



PARLIAMENT

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

SECOND SESSION OF THE ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT (2016/2017)

INTERIM REPORT
OF
THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE
APPOINTED TO CONSIDER AND REPORT ON THE GAMBLING
(GAMING & BETTING) CONTROL BILL, 2016

Ordered to be printed

TOGETHER WITH THE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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MANDATE

1. Pursuant to resolutions of the House of Representatives on Friday February 3, 2017 and Senate on Tuesday February 7, 2017, a Joint Select Committee was established:

“to consider and report on a Bill entitled the “Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control Bill, 2016”; and...to report within six weeks, that is to say, on or before March 17, 2017.”

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

2. The following persons were appointed to serve on the Committee:

- Mr. Colm Imbert
- Mr. Faris Al-Rawi
- Mr. Stuart Young
- Ms. Nicole Olivierre
- Mr. Ganga Singh
- Mr. Rudranath Indarsingh
- Ms. Melissa Ramkissoon
- Mr. Foster Cummings
- Mr. W. Michael Coppin
- Mr. Wade Mark
- Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon
- Mr. Paul Richards

CHAIRMANSHIP

3. At its first meeting on Monday February 13, 2017, your Committee elected **Mr. Colm Imbert** to be its Chair, in accordance with Standing Order 97(3) (House of Representatives) and 87(3) (Senate).

SECRETARIAT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

4. Ms. Chantal La Roche, Legal Officer II, was assigned as Secretary to the Committee and Ms. Vahini Jainarine, Legal Officer I, Assistant Secretary.

MEETINGS

5. Since its appointment, your Committee has held three (3) meetings on the following dates:
 - i. **Monday February 13, 2017;**
 - ii. **Tuesday February 21, 2017; and**
 - iii. **Monday March 13, 2017.**

6. The Minutes of the meetings are attached at **Appendix I.**

WORK TO DATE

7. During preliminary discussions your Committee agreed that in an effort to ensure citizen engagement in the Committee's process, a call for written submissions from the public would be published on the Parliament Channel, Parliament social media platforms and the daily newspapers. The Committee agreed to a deadline of Wednesday March 8, 2017 for receiving submissions.

8. Your Committee received representations from the following organisations:
 - **Union of Members Clubs and Lottery Workers;**
 - **Trinidad and Tobago Members Club Association; and**
 - **Mau Pau Club.**

9. In addition, your Committee agreed to request submissions from the following specific stakeholders:
 - **National Trade Union Centre and the Joint Trade Union Movement;**
 - **Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago;**
 - **Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association;**
 - **Association of Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Companies;**
 - **The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago;**
 - **Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago;**
 - **Board of Inland Revenue;**
 - **The Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago;**
 - **Commissioner of Police;**
 - **Customs and Excise Division;**

- **The Betting Levy Board;**
- **Trinidad and Tobago Racing Authority; and**
- **The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago.**

10. To date, written submissions have been received from the following stakeholders:

- **Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago;**
- **Betting Levy Board;**
- **Union of Members Clubs and Lottery Workers;**
- **Hamel- Smith, Attorneys-at-Law, Trademark & Patents Agents;**
- **Royal Princess Casino Royal Club;**
- **Mr. Barney DeFour for The Grace Connection;**
- **Chico Enterprises Ltd t/a FunStation;**
- **Ms. Natasha Nunez for Eye on Dependency;**
- **John Wallis- Mau Pau Club; and**
- **Duces Private Members Club.**

11. Additionally, the Committee received comments from the following members of the public:

- **Mr. Gerard Sooklal;**
- **Mr. Anthony Ramnarine;**
- **Ms. Ria Ramsingh;**
- **Ms. Michelle Espinoza;**
- **Mr. Joshua Jackson;**
- **Mr. Charles Sookhan; and**
- **Mr. Arnold Pariag.**

REPORT

12. The Committee wishes to report that it intends to embark upon a clause by clause analysis of the Bill as well as the thorough consideration and review of submissions received from stakeholders and members of the public.

13. However, both stakeholders and members of the Committee have requested the opportunity to contemporaneously analyse the Regulations made under the Bill. These Regulations have only recently been completed and submitted to your committee.

14. Therefore, additional time is required by the Committee to properly review the Bill and Regulations and to compile its suggested amendments. As such, the Committee is unable to submit its final report at this time.

RECOMMENDATION

15. Your Committee humbly requests a further period of ten (10) weeks to complete its work and to submit a final report to Parliament by **May 19, 2017**.

16. During the period of extension, the Committee proposes to continue its work, to begin a clause by clause consideration of the Bill in collaboration with the Chief Parliamentary Counsel Department of the Ministry of the Attorney General, and to meet with selected stakeholders and assess submissions received.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Colm Imbert, MP
Chairman

March 15, 2017

APPENDIX I



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE GAMBLING (GAMING AND BETTING) CONTROL BILL, 2016

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING HELD IN THE ARNOLD THOMASOS ROOM (EAST), LEVEL 6, OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENT, TOWER D, IWFC, #1A WRIGHTSON ROAD, PORT OF SPAIN ON FEBRUARY 13, 2017 at 11:00A.M.

PRESENT

Mrs. Brigid Annisette-George - Speaker of the House

Committee Members

Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	-	Member
Ms. Nicole Olivierre, MP	-	Member
Mr. W. Michael Coppin	-	Member
Mr. Ganga Singh, MP	-	Member
Ms. Melissa Ramkissoon	-	Member
Mr. Rudranath Indarsingh, MP	-	Member
Mr. Faris Al-Rawi, MP	-	Member
Mr. Foster Cummings	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member
Mr. Paul Richards	-	Member
Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon, MP	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Ms. Vahini Jainarine	-	Assistant Secretary

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mr. Stuart Young, MP - Member

COMMENCEMENT

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Speaker of the House at 11:10 a.m.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

- 2.1 The Speaker advised that her role was to facilitate the election of a Chair and she invited nominations.
- 2.2 Ms. Nicole Olivierre nominated Mr. Colm Imbert for the chairmanship and this nomination was seconded by Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon.
- 2.3 There being no further nominations, Mr. Colm Imbert was declared Chairman.
- 2.4 The Speaker of the House informed Members that Ms. Chantal La Roche would serve the Committee as Secretary, and Ms. Vahini Jainarine would serve as Assistant Secretary.
- 2.5 Mr. Colm Imbert was invited to take the Chair.
- 2.6 The Chairman took the Chair.

QUORUM

- 3.1 The Chairman proposed a quorum of five (5) persons, inclusive of the Chair, provided that at least one Member from each House was present. The Committee agreed to this proposal.

DISCUSSIONS ON THE WAY FORWARD

- 4.1 The Chairman proposed that a Vice-Chairman be elected as the Chairman may not be able to attend all meetings.
- 4.2 The Chairman nominated Mr. Faris Al-Rawi to be the Vice-Chairman and this nomination was seconded by Mr. Ganga Singh.
- 4.3 The Chairman indicated that Draft Regulations of the Bill will be presented to the Committee and circulated to Stakeholders.
- 4.4 The Chairman indicated that at the next meeting the Committee shall-
 - i. set out the way forward in discussing the Bill;
 - ii. set up a work programme; and
 - iii. to decide on persons and organisations to be invited.
- 4.5 The Chairman proposed the next date for meeting be held on Tuesday February 21, 2017 at 11:30am.

ADJOURNMENT

5.1 There being no other business, the Chairman thanked Members and adjourned the meeting to Tuesday February 21, 2017 at 11:30 a.m.

5.2 The adjournment was taken at 11:20 a.m.

I certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

February 13, 2017



**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE GAMBLING (GAMING AND BETTING)
CONTROL BILL, 2016**

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING HELD IN THE A.N.R ROBINSON
MEETING ROOM (EAST), LEVEL 9, PARLIAMENT, TOWER D, PORT OF SPAIN
INTERNATIONAL WATERFRONT CENTRE, #1A WRIGHTSON ROAD, PORT OF
SPAIN ON FEBRUARY 21ST 2017 AT 11:30 A.M.**

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	-	Chairman
Mr. Faris Al-Rawi, MP	-	Vice-Chairman
Mr. Stuart Young, MP	-	Member
Mr. Ganga Singh, MP	-	Member
Mr. Rudranath Indarsingh, MP	-	Member
Mr. Foster Cummings	-	Member
Mr. Paul Richards	-	Member
Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon	-	Member
Mr. W. Michael Coppin	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Ms. Vahini Jainarine	-	Assistant Secretary

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Ms. Nicole Olivierre, MP	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member
Ms. Melissa Ramkissoon	-	Member

COMMENCEMENT

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 11:38 a.m.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2.1 The Committee considered the Minutes of the First Meeting held on February 13, 2017.

2.2 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Mr. Rudranath Indarsingh and seconded by Mr. Foster Cummings and the Minutes were confirmed by the Committee.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Work Plan and Method of Communicating with Stakeholders

3.1 As per Item 4.4 the Chairman invited Members to discuss the work plan and the method of communicating with stakeholders.

3.2 After some discussion, it was agreed that an advertisement calling for written submission from the public would be published using various media including Parliament Radio, Parliament Channel, Parliament website, Parliament Facebook page, Caribbean New Media Group (CNMG) television station, the daily newspapers and radio stations by Friday February 24, 2017.

3.3 The Committee agreed to a deadline for receiving submissions from the public of Wednesday March 8, 2017 at 12:00 noon.

3.4 After some discussion, Chairman suggested and the Committee agreed to invite written submissions from the following Stakeholders:

- National Trade Union Centre and the Joint Trade Union Movement;
- Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association;
- Association of Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Companies;
- The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Board of Inland Revenue;
- The Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Commissioner of Police;
- Customs and Excise Division;
- The Betting Levy Board;
- Trinidad and Tobago Horse Racing Authority;
- Punters Associations; and
- The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

3.5 The Chairman informed the Committee that correspondence had been received from the following:

- Union of Members Clubs and Lottery Workers;
- Trinidad and Tobago Members Club Association; and
- Ma Pau Members' Club.

It was agreed that responses would be sent to the letters received.

3.6 The Vice-Chairman informed the Committee that the draft regulations for the Bill should be made available to both the Committee and made available to the public by Thursday February 23, 2017, once completed by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel. It was agreed that if the deadline was not met appropriate adjustments will be made.

OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 The Committee agreed that its Third Meeting will be held on Monday March 13, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

4.2 The Chairman advised the Committee that at the Third Meeting the written submissions received shall be reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT

5.1 The Chairman thanked Members and adjourned the meeting.

5.2 The adjournment was taken at 11:59 a.m.

I certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

February 21, 2017



**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE GAMBLING (GAMING AND BETTING)
CONTROL BILL, 2016**

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING HELD IN THE A.N.R ROBINSON MEETING
ROOM (EAST), LEVEL 9, PARLIAMENT, TOWER D, PORT OF SPAIN
INTERNATIONAL WATERFRONT CENTRE, #1A WRIGHTSON ROAD, PORT OF
SPAIN ON MARCH 13TH 2017 AT 2:30PM.**

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	-	Chairman
Mr. Faris Al-Rawi, MP	-	Vice-Chairman
Mr. Ganga Singh, MP	-	Member
Mr. Rudranath Indarsingh, MP	-	Member
Ms. Nicole Olivierre, MP	-	Member
Mr. Foster Cummings	-	Member
Mr. Paul Richards	-	Member
Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon	-	Member
Mr. W. Michael Coppin	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member
Ms. Melissa Ramkissoon	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Ms. Vahini Jainarine	-	Assistant Secretary

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mr. Stuart Young, MP	-	Member
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COMMENCEMENT

1.1 The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 2:43 p.m.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

2.1 The Committee considered the Minutes of the Second Meeting held on February 21, 2017.

2.2 The following amendments were made to the Minutes of the Second Meeting held on February 21, 2017:

(a) Item 3.2 was redrafted to read: *“After some discussion, it was agreed that an advertisement calling for written submission from the public shall be published using various media including Parliament Radio, Parliament Channel, Parliament website, Parliament Facebook page, Caribbean New Media Group (CNMG) television station, the daily newspapers and radio stations by Friday February 24, 2017”.*

(b) Item 3.6 was redrafted to read: *“The Vice-Chairman informed the Committee that the draft Regulations for the Bill should be made available to both the Committee and made available to the public by Thursday February 23, 2017, once completed by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel. It was agreed that if the deadline is not met appropriate adjustments would be made”.*

2.3 Subject to the amendments a motion for the confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Mr. Ganga Singh and seconded by Mr. Paul Richards and the Minutes were confirmed by the Committee.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 As per Item 3.2 the Chairman informed Members that the call for submissions on the Bill was published in the daily newspaper as follows:

- Newsday: Thursday February 23, 2017;
- Trinidad Express: Sunday February 26, 2017;
- Trinidad Guardian: Friday March 3, 2017 and;
- Trinidad Guardian: Wednesday March 8, 2017.

3.2 The Chairman also informed the Committee that the call for written submissions was also placed on the following social media platforms:

- Twitter;
- Parliament Facebook page;
- Parliament Channel;
- Parliament Webpage and
- Google Plus.

3.3 As per Item 3.4 the Chairman informed the Committee that the Secretariat wrote to the following Stakeholders inviting written comments on the Bill:

- National Trade Union Centre and the Joint Trade Union Movement;
- Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association;
- Association of Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Companies;
- The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Board of Inland Revenue;
- The Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Commissioner of Police;
- Customs and Excise Division;
- The Betting Levy Board;
- Trinidad and Tobago Horse Racing Authority; and
- The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

3.4 The Chairman advised the Committee that written submissions were received from the following stakeholders:

- Mr. Anthony Ramnarine, (Member of the Public);
- Ms. Michelle Espinoza, (Member of the Public);
- Mr. Gerard Sooklal, (Member of the Public);
- Mr. Arnold Pariag, (Member of the Public);
- Ms. Ria Ramsingh, (Member of the Public);
- Mr. Barney DeFour on behalf of The Grace Connection;
- Mr. John Wallis, (Ma Pau Private Members' Club);
- Betting Levy Board;
- Union of Members Clubs and Lottery Workers;
- Chico Enterprises Ltd. t/a Fun Station;
- Hamel-Smith Attorneys-at-Law, Trademarks & Patents Agents;
- Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Trinidad and Tobago Racing Authority;
- Eye on Dependency; and
- Princess Casino Royal Club.

3.5 The Chairman advised that the following entities had requested an extension of time to provide written submissions:

- Instant Winner Members Club;
- Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (to March 22, 2017);
- Commissioner of Police (to March 22, 2017);
- Duces Private Member's Club and

- Banker's Association of Trinidad and Tobago (to March 17, 2017).
- 3.6 The Committee agreed to an extension of the deadline for written submissions to March 27, 2017.
- 3.7 The Chairman advised the Committee that the following Stakeholders had requested the Regulations in order to make written submissions to the Committee:
- Mr. Anoop Sumessar, (Member of the Public);
 - Mr. Joshua Johnson, (Member of the Public);
 - Mr. Charles Sookhan, (Member of the Public); and
 - Duces Private Member's Club.
- 3.8 The Chairman advised the Committee that the draft Regulations made under the Bill were completed and the Secretariat was instructed to circulate these Regulations to Members.
- 3.9 The Secretariat was also directed to publish an additional call for submissions by March 14, 2017:
- i. advising of an extension of the deadline for submissions on the Bill to March 27, 2017 and;
 - ii. inviting submissions on the Regulations which would be placed on the Parliament's website.
- 3.10 The Secretariat was also directed to inform Stakeholders that the Regulations were available on the Parliament's website and to invite their comments.

OTHER BUSINESS

- 4.1 The Chairman invited discussions on the way forward on submissions received to date.
- 4.2 The Committee agreed that the Secretariat would collate and tabulate all submissions received for ease of reference and circulate the compendium to Members by March 20, 2017.
- 4.3 The Chairman invited Members to comment on specific Clauses of the Bill which they require further explanation or guidance.
- 4.4 Based on a request from Mr. Mark, it was agreed that once available, the following documents would be circulated to Members:

- The National Risk Assessment published by the World Bank; and
 - A report on the gambling industry (piloted by the late Mr. Patrick Manning).
- 4.5 The Chairman undertook to circulate the Gambling Laboratories International (GLI) Report to all Members.
- 4.6 The Committee agreed that an Interim Report should be tabled to bring to the attention of the Parliament that an extension in time is necessary in order for the Committee to complete its deliberations. The Committee agreed to request an extension until May 19, 2017.
- 4.7 The Chairman directed the Secretariat to circulate the Interim Report of the Committee by round robin for approval by March 14, 2017.
- 4.8 The Committee agreed that its Fourth Meeting will be held on Wednesday April 5, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.
- 4.9 The Chairman advised the Committee that at the Fourth Meeting the written submissions received shall be reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT

- 5.1 The Chairman thanked Members and adjourned the meeting.
- 5.2 The adjournment was taken at 3:14 p.m.

I certify that these Minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

March 13, 2017