested the Head of the Committees Division to prepare a paper on these appointments.

- 6.1.2 Thereafter, the Committee *agreed to defer this recommendation for further discussion.*

6.2 Recommendation 2[5]: Analysis and review of major Bills by a Select Committee

- 6.2.1 The Committee:
- (i) Accepted the recommendation in principle;
 - (ii) Noted that the PMC had started a process to determine whether all Bills should be referred to a Select Committee;
 - (iii) Requested that the PMC should work toward establishing a criteria for determining a precise definition of a major or complex Bill within a prescribed time-frame.
 - (iv) Agreed that the recommendation be incorporated in the Standing Orders based on the outcome of (iii);
 - (v) In the meantime, the recommendation be in the Standing Orders, leaving it to the Speaker to determine what is a major or complex Bill.

The Clerk of the Committee was requested to research the topic.

- 6.2.2 Thereafter, the Committee *agreed to defer this recommendation for further discussion.*

6.3 Recommendation 3[6]: Employment of Parliamentary Staff and Appointment of Clerk of the House

6.3.1 The Chairman advised that the first part of the recommendation was addressed in a previous report. However, the Committee *agreed to defer discussion on the appointment of the Clerk of the House.*

6.4 Recommendation 4[8]: Legislative Timetable

6.4.1 This recommendation was dealt with in a previous report.

6.5 Recommendation 5[10]: Salary and Allowances of MP's

6.5.1 It was pointed out that a Committee was previously established to consider this issue and the Chairman undertook to research the mandate of that Committee.

6.5.2 The Committee *agreed to defer this recommendation for further discussion*

6.6 Recommendation 6[11]: Hansards Reports

6.6.1 This recommendation was dealt with in a previous report.

6.7 Recommendation 7[13]: Establishment of a Regulations Review Committee

6.7.1 The Chairman asked Members of the Committee to give this recommendation some further consideration.

6.8 Recommendation 8[15]: Fiduciary Oversight in Parliament

6.8.1 The Chairman advised that the Government had already accepted this recommendation.

6.9 Recommendation 9[16]: Parliamentary Boycott

6.9.1 Mr. Murray explained that the PNC/R would be in agreement if all the recommendations were accepted by the Government. He, further agreed to provide an appropriate formulation of his Party's position.

6.10 Recommendation 10[17]: Questioning by MP's

6.10.1 This recommendation was dealt with previously.

6.11 Recommendation 11[21]: Meetings during Parliamentary Sessions

6.11.1 The Committee felt that this should be decided by the Committees themselves who would determine their own work as the workload required.

6.12 Recommendation 12[22]: Consideration of Budget Estimates by PSCES

6.12.1 The Chairman informed the Committee that the Government was continuing engagement in relation to this recommendation and further information would be available before the conclusion of the Committee's tenure.

6.12.2 Mr. Murray stated that the PNC/R accepted this recommendation in principle.

6.13 Recommendation 13[23]: Financial Bills to be sent to the PAC & PSCES

6.13.1 It was decided that The Hon. Minister Nadir would work along with the Secretariat with regard to researching this recommendation.

6.14 Recommendation 14[28]: Freedom of Information Bill

6.14.1 The Chairman reported that the Executive had a position with regard to this recommendation and undertook to report same to the Committee at a later meeting.

6.15 Recommendation 15[30]: Electoral System

6.15.1 Mr. Murray informed the Committee that the PNC/R was willing to consider this recommendation on the ground that there was no intention to change the current electoral system.

6.15.2 The Committee *agreed to refer the recommendation to the Constitutional Reform Committee* and recorded its commitment to the Proportional Representation System as the country's overriding system.

6.16 Recommendation 16[32]: Scrutiny by Parliamentary Select Committee of Legislation arising from International Donor Community

6.16.1 The Chairman advised that the Government was engaged in discussion with the Donor Community in relation to this recommendation.

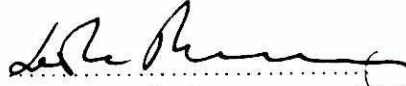
6.17 Recommendations 17[33],18[36],19[37] and 20[38]

6.17.1 The Committee agreed to defer consideration of these recommendations to the next meeting.

Adjournment

At 5.00 p.m, the meeting was adjourned to Tuesday, 28th February, 2006 at 3.30 p.m in the Parliamentary Library.

Confirmed this ^{28th} day of February, 2006



The Hon. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P.
Chairman

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
11TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 3.55 P.M
ON TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBERS, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)
(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P. - Absent
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.
Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P.
Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip
Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P. - Absent

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. - Absent

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Adeolu Perry - Word Processor Operator

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3.55 p.m.

ITEM 2: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

2.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:

- Notice dated 27th February, 2006, to attend 11th meeting; and
- Minutes of the 10th meeting held on 24th February, 2006.

2.2 The following document was circulated at the meeting:

- Memorandum from the Head of the Committees Division with materials on:
 - (a) Mode of Appointment of Ombudsman, Integrity Commission and Auditor General;
 - (b) Referral of Financial Bills to PAC or PSCES.

ITEM 3: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 10TH MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

3.1 Page 3, Paragraph 6.2.1

3.1.1 (a) Substitute the following for (ii):

“(ii) Noted that the PMC had previously considered this matter and determined that all complex and major Bills would be referred to Special Select Committees”

(b) *Delete (v)*

3.2 Page 5, Paragraph 6.11.1

3.2.1 Insert the word “*programme*” after the words “*own work*”.

3.3 Page 5, paragraphs 6.12.1 and 6.12.2

3.3.1 Substitute for the paragraphs, the following:

"Consideration of this recommendation was deferred".

ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Page 4, paragraph 6.5.1: Salary and allowances of MP's

4.1.1 Mr. Carberry explained that the salary and allowances of Members of Parliament were not considered by a Parliamentary Committee but that the matter was dealt with between the Government and Opposition.

4.2 Page 5, paragraph 6.12.1: Consideration of Budget Estimates by PSCES

4.2.1 Mr. Carberry expressed the view that the constitutional mandate of Sectoral Committees allowed them to consider Budget Estimates.

4.3 Page 5, paragraph 6.14.1: Freedom of Information Bill

4.3.1 The Chairman reported that the Government would not bring up a Freedom of Information Bill during this session of Parliament.

4.4 Page 5, paragraph 6.16.1: Scrutiny by Parliamentary Select Committee of Legislation arising from International Donor Community

4.4.1 In response to a query by Mr. Carberry, the Chairman said that the recommendation referred specifically to legislation that dealt with conditionalities of International Donor Communities.

ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS IN BRADFORD'S GUYANA FIDUCIARY OVERSIGHT PROJECT REPORT (VOLUMES 1 AND 2)

5.1 Recommendation 1[3]: Parliamentary Appointment's Committee to oversee appointments: Ombudsman, Integrity Commission, Auditor General

5.1.1 The Committee noted that the appointments of the Ombudsman and the Auditor General were provided for in the Constitution and that the appointment of the Members of the Integrity Commission was provided for by Statute. It agreed to refer the recommendation to the National Assembly for further referral to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Constitutional Reform for consideration.

5.1.2 Mr. Murray requested that this recommendation be further discussed at the next meeting.

5.2 Recommendation 2[5]: Analysis and review of major Bills by a Select Committee

5.2.1 The Committee noted that the PMC had considered this matter previously and it was agreed that all major or complex bills would be sent to Special Select Committees. The Select Committee, therefore, accepted this recommendation in principle. It was agreed that the National Assembly should ask the PMC to further define the criteria (guidelines) by which Bills would be classified as major or complex and that the NA should ask the PMC to complete the definition of criteria within a stipulated timeline. The Select Committee further recommended that provisions be made within the Standing Orders to accommodate this recommendation.

5.3 Recommendation 2[6]: Employment of Parliamentary Staff and Appointment of Clerk of the House

5.3.1 The first part of this recommendation was previously dealt with in the Davies' Report. The second part was a Constitutional matter. The Committee did not complete consideration of this recommendation and it was deferred to the next meeting for further consideration.

5.4 Recommendation 5[10]: Salary and Allowances of MP's

5.4.1 The Committee agreed to ask the National Assembly to appoint a Joint Committee of the House to further consider this recommendation.

5.5 Recommendation 7[13]: Establishment of a Regulations Review Committee

5.5.1 This recommendation was deferred for consideration at the next meeting.

5.6 Recommendation 8[15]: Fiduciary Oversight in Parliament

5.6.1 It was noted that several initiatives were ongoing and that the National Assembly should commend these initiatives and encourage the Executive to continue to promote effective Fiduciary Oversight and Accountability by Parliament.

5.7 Recommendation 9[16]: Parliamentary Boycott

5.7.1 The members on the Government side strongly supported this recommendation, but noted that this would be a matter for the Opposition parties to consider. The Opposition would accept, for its party, this recommendation, but on the understanding that the recommendations of the Bradford and Davies' Reports would be substantially accepted; given form in the Constitution, other laws, or Standing Orders; and adhered to in practice.

5.8 Recommendation 12[22]: Consideration of Budget Estimates by PSCES

5.8.1 The Committee agreed that consideration of the budget estimates was guided by the FMAA. However, it recommended that the NA refer this recommendation to the Ministry of Finance to make suggestions vis-à-vis this recommendation within the context of the FMAA. The Ministry of Finance should submit its recommendations to the NA.

5.9 Recommendation 13[23]: Financial Bills to be sent to the PAC & PSCES

5.9.1 The Committee noted that the Committee's Division had done research on this matter. However, Members had not had the opportunity to study the document and the Committee deferred consideration until the next meeting. It was, however, noted that financial bills were considered within the guidelines outlined in the FMAA.

5.10 Recommendation 14[28]: Freedom of Information Bill

5.10.1 The Committee accepted the recommendation and agreed for it to be referred to the National Assembly for it (NA) to urge Government to introduce a Freedom of Information Bill at the earliest possible time. The Government's previous commitment on this matter was noted by the Committee.

5.11 Recommendation 16[32]: Scrutiny by Parliamentary Select Committee of Legislation arising from International Donor Community

5.11.1 This recommendation was deferred.

5.12 Recommendation 17[33]: Establishment of a Constitutional Division of the High Court

5.12.1 This recommendation was deferred.

5.13 Recommendation 18[36]: Ombudsman – Parliamentary Officer

5.13.1 This recommendation was deferred but the Committee noted that this should be linked to action to be taken at 1[3] above.

5.14 Recommendation 19[37]: Information requested by the Office of the Ombudsman to be provided expeditiously

5.14.1 This recommendation was deferred but the Chairman noted that this was already provided for by Statute. The Committee's Division was urged to research this and confirm.

5.15 Recommendation 20[38]: Appointment of Ombudsman

5.15.1 This recommendation was deferred but the Committee noted that this could be linked to action to be taken at 1[3] above.

5.16 Recommendation 21[40]: Approval of Ombudsman's Office Budget by Parliament

5.16.1 This recommendation was deferred but the Committee noted that this should be linked to action to be taken at 1[3] above.

Adjournment

At 5.30 p.m the meeting was adjourned to Monday, 6th March, 2006.

Confirmed this 13th day of March, 2006


.....
The Hon. Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P
Chairman

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
12TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 2.20P.M.
ON MONDAY 6TH MARCH, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P. - Absent

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P.

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P - Absent

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2.20 p.m and apologized for his lateness.
- 1.2 Mr. Murray explained that he had to make a court appearance at 2.45 p.m, and sought the Chairman's approval to leave the meeting at that time.

ITEM 2: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

- 2.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:
 - Notice dated 2nd March, 2006, to attend 12th meeting;
 - Minutes of the 11th meeting held on 28th February, 2006; and
 - Bradford's recommendation 37: Information requested by the Ombudsman Office to be provided expeditiously.
- 2.2 The following document was circulated at the meeting:
 - Modes of appointment of Clerk/Secretaries General of some Parliaments.

ITEM 3: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 11TH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

- 3.1 The Minutes of the 11th Meeting were confirmed on a motion moved by Mrs. Sukhai and seconded by Mrs. Chandarpal.

ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING

- 4.1 **Page 2, paragraph 3.1.1 (a) (ii): Major and complex Bills**
 - 4.1.1 The Hon. Minister Nadir expressed reservation with regard to the use of the term "*major*".

4.1.2 After some deliberation among Members on the issue, the Chairman advised that he would give the Minister the opportunity to raise his views again before the completion of the Committee's Report.

4.1 Page 3 paragraph 4.1.1: Salary and allowances of MP's

4.1.1 Mr. Carberry informed the Committee that the issue was dealt with within the context of the Communiqué.

4.2 Page 4 paragraph 5.1.2: Parliamentary Appointment's Committee to oversee appointments of Ombudsman, Integrity Commission and Auditor General

4.2.1 In response to a question from Mr. Murray the Chairman confirmed that in keeping with the decision of the last meeting, the issue would be discussed at the meeting.

ITEM 5: CONTINUATION OF THE CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING DEFERRED RECOMMENDATIONS: 1[3], 2[5], 3[6], 7[13], 16[32], 17[33], 18[36], 19[37], 20[38] AND 21[40]

5.1 Recommendation 1[3]: Parliamentary Appointment's Committee to oversee appointments of Ombudsman, Integrity Commission and Auditor General

5.1.1 Mr. Murray proposed that in light of the mandate given to the Committee, rather than its merely referring the recommendation on the appointment of the Ombudsman to the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Constitutional Reform, it should ask the PSCCR to consider alternatives to the present system which he felt gave the President too much authority with regard to appointments.

5.1.2 He further suggested that the role played by the President in relation to the appointments should be minimized.

5.1.3 Mr. Carberry suggested that the Committee should indicate its position and give guidelines in relation to the matter.

5.1.4 Mrs. Riehl referred Members' attention to the recommendation and posited that the issue should be addressed in that context by the Committee.

5.1.5 The Hon. Minister Nadir, however, expressed concern regarding the recommendation and stated that the consultant was not appreciative of the local system and suggested that it be left as it was and that it should be recommended to the Constitutional Reform Committee(CRC) to consider the matter further. This view was supported by Mrs. Chandarpal.

- 5.1.6 Mr. Murray re-emphasised his Party's support for the recommendation and suggested that the Committee should be open-minded on the matter by allowing the CRC to explore possibilities of alternative methods of appointment to strengthen Fiduciary Oversight.
- 5.1.7 The Chairman, however stated that the Committee by majority, would agree to refer the recommendation to the CRC for further consideration noting that the Government Members preferred the present arrangement under article 191 of the Constitution.
- 5.1.8 In response to this Mr. Carberry noted the PNC/R's objection to referring this recommendation to the CRC without urging it to consider alternative methods of appointment.
- 5.1.9 Thereafter, the Committee accepted the following formulation:

The Select Committee noted that the appointments of the Ombudsman and the Auditor General were provided for in the Constitution and that the appointment of the Integrity Commission was provided for by statute.

It was agreed that the Select Committee should request the National Assembly to refer this recommendation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Constitutional Reform for further consideration.

The Committee also agreed that the NA should advise the CRC of the additional position of the Members of the Select Committee, i.e. the Members of the PNC/R noted that the recommendation was made by Bradford in the context of providing Parliament with a greater oversight role and believed that Parliament should have a greater role in the appointment of the named positions.

The Members of the Government believed that the Constitution and the laws of Guyana already catered adequately for the appointments of the named positions.

- 5.1.10 The Committee ***agreed that recommendations 1 and 18 should be linked.***

5.2 Recommendation 2[5]: All major Bills presented by the Executive to Parliament should be sent to a Select Committee for analysis and review before passage

- 5.2.1 The Committee noted that the PMC had considered this matter previously and it was agreed that all major and/or complex bills would be sent to Special Select Committees. The Select Committee, therefore, accepted this recommendation in principle.

5.2.2 It was agreed that the NA should ask the PMC to further define the criteria(guidelines) by which bills would be classified as major and/or complex and that the NA should ask the PMC to complete the definition of the criteria within a stipulated timeline. The Select Committee further recommended that provisions should be made within the Standing Orders to facilitate this recommendation.

5.3 Recommendation 7[13]: Establishment of a Regulations Review Committee

5.3.1 The Head of the Committees Division gave an overview of his research on Review Committees on Subsidiary Legislation (in the UK, India and New Zealand). At the conclusion of the discussion that followed, the Committee deferred further consideration of the recommendation to a subsequent meeting.

5.4 Recommendation 16[32]: Scrutiny by Parliamentary Select Committee of Legislation arising from Donor Community

5.4.1 The Committee agreed that the proposals in recommendation 2 would provide the opportunity for adequate scrutiny. However, the Committee urged the Government and the donor community to take cognizance of the oversight role of the National Assembly.

5.5 Recommendation 17[33]: Establishment of a Constitutional Division of the High Court

5.5.1 The Committee noted that the need for citizens to access the means for redress was imperative and agreed to refer the recommendation to the CRC for further consideration.

5.6 Recommendation 19[37]: Information requested by the Office of the Ombudsman to be provided expeditiously

5.6.1 The Clerk of the Committee advised the Committee that his research did not reveal any provision regarding how to require government bodies to provide information requested by the Ombudsman's Office expeditiously.

5.6.2 The Committee, therefore, agreed that the recommendation should be referred to the National Assembly which should refer it to the relevant body for the strengthening of the legislation to give effect to the recommendation.

5.7 Recommendation 20[38]: Appointment of Ombudsman

5.7.1 The Committee noted that the Office of the Ombudsman was vacant for over a year and agreed that the National Assembly should recommend the urgent appointment of the Ombudsman.

5.8 Outstanding Matters:

5.8.1 The following matters were identified as outstanding -

- Recommendation 7[13]: Regulations Review Committee; and
- Consideration of the revised Standing Orders re specific recommendations.

5.8.2 The Clerk of the Committee was requested to compile a list of all the recommendations from both the Davies' and Bradford Reports that require consideration in the Standing Orders. The Chairman undertook to work along with the Clerk in determining which recommendations would go to the Standing Orders Committee.

Adjournment

At 3.55 p.m the meeting was adjourned to Monday 13th March, 2006 at 2.00 p.m.

Confirmed this 13th day of March, 2006


The Hon. Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P.
Minister of Health
Chairman

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
13TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 2.15 P.M.
ON MONDAY 13TH MARCH, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

**(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)
(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)**

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P. - Excused
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P. - Absent
Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. - Absent
Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P. - Absent
Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip
Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P. - Excused

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. - Absent

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2.15 p.m.

ITEM 2: ANNOUNCEMENTS

2.1 Excuses:

- 2.1.1 The Chairman announced that he had received a request from the Hon. Minister Nadir to be excused from the meeting.
- 2.1.2 Mr. Murray also announced that Dr. Hanoman had indicated to him that he would be arriving late as he had to address an urgent matter.

2.2 Discussion by the Speaker of the National Assembly:

- 2.2.1 The Chairman informed Members that the Speaker of the National Assembly would wish to appear before the Committee to discuss with it, issues relating to the business before it, and its submissions to the National Assembly. He then sought their permission to suspend the agenda to facilitate the discussion.
- 2.2.1 Thereafter, the agenda was suspended at 2.20 p.m and the Chairman invited and welcomed His Honour the Speaker and Clerk of the National Assembly to the meeting and invited the Speaker to commence the discussion.

ITEM 3: ISSUES RAISED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

3.1 Committee's Deadline:

- 3.1.1 The Speaker thanked the Committee for the opportunity to have the discussion.
- 3.1.2 He observed that the extended deadline of 28th February had elapsed and stated that he had been optimistic that the Committee's final report would have been completed in sufficient time for it to be adopted.

3.2 Draft Standing Orders:

- 3.2.1 The Speaker emphasized that it was imperative for the Standing Orders Committee to complete its work in order to report to the National Assembly before the dissolution of Parliament. This, he added, had a bearing on the expeditiousness of the Select Committee.
- 3.2.2 He indicated that his perusal of the Committee's Interim Reports revealed that some recommendations were in conflict with the Standing Orders and urged Members to re-look at the recommendations to ensure such conflict did not occur. However, where there was contradiction, the Committee was advised that the Draft Standing Orders should apply. He also suggested that they fully apprise themselves with the Draft amendments to the Standing Orders.

3.3 Role of the Parliamentary Management Committee(PMC):

- 3.3.1 The Speaker said that he had recognized that the Select Committee, through its Interim Reports, had referred a number of issues to the PMC which he felt were outside of its (PMC's) purview. He, therefore, cautioned the Committee about the need to fully understand the role of the PMC with a view to determine what matters were referred to it.
- 3.3.2 He advised that the PMC was established by way of a resolution, to administer the business of the National Assembly and not that of the Parliament Office and therefore, its mandate should not be unduly tampered with.
- 3.3.3 He posited that some of the declaratory statements emanating from the two studies should be dealt with differently and stated that some of the recommendations were already captured in certain documents.

3.4 Response by Members:

- 3.4.1 Members of the Committee made the following comments/suggestions:
- The Committee was operating in a rushed manner and would further experience a time difficulty if it were to seriously analyse the recommendations of the Sampson's draft report;
 - The Committee had pondered a formal extension to complete its work but had not proceeded to do so as it felt it could conclude by the next sitting of the National Assembly;

- Where there was a divergence between the recommendations of the Committee and Sampson's draft, the Committee's recommendations should prevail;
- Members realized that the role of the PMC was outlined in the resolution that established it. However, they felt that its role was still evolving.

3.4.2 The foregoing comments generated a general discussion after which the Speaker departed the meeting at 3.07 p.m. and the Chairman recommenced the agenda.

ITEM 4: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

4.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:

- Notice dated 9th March, 2006 to attend 13th meeting;
- Minutes of the 12th meeting held on 6th March, 2006;
- Matrix of Davies and Bradford recommendations referred to the SO's Committee.

ITEM 5: CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 12TH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6TH MARCH, 2006

5.1 Page 4, paragraph 5.1.10

5.1.1 The paragraph should reflect that *recommendations 1, 18 and 21* should be forwarded to the CRC along with the considerations/guidelines of the Committee.

5.2 Page 6, paragraph 5.8.2

5.2.1 Deletion of the last sentence of the paragraph.

5.2.2 Thereafter, the Minutes were confirmed on a motion moved by Mr. Carberry and seconded by Dr. Moti Lall.

ITEM 6: MATTERS ARISING

6.1 Page 6, paragraph 5.8.1: Regulations Review Committee

6.1.1 Mrs. Chandarpal expressed the conviction that a Regulations Review Committee would enhance the scrutiny of subsidiary legislation,

notwithstanding the fact that they were vetted by the Attorney General's Chambers.

- 6.1.2 Mr. Murray referred to the research document that was circulated by the Committees Division and expressed the view that the underlying principle in each case, had to do with whether a particular instrument was made in accordance with a particular law or the constitution.
- 6.1.3 He further expressed his preference for the creation of a Standing Order which would say all instruments "*shall be referred*" to a "*Subsidiary Legislation Review Committee*" unless Parliament decided otherwise. He therefore agreed with Mrs Chandarpal's earlier assertion that stakeholders should be consulted on certain statutory instruments.
- 6.1.4 Mr. Carberry re-iterated that any Committee must be designated a "*Standing Committee*"

6.2 Recommendation 3[6]: Employment of Parliamentary Staff and appointment of Clerk of the House

- 6.2.1 The Committee was still to determine a position on the matter. The Chairman indicated that the Speaker should be consulted on two positions: the present method of appointment and the other being the involvement of the National Assembly.

6.3 Page 5, paragraph 5.9: Recommendation 13[23] Financial Bills to be sent to the PAC & PSCES

- 6.3.1 Mr. Carberry informed the Committee that the Terms of Reference of Sectoral Committees gave them authority to examine all facets of government business. However, Mr Murray suggested that it could be a possible conflict of interest if the PAC were to adopt such a role, and therefore it would be better for the Economic Services Committee to examine Financial Bills.
- 6.3.2 The Chairman, therefore, requested the Head of the Committees Division to verify the mandate for the Sectoral Committees and based on such verification, the Committee would also clarify its position with regard to recommendation 12[22].

ITEM 7: COMMENCEMENT OF CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS RE THE DRAFT REVISED STANDING ORDERS

7.1 Matrix of recommendations:

7.1.1 The Chairman explained the contents of the matrix that was prepared by the Committees Division and sent to Members. He also advised that they would be further provided with another document that was prepared by him was being vetted by the Committee's Division which should be used in conjunction with the matrix.

7.2 Decisions of the Committee re approach:

7.2.1 The Committee made the following decisions:

- To complete the outstanding recommendations before addressing the Draft Revised Standing Orders;
- To request a further extension of its deadline to complete its work. In this regard, the Head of the Committee's Division was asked to prepare the relevant motion to be moved in the National Assembly at its next sitting on 16th March, 2006. However, the Committee undertook to work toward a completion date of March 30th ;
- The Committee would consider extending its meeting time in order to meet its deadline.

Adjournment:

At 3.55 p.m the meeting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m on Friday 17th March, 2006 in the Parliament Chamber.

Confirmed this ^{17th} day of March, 2006



*The Hon. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P
Minister of Health
Chairman*

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
14TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 2.15 P.M.
ON FRIDAY 17TH MARCH, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)
(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. - Absent
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.
Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P.
Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip
Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P. - Absent

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. - Absent

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2.15 p.m and stated that it was his hope that the Committee would conclude its work in another few meetings.

ITEM 2: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

- 2.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:
 - Notice dated 16th March, 2006, to attend 14th meeting;
 - Minutes of the 13th meeting held on 13th March, 2006; and
 - Matrix of recommendations referred to the Standing Orders Committee.

ITEM 3: CONFIRMATION AND CORRECTION OF MINUTES OF THE 13TH MEETING HELD ON 13TH MARCH, 2006

3.1 Page 1: Attendance of Mr. Ravindra Dev

- 3.1.1 Mr. Murray drew the Committee's attention to the frequent absences recorded against Mr. Dev in the Minutes and queried how many meetings were attended by him since the establishment of the Committee.
- 3.1.2 The Chairman requested the Committees Division to provide the relevant information.

3.2 Page 3, paragraph 3.3.2

- 3.2.1 Substitution of the word "*oversee*" for the word "*administer*" in line 2.

3.3 Page 5, paragraph 6.3.1

- 3.3.1 Deletion of the word "*however*" at the beginning of the second sentence and convert it into a new paragraph.
- 3.3.2 Thereafter, the Minutes were confirmed on a motion moved by Dr. Moti Lall and seconded by Mr. Murray.

ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Page 7, paragraph 7.2.1

- 4.1.1 The Chairman stated that the National Assembly had approved a further extension to the life of the Committee to 30th March, 2006.

**ITEM 5: (a) COMPLETION OF CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS
3[6], 7[13], AND 13[23]**

5.1 Recommendation 3[6]: Appointment of the Clerk of the House

- 5.1.1 The Chairman informed the Committee that he had failed to reach the Speaker of the National Assembly. He then invited another discussion on the issue.
- 5.1.2 Mr. Murray re-iterated his party's support for the recommendation while Mr. Carberry emphasized that the National Assembly should play a role in such appointment.
- 5.1.3 Mr. Lumumba enquired whether the Committee's mandate permitted it to address constitutional issues.
- 5.1.4 The Hon. Minister Nadir, however, felt that the Committee should not make a decision regarding a change, but should refer the matter to the Constitutional Reform Committee.
- 5.1.5 Mr. Murray insisted that the Select Committee had an obligation to report to the National Assembly with its recommendation on the matter.
- 5.1.6 The Chairman observing that the Committee had failed to reach consensus, proposed that the Committee recommend to the National Assembly that it refer this recommendation to the Standing Committee for Constitutional Reform noting the following two positions of the Committee:
- Some Members were inclined to accept the recommendation:
 - Some Members favored that the appointment should be made by the National Assembly.

The proposal was adopted.

5.2 Recommendation 7[13]: Regulations Review Committee

- 5.2.1 Mrs. Riehl observed that the Committee had engaged in several discussions on the matter and reminded Members of the statement made by the Speaker in the National Assembly. She also re-emphasised that there was a dire need for such a Committee, which she felt would not detract from what had to be done by the relevant subject Ministry.
- 5.2.2 The Hon. Minister Nadir stated that since the review function was one for the Attorney General's Chambers, there was no necessity for such a Committee.
- 5.2.3 Mr. Carberry responded that the focus of the study was on Parliament's oversight function and, therefore, there was a need for differentiation between a review by the Executive and the Parliament. He further referred Members' attention to *paragraph 6.1.1* of the Minutes which stated:

"Mrs. Chandarpal expressed the conviction that a Regulations Review Committee would enhance the scrutiny of subsidiary legislation, notwithstanding the fact that they were vetted by the Attorney General's Chambers"

- 5.2.4 The Chairman observed that the Committee would return to the discussion when it examined Standing Orders 70(D) of the Draft Standing Orders. The Committee agreed.

5.3 Recommendation 13[23]: Financial Bills to be sent to the PAC & PSCES

- 5.3.1 This recommendation was accepted in principle on the basis of Resolution 19.

5.4 (b) Revised Standing Orders

- 5.4.1 The Chairman informed Members that he would complete and make available, the matrix on Mrs. Sampson's Draft revised Standing Orders to be studied in preparation for discussion at the next meeting. The Head of Committees Division would circulate the document by Monday 20th March.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3.15 p.m to 2.00 p.m on Thursday 23rd March, 2006 in the Parliament Chamber.

Confirmed this ^{23rd} day of March, 2006



The Hon. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P
Minister of Health
Chairman

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
15TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 2.15 P.M.
ON THURSDAY 23RD MARCH, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

**(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)
(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)**

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.
Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.
Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.
Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P.
Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.
Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P.
Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip
Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P.

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. - Absent

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2.15 p.m

ITEM 2: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

- 2.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:

- Notice dated 20th March, 2006, to attend 15th meeting;
- Minutes of the 14th meeting held on 17th March, 2006; and
- Matrix of proposed changes to Standing Orders.

- 2.2 The following documents was circulated at the meeting:

- Reference to Draft Proposed Standing Orders: Page 18

ITEM 3: CONFIRMATION AND CORRECTION OF MINUTES OF THE 14TH MEETING HELD ON 17TH MARCH, 2006

3.1 Page 2, paragraph 3.1.1

- 3.1.1 Mr. Murray pointed out that contrary to what was reflected in the minutes, he had only questioned the number of meetings that were attended by Mr. Dev.

3.2 Page 3, paragraph 5.1.2

- 3.2.1 Substitution of the words "*the major*" for the word "*a*" after the word "*play*" in line 2.

3.3 Page 3, paragraph 5.1.6

- 3.3.1 Addition of the following:

"Some Members wanted the retention of the present method".

3.4 Page 4, paragraph 5.2.3

- 3.4.1 Substitution of the words "*Parliamentary oversight*" after the word "*and*" in line 3.

3.5 Page 4, paragraph 5.3.1

- 3.5.1 Insertion of the words "*for future implementation*" at the end of the sentence.

ITEM 4: MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Page 2, paragraph 3.1.1 - Attendance of Mr. Ravindra Dev

- 4.1.1 The Head of the Committees Division informed the Committee that Mr. Dev had attended two meetings.

- 4.1.2 It was agreed that an attendance record should form part of the Committee's report.

4.2 Page 3, paragraph 5.1.1 - Appointment of the Clerk of the House

- 4.2.1 The Chairman informed Members that the Speaker had indicated that it was up the responsibility of the Committee to make a decision on the matter.

ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS RE THE DRAFT REVISED STANDING ORDERS

5.1 Methodology:

- 5.1.1 The following suggestions were considered:

- The Committee should address the changes that were proposed by Sir Davies and Mr. Pender and forward same to the Standing Orders Committee;
- The changes could be better understood if explained by Mrs. Sampson, that is, she should have been present;
- With the assistance of the Clerk of the Committee, the new proposals should be inserted into the current Standing Orders;

- 5.1.2 The Chairman explained the matrix and proposed that the original Standing Order be used as the base document. Further, the Clerk of the Committee should be given the authority to correct any terminology.

- 5.1.3 The Committee noted that Standing Orders Nos. 1 – 7 remained unchanged.

5.2 Standing Order 8: Sittings of the Assembly

5.2.1 8(1):

The Committee retained the existing 8(1) with the following amendment:

Substitution of "may sit" for "shall sit".

5.2.2 8(2):

The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

5.2.3 8(3):

The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

5.2.4 8(4):

The Committee *accepted this proposal* but agreed that the Clerk of the Committee should re-construct the terminology.

5.2.5 8(5):

The Committee agreed that this proposal was *unnecessary for inclusion in the Standing Orders.*

5.2.6 8(6)

The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

5.2.7 8(8)

The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

5.3 Standing Order 8A: Extraordinary Sittings

5.3.1 8A(1):

The Committee rejected *this proposal but substituted the existing 8(2) for it.*

5.3.2 8A(2):

The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

5.3.3 8A(3):

The Committee *accepted this proposal* but agreed to substitute the word "Member" for the word "Minister".

5.3.4 8A(4):

The Committee *accepted this proposal*.

5.4 Standing Order 9: Long Adjournment

5.4.1 The Committee accepted this proposal.

5.5 Standing Order 10: Adjournment of the Assembly

5.5.1 10(2):

The Committee accepted this proposal but agreed to substitute the words "a Minister" for the words "the Cabinet".

5.5.2 10(3):

The Committee *accepted this proposal*.

5.5.3 10(4):

The Committee *accepted this proposal* but agreed to substitute the word "voting" for the word "ballot".

5.5.4 10(5):

The Committee *accepted this proposal*.

5.5.5 10(6):

The Committee *accepted this proposal*.

5.6 Standing Order 12: Order of Business

5.6.1 The Committee *accepted sections "a to n"*. However, it was agreed that section "o" would be deferred for further consideration.

5.7 Standing Order 12A: Order Paper

5.7.1 12A(1):

The Committee accepted this proposal but noted it was already catered for in the existing Standing Orders.

5.7.2 12A(2):

The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

5.7.3 12A(3):

The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

5.7.4 12A(4):

The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

5.7.5 The Committee noted that existing Standing Order 13 remained unchanged.

5.8 Standing Order 14: Papers

5.8.1 14(1):

The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

5.8.2 14(2):

The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

5.8.3 14(3):

The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

5.8.4 14(4):

The Committee *agreed to re-visit this proposal at a subsequent meeting.*

5.8.5 14(5):

The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

5.9 Standing Orders 15 to 18

5.9.1 After discussion among Members, the Committee accepted the proposals in principle but agreed to discuss them further at the next meeting.

5.9.2 In the meantime, the Committees Division was requested to prepare a table showing the importation of the proposals into the existing Standing Orders, in a logical order for the Committee to see its emergence.

5.9.3 The Draft Standing Orders Nos. 1 to 20, as amended are appended to these Minutes.

5.10 Standing Orders 19: Personal Explanation

5.10.1 The Committee noted that the existing Standing Order 19 remained unchanged.

5.11 Standing Orders 20: Public Business

5.11.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

Adjournment

At 4.25 p.m, the meeting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m on Wednesday, 29th March, 2006

Confirmed this 29th day of March, 2006


The Hon. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P.
Minister of Health
Chairman

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
16TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 2.15 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P. - Excused

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P. - Excused

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P.

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. - Absent

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P.

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P.

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. - Excused

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 The Clerk of the Committee announced that the Chairman had telephoned to inform Members that he had been unavoidably delayed.
- 1.2 At 2.25 p.m Members suggested and agreed to the nomination of a Chairperson to commence the meeting in the interest of time.
- 1.3 Dr. Moti Lall was, therefore, nominated Chairman on a motion moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Carberry.
- 1.4 At 2.30 p.m the Presiding Member called the meeting to order.

ITEM 2: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

- 2.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:
 - Notice dated 27th March, 2006, to attend 16th meeting;
 - Minutes of the 15th meeting held on 23rd March, 2006;
 - Matrix of Revised Standing Orders, Nos 1 to 20(as amended by the Committee);
 - Memorandum re proposal to re-visit New standing Order No. 5
- 2.2 The following documents were circulated at the meeting:
 - Record of Proceedings of the 8th meeting held on 25th January, 2006;
 - Minute dated 29th March, 2006 to Members of the Committee commenting on the term "Leader of the Assembly".

ITEM 3: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 15TH MEETING HELD ON 23RD MARCH, 2006

- 3.1 **Page 3, paragraph 5.1.1**
 - 3.1.1 Insertion of the words "*and agreed upon*" after the word "*considered*".
 - 3.1.2 Substitution of "*Sir Michael Davies*" for "*Sir Davies*".

3.2 Page 3, paragraph 5.1.2

3.2.1 Insertion of the words "*prepared by him and the Clerk*" after the word "*matrix*" in line 1.

3.3 Page 3, paragraph 4.2.1

3.3.1 Deletion of the word "*up*" after the word "*was*" in line 2.

3.3.2 Substitution of the word "*recommendation*" for "*decision*" in line 2.

3.4 Page 4, paragraph 5.3.1

3.4.1 Substitution of the words "*and retained*" for the words "*but substituted*"

3.5 Page 7, paragraph 5.9.2

3.5.1 Deletion of the following words in the last line:

"for the Committee to see its emergence"

3.5.2 Without further correction the Minutes were adopted on a motion moved by Mr. Carberry and seconded by Dr. Hanoman.

3.5.3 At 2.40 p.m The Hon. Dr. Ramsammy arrived, took the Chair and apologized for his lateness. He also conveyed an excuse on behalf of the Hon. Minister Nadir.

ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS RE THE DRAFT REVISED STANDING ORDERS

4.1 Standing Orders 21 and 21 A: Questions for Debates

4.1.1 The Chairman advised the Committee that these Standing Orders were a re-ordering of the existing Standing Order 21 which should be retained with the incorporation of the proposed 21B(Admissibility of Motions)

4.1.2 The Committee *accepted the existing 21* but after discussing the proposed 21B agreed to defer it for further consideration. The Chairman undertook to contact Mrs. Sampson, seeking clarification with regard to her proposal with specific reference to paragraph (f).

4.2 Standing Order 22: Notice of Motions

4.2.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order.*

4.3 Standing Order 23: Period of Notice

4.3.1 The Committee agreed to accept the proposed new 23(1) and retain the existing 23(2).

4.3.2 The Committee *agreed to accept the proposed 23(3) in principle.* However, the Chairman would report at the next meeting after discussing with Mrs Sampson, the rationale for her proposed 12 days.

4.4 Standing Order 23 A: Notice Paper - Motions

4.4.1 The Committee agreed to incorporate this proposal into the Standing Orders.

4.5 Standing Orders 24 - 30:

4.5.1 The Committee noted that Standing Orders 24 – 30 remained unchanged.

4.6 Standing Order 31: Amendments to motions

4.6.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order 31 with the incorporation of the proposed 31(1)(b).*

4.7 Standing Orders 32 - 44

4.7.1 The Committee noted that *Standing Orders 32 – 44 remained unchanged and agreed to retain them.*

4.8 Standing Order 45: Private Members' Bills

4.8.1 The Committee *agreed to incorporate this proposal into the existing Standing Orders.*

4.9 Standing Order 45A: Introduction and first reading of Private Members' Bill

4.9.1 The Committee *agreed to incorporate this proposal into the existing Standing Orders.*

4.10 Standing Orders on Government Bills etc.

- (i) Retain existing 45 to 55;
- (ii) Accept the proposed 48(b) and (c) and 49;
- (iii) In addition, take into account amendments recommended by the Committee in connection with Davies and Bradford's Reports and also any consequential changes arising from new incorporations

4.11 Standing Order 55: Third Reading of Bills

4.11.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order 56(1).*

4.12 Standing Order 56: Correction pertinent and clerical errors

4.12.1 The Committee *agreed to substitute the proposed Standing Order 56 for the existing 56(2).*

4.13 Private Bills

4.13.1 The Committee noted the omission of the Standing Order on Private Bills from Mrs. Sampson's Working Draft and agreed that the existing Standing Order 57 be retained.

4.14 Standing Order 57: Withdrawal of Bills

4.14.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order 59.*

4.15 Standing Orders 58 – 60

4.15.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Orders.*

Adjournment

At 4.10 p.m the meeting was adjourned to 2.00 p.m on Thursday, 30th March, in the Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings.

Confirmed this 30th day of March, 2006



*The Hon. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P
Minister of Health
Chairman*

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
17TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 2.30 P.M.
ON THURSDAY 30TH MARCH, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P - Excused

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P. - -do-

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P - -do-

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P. - Excused

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P. - Excused

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P - Absent

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2.30 p.m and indicated the wish that the Committee could move ahead toward completion.
- 1.2 At 2.30 p.m the Presiding Member called the meeting to order.

ITEM 2: ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1 The Chairman announced that the following Members had asked to be excused from the meeting:
 - Mrs. Indra Chandarpal, M.P
 - Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P
 - Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P
 - Mr. Winston Murray, M.P
 - Mr. Odinga Lumumbam M.P

ITEM 3: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

- 3.1 The following documents were circulated at the meeting:
 - Notice dated 30th March, 2006, to attend 17th meeting;
 - Minutes of the 16th meeting held on 29th March, 2006;
 - Notes on Bills referred to a Committee for Consideration after its first reading; and
 - Notes re Mrs. Sampson's 21 B(f)

ITEM 4: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 16TH MEETING HELD ON 30TH MARCH, 2006

- 4.1 **Page 4, paragraph 4.3.2**
 - 4.1.1 Substitution of the word "*accept*" for the word "*accrpt*" in line 1.

4.2 Page 5, paragraph 4.12

4.2.1 Substitution of the word "*pertinent*" for the word "*pertrinent*".

4.2.2 Without further correction, the Minutes of the 16th Meeting were adopted on a motion moved by Dr. Moti Lall and seconded by Mrs. Riehl.

ITEM 5: MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Page 3, paragraph 4.1.2

5.1.1 The Chairman informed Members that he his efforts to contact Mrs. Sampson had failed but he had left a message and was awaiting a call from her.

5.1.2 He anticipated discussing a number of issues with her.

5.1.3 It was agreed that a list of all outstanding issues for discussion should be compiled.

ITEM 6: CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS RE THE DRAFT REVISED SSTANDING ORDERS

6.1 Financial Procedure - Standing Orders 61 – 67:

6.1.1 The Chairman noted that Mrs. Sampson's formulation of the Standing Order was in conflict with Article 18 of the Constitution. He further stated that upon seeking clarification, he was advised by the Ministry of Finance that, contrary to Mrs. Sampson's formulation, the existing Standing Orders captured the process within the Constitution.

6.1.2 On a proposal from the Chairman, the Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Orders 61 – 69.*

6.1.3 The Clerk of the Committee was requested to identify the areas that needed clarification.

6.1.4 The Committee agreed to retain the existing Standing Order 69A.

6.1.5 Mr. Carberry suggested that the Committee should give consideration to a clause in relation to an affirmative resolution.

6.1.6 The Committee discussed the suggestion and agreed to forward a note to the Standing Orders Committee in this regard.

6.1.7 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order 70(A).*

6.2 Standing Order 69: Standing Committees

6.2.1 The Committee *agreed to incorporate paragraphs (1) and(2) into the existing Standing Orders.*

6.3 Standing Order 69A: The Committee of Selection

6.3.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order 70(1) and incorporate the proposed 69A(4) into 70(1).*

6.4 Standing Order 69B: The Public Accounts Committee

6.4.1 The Committee *agreed to incorporate the proposed paragraph 2 into the existing Standing Order 70(2).*

6.4.2 The Committee *agreed to incorporate the proposed paragraph (4) into the existing Standing Orders with the understanding that it would be made consistent with earlier recommendations of 90 days.*

6.5 Standing Order 69C: The Constitution Reform Committee

6.5.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal in principle.*

6.6 Standing Order 69D: The Committee on Appointments

6.6.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal in principle* but requested the Clerk of the Committee to examine the resolution that established the Appointive Committee to ensure that the provisions had been adequately captured.

6.7 Standing Order 69E: The Parliamentary Management Committee

6.7.1 The Committee *agreed to incorporate this proposal into the existing Standing Orders.*

6.8 Standing Order 69F: The Sectoral Committees

6.8.1 The Committee *agreed to incorporate this proposal into the existing Standing Orders.*

6.9 Standing Order 70: Sessional Select Committees

6.9.1 The Committee *agreed to incorporate this proposal into the existing Standing Orders.*

6.10 Standing Order 70A: The Standing Orders Committee

6.10.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order 70(3).*

6.11 Standing Order 70B: The Assembly Committee

6.11.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order 70(4).*

6.12 Standing Order 70C: The Privileges Committee

6.12.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order 70(5).*

6.13 Standing Order 70D: The Statutory Instruments Committee

6.13.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal in principle but agreed to solicit a legal advice with regard to its implications.*

6.14 Standing Order 71: Special Select Committees

6.14.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order.*

6.15 Standing Order 72: Conduct of Committee Proceedings and other Matters in Standing and Select Committees

6.15.1 The Committee *agreed to retain paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 of the existing Standing Order and to incorporate the proposed paragraph 2 into the existing Standing Order.*

6.16 Standing Order 73: Absenteeism

6.16.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal but agreed to make appropriate amendments before forwarding it to the Standing Orders Committee.*

6.17 Standing Order 74: Time and Place for Meetings

6.17.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order 73(6).* However, the proposed paragraph 3 was deferred for a final decision.

6.18 Standing Order 75: Presiding in Committee

6.18.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order 73(2).*

6.19 Standing Order 76: Notice of Meetings and Business

6.19.1 The Committee *accepted the proposed paragraph 1 with the following amendment:*

“Insert after second “meeting” the words “unless the Committee by agreement adjourn to a time, earlier than three days”.

6.19.2 The Committee *accepted the proposed paragraph (2).*

6.20 Standing Order 77: Quorum

6.20.1 The Committee *agreed to retain Standing Order 73(4).*

6.21 Standing Order 78: Members may be present

6.21.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal in principle but agreed to formulate an amendment.*

6.22 Standing Order 79: Advisers and Experts

6.22.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal and agreed to incorporate it into the existing Standing Orders.*

6.23 Standing Order 80: Sittings in Private

6.23.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal and agreed to incorporate it into the existing Standing Orders.*

6.24 Standing Order 81: Disorder

6.24.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal and agreed to incorporate it into the existing Standing Orders.*

6.25 Standing Order 82 : Powers to send for persons, papers and records

6.25.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order 73(3) and (8) to (10).*

6.25.2 Members' attention was directed to Cap:1:08 of the Laws of Guyana(Legislative Bodies(Evidence)).

6.26 Standing Order 82A: Power to appoint Sub-committees

6.26.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal and agreed to incorporate it into the existing Standing Orders.*

6.27 Standing Order 83: Written Submissions

6.27.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal and agreed to incorporate it into the existing Standing Orders.*

6.28 Standing Order 83A: Matter of concern before giving evidence

6.28.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal in principle but agreed to check on its consistency with the Evidence Act.*

6.29 Standing Order 83B: Conduct of examination

6.29.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal but agreed to check on its consistency with the Evidence Act.*

6.30 Standing Order 83C: Counsel

6.30.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal but agreed to check on its consistency with the Evidence Act.*

6.31 Standing Order 83D: Witnesses' expenses

6.31.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal but agreed to check on its consistency with the Evidence Act.*

6.32 Standing Order 83E: Evidence containing allegations

6.32.1 The Committee *accepted this proposal but agreed to check on its consistency with the Evidence Act.*

6.33 Standing Order 84: Confidentiality of Proceedings

6.33.1 The Committee *agreed to incorporate this proposal into the existing Standing Orders.*

6.34 Standing Order 85: Reports

6.34.1 The Committee *agreed to retain the existing Standing Order 76.*

Interim Reports:

6.34.2 The Committee *agreed to incorporate the proposed paragraph 5 into Standing Order 76.*

Minority views:

6.34.3 The Committee *accepted this proposal.*

6.35 Outstanding Matters

6.35.1 Upon completion of the consideration of the Draft Revised Standing Orders, the following proposals were agreed to:

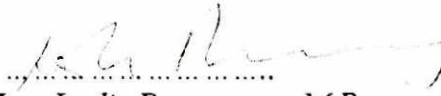
- The Final Report would be laid in the National Assembly on *Thursday, 6th April, 2006;*

- The Committees Division would prepare and circulate a draft of the final report to Members by *Monday, 3rd April, 2006*:
- The Committees Division would assist in designing a new draft Standing Orders, taking into account all the changes done by the Committee;
- The Committee would meet on *Wednesday, 5th April* to discuss the above.

Adjournment

At 4.30 p.m the meeting was adjourned to Wednesday, 5th April, 2006 at 2.00 p.m in the Parliament Chamber, Public Buildings.

Confirmed this ^{5th} day of April, 2006


.....
The Hon. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P
Minister of Health
Chairman

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SECOND SESSION
OF THE EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF GUYANA (2002-2006)**

**MINUTES OF THE
18TH MEETING OF THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPORT
AND ADDENDUM OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE GUYANA
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
HELD AT 2.15 P.M.
ON WEDNESDAY 5TH APRIL, 2006
IN THE PARLIAMENT CHAMBER, PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE (10)

ATTENDANCE

CHAIRMAN (PPP/C) (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

(Elected by the Committee on 7th November, 2005)

The Hon. Dr. Leslie S. Ramsammy, M.P.

Members of the People's Progressive Party/Civic (5)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

The Hon. Manzoor Nadir, M.P.

Mrs. Indranie Chandarpal, M.P.

Mr. Odinga N. Lumumba, M.P. - absent

Mrs. Pauline R. Sukhai, M.P. - excused

Dr. Moti Lall, C.C.H., M.P.

Members of the People's National Congress/Reform (4)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Winston S. Murray, C.C.H., M.P.

Mrs. Clarissa S. Riehl, M.P.

Mr. E. Lance Carberry, M.P., Chief Whip

Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P. - Excused

Members of the Rise, Organise and Rebuild (1)

(Nominated by the Committee of Selection on 2nd November, 2005)

Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P. - Excused

OFFICERS:

Mr. Maurice B. Henry - Head of Committees Division
Ms. Deborah Gray - Assistant Clerk of Committee

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2.15 p.m.

ITEM 2: ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1 The Chairman announced that the following Members had asked to be excused from the meeting:
- Mrs. Pauline Sukhai, M.P
 - Dr. Carl Max Hanoman, M.D., M.P
 - Mr. Ravindra Dev, M.P

ITEM 3: CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS

- 3.1 The following documents were circulated prior to the meeting:
- Notice dated 4th April, 2006, to attend 18th meeting;
 - Minutes of the 17th meeting held on 30th March, 2006; and
 - Copy of Draft Revised Standing Orders.
- 3.2 The following document was circulated at the meeting:
- Copy of Committee's Draft Report.

ITEM 4: CORRECTION AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 17TH MEETING HELD ON 30TH MARCH, 2006

- 4.1 Page 2, paragraph 2.1**
- 4.1.1 Substitution of the word "*Lumumba*" for the word "*Lumumbam*".
- 4.2 Page 3, paragraph 5.1.1**
- 4.1.1 Deletion of the word "*he*" in line 1.

4.3 Page 3, paragraph 6.1.1

4.3.1 Substitution of "Article 218" for "Article 18" in line 2.

4.4 Page 5, paragraph 6.13.1

4.4.1 Deletion of the words "*but agreed.....implications*".

4.4.2 Without further correction, the Minutes of the 17th meeting were confirmed on a motion moved by the Hon. Minister Nadir and seconded by Dr. Moti Lall.

ITEM 5: MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Page 3, paragraph 5.1.1

5.1.1 The Chairman informed the Committee that he had not pursued contacting Mrs. Sampson as in his view, most of the issues were clear. He, however, suggested that the outcome of the meeting would determine if further efforts would be made to contact her.

5.1.2 He stated that the Committee had incorporated everything into the Standing Orders.

5.2 Page 3, paragraph 6.1.6

5.2.1 The Chairman reminded Members that the Committee had agreed to consider an appropriate formulation for the proposed Standing Order and stated that they needed to address the change.

5.3 Page 6, paragraph 6.16.1

5.3.1 The Committee agreed that the Standing Order Committee would be advised to amend Mrs. Sampson's proposed draft Standing Order to involve the Whips in the removal of Members.

5.4 Page 7, paragraphs 6.28 to 6.32

5.4.1 In relation to these paragraphs, the Chairman advised that he had submitted an inquiry to the Attorney General's Office seeking clarification of the consistency of these provisions with the Evidence Act.

ITEM 6: OUTSTANDING ISSUES IN BRADFORD'S REPORT:

6.1 Recommendation 3[6]: Appointment of the Clerk of the National Assembly

6.1.1 The Chairman sought further comments from Members on this issue.

6.1.2 Mr. Carberry re-emphasised his Party's position on the issue, that is, that the Clerk must be appointed by the National Assembly.

6.1.3 The Government Members remained in favour of retaining the present *status quo*.

6.1.4 It was, therefore, agreed that the Report of the Select Committee would reflect the division in the Committee.

6.2 Recommendation 7[13]: Regulations Review Committee

6.2.1 The Committee noted that Mrs. Sampson's proposed draft Standing Order on Statutory Instruments Committee had been accepted.

ITEM 7: DISCUSSION OF COMMITTEE'S DRAFT FINAL REPORT

7.1 Submission of Report to the National Assembly

7.1.1 The Chairman informed the Committee that the Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly had indicated to him that the Clerk had been instructed to include the submission of the Report on the Supplemental Order Paper for the Sitting of the Assembly on Thursday, 6th April, 2006.

7.1.2 Mr. Carberry, however, suggested that the Committee should be given some time to properly peruse the report before its submission. Members agreed with the suggestion and the following decisions were arrived at:

- The Committee would meet on *Monday, 10th April, 2006* at 11.00 a.m to ratify the final report;
- Appropriate notes would be forwarded to the Standing Orders Committee to address the following issues that were raised by Members –
 - Use of *Gender Neutral language* in the Standing Orders; and
 - Inclusion of an *affirmative resolution clause* in the Standing Orders.

- The involvement of Whips in the treatment of the absence of Committee Members for three consecutive meetings of a Committee.

Adjournment

At 2.55 p.m the meeting was adjourned to *Monday, 10th April, 2006 at 11.00 a.m* in the Parliamentary Library.

Confirmed this 10th day of April, 2006



.....
The Hon. Leslie Ramsammy, M.P
Minister of Health
Chairman.