



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON

**THE REPRESENTATION OF THE
PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) (NO. 2)
BILL, 2020
FINAL REPORT**

SECOND SESSION (2021/2022) OF THE TWELFTH PARLIAMENT



Committee Mandate

Pursuant to resolutions of the House of Representatives on Friday January 14, 2022 and of the Senate on Tuesday February 8, 2022, a Joint Select Committee was established to adopt the work completed by the Joint Select Committee during the First Session, Twelfth Parliament and report by April 30, 2022.

Committee Membership

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP	Chairman
Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	Member
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	Member
Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP	Member
Mr. Davendranath Tancoo, MP	Member
Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP	Member
Ms. Paula Gopee-Scoon ¹	Member
Dr. Amery Browne ²	Member
Mr. Randall Mitchell	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	Member
Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy	Member
Mr. Deeroop Teemal	Member

Secretariat Support

Ms. Chantal La Roche, Senior Legal Officer	Secretary
Ms. Sharla Elcock, Legal Officer I	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Roger Hector, Legal Officer I	Research Support
Ms. Allisia Williams, Legal Officer I	Research Support
Ms. Sherlana Ramdeen, Procedural Officer Intern	Research Support
Mr. Khaleem Ali, Legal Intern	Research Support
Mrs. Susannah Gittens, Business Operations Assistant II	Administrative Support

Contact

Secretary

The Joint Select Committee on the Representation of the People (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2020

Parliamentary Complex, Cabildo Chambers

St. Vincent Street

Port of Spain, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Tel: (868) 624-7275 Ext 2298; 2287 Fax: (868) 625-4672

Email: jscrepresentationbill@ttparliament.org

Date Laid in HOR:

HOR Paper No.:

PARL No.: 14/3/86

Date Laid in Senate:

Senate Paper No.:

¹ On March 16, 2022 the appointment of Mr. Clarence Rambharat as a Senator was revoked by the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. On Tuesday June 14, 2022 Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon was appointed to the Committee in lieu of Mr. Rambharat.

² On Tuesday June 14, 2022 Dr. Amery Browne was appointed to the Committee in lieu of Mr. Nigel de Freitas.

MEETINGS

1. Since its appointment, your Committee has held eight (8) meetings on the following dates:
 - Monday February 28, 2022;
 - Monday March 14, 2022;
 - Monday March 28, 2022;
 - Monday, April 11, 2022;
 - Monday April 25, 2022;
 - Monday May 9, 2022;
 - Monday July 11, 2022; and
 - Monday July 25, 2022.
2. The Committee also participated in a **Peer to Peer Exchange**, which was hosted and moderated by the International Republican Institute (IRI) on June 27, 2022. Presentations on campaign financing were given by:
 - **Hon. Jatzel Roman**, Vice Minister for Consular and Immigration Affairs of the Dominican Republic;
 - **Hon. Mathias Mpuuga**, MP, Leader of Opposition, Parliament of Uganda;
 - **Hon. Abdullahi Sa'ad Abdulkadir**, MP, Deputy Chair of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), House of Representatives of Nigeria; and
 - **Mr. Krzysztof Lisek**, IRI Resident Program Director, Former Member of the European Parliament and Deputy Chairman of the Security and Defence Subcommittee, Former MP in the Parliament of Poland.
3. The Peer to Peer Exchange provided members of your Committee with the opportunity to learn from former and current parliamentarians around the world on the best practices, challenges and lessons learned on issues relevant to the draft legislation.
4. Attendance records and minutes of the meetings are attached at **Appendix I**.

INTERIM REPORT

5. The Committee's Interim Report was laid in the House of Representatives on Friday April 29, 2022 and presented in the Senate on Tuesday May 10, 2022. Your Committee requested and was granted a five (5) month extension to Friday September 2, 2022 in order to complete its work.

WORK TO DATE

6. Technocrats from the Law Reform Commission were invited to assist the Committee with its consideration of the Bill.
7. The technocrats of the Law Reform Commission commenced by delivering a comprehensive presentation on the background of the proposed legislation and provided your Committee with research materials for a greater appreciation of the policy objectives and the key

features of the Bill, as well as comparative legislation. Representing the Law Reform Commission were:

- Mrs. Paula Cross-Horton, Senior Legal Research Officer (Policy); and
- Ms. Tamara Dookran, Senior Parliamentary Counsel (Drafting).

8. The following technocrats from the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel were also assigned to assist Committee with its deliberations:

- Mrs. Lorraine John, Assistant Chief Parliamentary Counsel; and
- Mr. Parvin Sookhai, Parliamentary Counsel III (Ag.).

9. During preliminary discussions your Committee agreed to issue an additional call for written submissions from the public to ensure public engagement in the Committee's process. The call for public comments was published on the Parliament's social media platforms and in the daily newspapers.

10. In addition, your Committee agreed to request written submissions from political parties and civil society, as well as other stakeholders that may be affected by the Bill. The list of stakeholders is attached at **Appendix II**.

11. During this Session, submissions were received from eleven (11) stakeholders and to date, a total of twenty-six (26) submissions have been received from the following entities:

1. CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS);
2. Civil Society of Tobago;
3. Mr. Allan Karim;
4. Mr. Clyde Weatherhead;
5. Mr. Dan Russell Ethan Martineau, BSc, MBA;
6. Mr. Nigel Henry;
7. Mr. Rufus Ferdinand, Deputy Chief Operations Officer, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)
8. Friends of TNT;
9. National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Committee (NAMLC);
10. Progressive Empowerment Party;
11. The Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago;
12. The Congress of the People;
13. The Election and Boundaries Commission (inclusive of advice from Mr. Russell Martineau, C.M.T, S.C.);
14. The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (FIUTT);
15. The Media Association of Trinidad and Tobago (MATT);

16. The Movement for Social Justice (MSJ);
17. The National Joint Action Committee (NJAC);
18. The OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation;
19. The Progressive Party;
20. The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT);
21. The Trinidad Humanity Campaign;
22. The Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI);
23. The Trinidad & Tobago Publishers & Broadcasters Association (TTPBA);
24. Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission;
25. Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI); and
26. Youth Votes Matter.

12. Your Committee has also decided to consult with an expert during its deliberations on the draft legislation and has solicited and received recommendations from several regional and international entities. The list of agencies to which the Committee wrote requesting recommendations is attached at **Appendix II**.

13. To date, four (4) experts were recommended to and considered by the Committee, namely:
1. Mr. Charles Chauvel, Global Lead on Inclusive Institutions and Processes, UNDP, and former member of the House of Representatives in the Parliament of New Zealand.
 2. Mr. Salvador Romero, former president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Bolivia on two occasions, former director of the Centre for Electoral Advice and Promotion (CAPEL), and the former executive secretary of the Electoral Organisations of the Americas.
 3. Mr. Grant Masterson, Head of Programme, Governance, Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA); and
 4. Mrs. Maxine Henry- Wilson; former Jamaican parliamentarian, Government Minister and Member of the Electoral Advisory Commission

REPORT

14. The Committee wishes to report that additional time is required by the Committee to review all submissions received, meet with stakeholders as required and complete the clause by clause analysis of the Bill for a proposed list of amendments to be compiled.

15. The Committee is also desirous of additional time to select an expert who will aid the Committee in its review of the Bill.

16. Consequently, in accordance with Standing Orders 114(1) and 104(1) of the House of Representatives and the Senate respectively, your Committee wishes to report that due to the imminent prorogation of the Second Session of the Twelfth Parliament, it is unable to complete its work. However, your Committee has made considerable progress in advancing its work.

RECOMMENDATION

17. Your Committee therefore recommends the resumption of proceedings on the Representation of the People (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2020, in the Third Session, Twelfth Parliament.

18. Your Committee also asks that the House take note of the work achieved and the progress made by the Committee thus far and that a Committee be appointed in the Third Session to continue work on the Bill and adopt as part of its records, all work completed to date.

Respectfully submitted,
SGD
Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP
Chairman
September 5, 2022

Appendix I
Attendance Record and
Minutes of Meetings

JSC on the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2020
Second Session (2021/ 2022) Eleventh Parliament

MEETINGS	MR. COLM IMBERT,	MRS. CAMILLE ROBINSON- REGIS	MR. FITZGERALD HINDS	MS. SHAMFA CUDJOE	MR. SADDAM HOSEIN	MR. DAVENDRANATH TANCOO	MR. RANDALL MITCHELL	MR. CLARENCE RAMBHARAT (CEASED TO BE A MEMBER W.E.F 16.03. 22)	MR. WADE MARK	DR. MARIA DILLON- REMY	MR. DEOROOP TEMAL	MR. NIGEL DE FREITAS (CEASED TO BE A MEMBER W.E.F 22.06.22	DR. AMERY BROWNE (W.E.F. 22.06.22)	MS. PAULA GOPEE- SCOON (W.E.F 22.06.22)
First Meeting 28.02.22	✓	✓	EXCUSED	✓	✓	EXCUSED	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Second Meeting 14.02.22	EXCUSED	✓	EXCUSED	EXCUSED	✓	✓	EXCUSED	EXCUSED	✓	✓	✓	EXCUSED		
Third Meeting 28.03.22	EXCUSED	✓	EXCUSED	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	EXCUSED		
Fourth Meeting 11.04.22	✓	EXCUSED	✓	✓	EXCUSED	✓	✓		EXCUSED	EXCUSED	✓	EXCUSED		
Fifth Meeting 25.04.22	EXCUSED	EXCUSED	✓	✓	EXCUSED	✓	EXCUSED		✓	✓	EXCUSED	EXCUSED		
Sixth Meeting 09.05.22	EXCUSED	✓	EXCUSED	✓	✓	✓	EXCUSED		✓	✓	✓	EXCUSED		
Seventh Meeting 11.07.22	EXCUSED	EXCUSED	EXCUSED	✓	EXCUSED	EXCUSED	✓		EXCUSED	✓	EXCUSED		✓	
Eighth Meeting 25.07.22	EXCUSED	✓	EXCUSED	EXCUSED	EXCUSED	✓	EXCUSED		✓	✓	✓		✓	



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL, 2020

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION (2021/2022) HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.

PRESENT

Mrs. Bridgid Annisette-George, MP - Speaker of the House

Committee Members

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP - Member
Mr. Colm Imbert, MP - Member
Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP - Member
Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP - Member
Mr. Clarence Rambharat - Member
Mr. Nigel de Freitas - Member
Mr. Randall Mitchell - Member
Mr. Wade Mark - Member
Mr. Deeroop Teemal - Member
Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy - Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche - Secretary
Ms. Sharla Elcock - Assistant Secretary
Mr. Roger Hector - Legal Officer I
Ms. Sherlana Ramdeen - Procedural Officer Intern
Mr. Khaleem Ali - Legal Unit Intern

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mr. Davendranath Tancoo, MP - Member
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP - Member

COMMENCEMENT

1.1 The Speaker of the House called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

- 1.2 The Speaker indicated that her role at the meeting was to facilitate the election of the Chairman. Members were thereafter informed that Ms. Chantal La Roche had been assigned as Secretary and Ms. Sharla Elcock as Assistant Secretary.

ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

- 2.1 The Speaker invited nominations for the position of Chairman. Mr. Nigel De Freitas nominated Mrs Camille Robinson-Regis and the nomination was seconded by Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe.
- 2.2 There being no other nominations, the Speaker declared Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, the duly elected Chairman and invited her to take the Chair. The Speaker wished the Committee success in its deliberations and exited the meeting.
- 2.3 The Chairman took the chair at 3.04 p.m. and welcomed Members to the Committee.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

- 3.1 The Chairman recommended a quorum of three (3) Members inclusive of the Chair and with representation from each House.
- 3.2 Discussion ensued and the Committee agreed to the quorum proposed by the Chair of three (3) Members inclusive of the Chair and with representation from each House.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 4.1 The Chairman reminded Members that the Committee was established to consider the Representation of the People (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2020 and report to Parliament by **April 30, 2022**. The Chairman also reminded Members that the Committee was mandated to adopt the work of the Committee appointed in the First Session of the Twelfth Parliament.
- 4.2 The Chairman welcomed Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy, who was not a member of the Committee during the First Session.

DETERMINATION OF THE WAY FORWARD

- 5.1 Members were advised that the following Committee documents and submissions had been uploaded to Rotunda for their ease of access:
 1. *The Representation of the People (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2020;*
 2. *Report of the Constitution Commission (1974) (The Wooding Commission on Constitutional Reform);*
 3. *Law Reform Commission's Preliminary Report on Political Parties and The Law, 2007;*

4. *Joint Select Committee of the Parliament Appointed to Propose a Legislative Framework to Govern the Financing of Election Campaigns (2014);*
5. *Elections and Boundaries Commission Policy Paper on the Registration of Political Parties and Public Campaign Financing (2015);*
6. *Election Campaign Financing: Legislation and Regulations published June 2017 by the Electoral Commission of Jamaica;*
7. *Registration of Political Parties: Legislation and Regulations published June 2017 by the Electoral Commission of Jamaica;*
8. *Statement by the Prime Minister upon the Introduction and First Reading of the Representation of the People Bill, 2020;*
9. *Stakeholder Comments received during the First Session Twelfth Parliament; and*
10. *The Report of the JSC established during the First Session Twelfth Parliament to consider and report on the Representation of the People (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2020.*

5.2 The Chairman advised that responses had been received from the following stakeholders during the call for submissions on the Bill in the First Session:

1. *The Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI);*
2. *The Progressive Party;*
3. *The Movement for Social Justice (MSJ);*
4. *The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT);*
5. *The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (FIUTT);*
6. *The Media Association of Trinidad and Tobago (MATT);*
7. *The National Joint Action Committee (NJAC);*
8. *The Trinidad & Tobago Publishers & Broadcasters Association (TTPBA);*
9. *CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS);*
10. *The Organisation of the American States (OAS).*
11. *Mr. Allan Karim;*
12. *Mr. Dan Russell Ethan Martineau, BSc, MBA; and*
13. *Mr. Nigel Henry*

5.3 The Chairman noted that despite calls for comments on the Bill, there were no responses from the major political parties.

THE WAY FORWARD

6.1 The Committee agreed that:

- i. there will be another call for submissions on the Bill;
- ii. members will submit to the Secretariat the names of additional persons and organisations who may be able to provide comments on the Bill, by **Friday March 4, 2022;**

- iii. technocrats from the Law Reform Commission, the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel and the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs will be invited to the next meeting to present on the Bill;
- iv. expert assistance and support would be engaged at a later date;
- v. a brief explanation of the aims and objective of the proposed legislation and/or a Bill Essentials will be circulated to Members;
- vi. the Committee will conduct a public outreach and engagement exercise; and
- vii. The Committee will meet twice per month on **Mondays at 3:00 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

7.1 There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to **Monday March 14, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.**

7.2 The adjournment was taken at 3:38 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

February 28, 2022



**JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL, 2020**

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION (2021/2022)
HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY MARCH 14, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP	-	Chairman
Mr. Davendranath Tancoo, MP	-	Member
Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member
Mr. Deeroop Teemal	-	Member
Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Ms. Sharla Elcock	-	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Roger Hector	-	Legal Officer I
Ms. Sherlana Ramdeen	-	Procedural Officer Intern
Mr. Khaleem Ali	-	Legal Unit Intern

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP	-	Member
Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	-	Member
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	-	Member
Mr. Nigel de Freitas	-	Member
Mr. Randall Mitchell	-	Member
Mr. Clarence Rambharat	-	Member

COMMENCEMENT

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.
- 1.2 The Chairman advised that the following members asked to be excused from the meeting:
— Mr. Colm Imbert, MP

- Mr. Nigel de Freitas,
- Mr. Randall Mitchell and
- Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING

- 2.1 The Committee considered the Minutes of the First Meeting held on Monday February 28, 2022.
- 2.2 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Mr. Deeroop Teemal and seconded by Mr. Wade Mark.
- 2.3 The Minutes of the First Meeting were approved.

MATTERS ARISING

- 3.1 The Chairman advised that:
 - i. **Per item 6.1 (ii)**, an email was circulated to members requesting the names of additional stakeholders by Friday March 4, 2022. Members were once again asked to review the list of stakeholders on rotunda and submit any additional stakeholders. The Chairman thanked Dr. Dillon-Remy who submitted the names of two additional stakeholders, Civil Society of Tobago (Civil Net) and The Tobago Business Chamber.
 - ii. **Per item 6.1 (iii)**, technocrats from the Law Reform Commission were present to deliver a presentation on the Bill.
 - iii. **Per item 6.1 (v)**, a summary document titled, *Overview of the Representation of the People (Amendment) (No.2) Bill 2020*, prepared by the Law Reform Commission, was circulated to Members and uploaded to Rotunda.
- 3.2 The Chair agreed to circulate documents from the Forum to Strengthen the Regulation of Political Parties and Political Financing in the Caribbean, organised by the Organisation of American States (OAS) together with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).

PRESENTATION BY TECHNOCRATS OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION

- 4.1 The Committee was joined by the following representatives of the Law Reform Commission for the delivery of a presentation on the Representation of the People (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2020:
 - Mrs. Paula Cross-Horton, Senior Legal Research Officer (Policy), and
 - Ms. Tamara Dookran, Senior Parliamentary Counsel (Drafting).
- 4.2 Their presentation focused on:
 - The Policy- Objectives, Principles and Considerations of the Bill,

- Comparative Legal Research, and
- Key features of the Representation of the People (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2020.

4.4 The technocrats, in the course of their presentation, made reference to several documents which they will endeavour to provide to the Committee. These included:

- i. Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs Paper titled “Funding of Political Parties”;
- ii. Law Reform Commission Report on Registration of Political Parties;
- iii. The judgment of ***Fakeemah Cehl Mohammed and Another v Essouf Amanoullah Ahmad and Others [UKPC 1994]***;
- iv. Guidelines for Political Broadcast, Broadcasting and Radio Re-Diffusion Act Television and Sound Broadcasting Regulations-Jamaica, 1996;
- v. The 1974 Wooding Commission on Constitutional Reform which recommended the establishment of an independent media corporation for the purpose of dispensing information to voters;
- vi. The 1977 Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Use of the M.V. Tobago which recommended the reform of the use of public assets for campaigning purposes;
- vii. A Report of the Campaign Financing Forum 2016;
- viii. A table on the advantages and disadvantages of the various campaign finance approaches; and
- ix. Other relevant research materials used by the Law Reform Commission in preparing objectives for Bill.

4.5 The Committee thanked the technocrats for their presentation and granted them leave to depart the meeting.

4.6 Members were advised that the presentation on the Representation of the People (Amendment) (No.2) Bill, 2020, was uploaded to Rotunda.

ADJOURNMENT

5.1 There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to **Monday March 28, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.**

5.2 The adjournment was taken at 5:32 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

March 14, 2022



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL, 2020

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION (2021/2022)
HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY MARCH 28, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP	-	Chairman
Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP	-	Member
Mr. Davendranath Tancoo, MP	-	Member
Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP	-	Member
Mr. Randall Mitchell	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member
Mr. Deorooop Teemal	-	Member
Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Ms. Sharla Elcock	-	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Roger Hector	-	Legal Officer I
Ms. Allisia Williams	-	Legal Research Officer
Mr. Khaleem Ali	-	Legal Unit Intern

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	-	Member
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	-	Member
Mr. Nigel de Freitas	-	Member

COMMENCEMENT

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.
- 1.2 The Chairman advised that Mr. Nigel de Freitas had asked to be excused from the day's meeting.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING

- 2.1 The Committee considered the Minutes of the Second Meeting held on Monday March 14, 2022.
- 2.2 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Mr. Deeroop Teemal and seconded by Mr. Randall Mitchell.
- 2.3 The Minutes of the Second Meeting were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 3.1 **Per item 4.4**, the Chairman advised that
 - i. The following documents referred to in the presentation of the Law Reform Commission were submitted and uploaded to Rotunda:
 - The judgment of Fakeemeh Cehl Mohammed and Another v Essouf Amanoullah Ahmad and Others [UKPC 1994];
 - Guidelines for Political Broadcast- Jamaica;
 - Broadcasting and Radio Re-Diffusion Act- Jamaica;
 - Television and Sound Broadcasting Regulations-Jamaica, 1996;
 - The 1974 Wooding Commission on Constitutional Reform which recommended the establishment of an independent media corporation for the purpose of dispensing information to voters; and
 - The 1977 Report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Use of the M.V. Tobago which recommended the reform of the use of public assets for campaigning purposes.
 - ii. The Law Reform Commission informed that the Report of the Campaign Financing Forum, and the Paper titled “Funding of Political Parties” will be made available to the Committee in due course.
 - iii. The Law Reform Commission agreed to deliver an oral presentation on the advantages and disadvantages of the various campaign finance approaches.

PRESENTATION BY TECHNOCRATS OF THE LAW REFORM COMMISSION

- 4.1 The Committee was joined by the following representatives of the Law Reform Commission to deliver their presentation *Campaign Finance Reform: Benefits and Risks of Regulatory Approaches*:
 - Mrs. Paula Cross-Horton, Senior Legal Research Officer (Policy), and
 - Ms. Tamara Dookran, Senior Parliamentary Counsel (Drafting).
- 4.2 Their presentation highlighted *inter alia*:

- A definition of campaign financing;
- General Benefits of regulatory systems for campaign finance;
- General Risks of regulatory systems for campaign finance;
- Regulatory Approaches to campaign finance:
 - Public Funding,
 - Prohibition on the Use of State resources, and
 - Oversight.

4.3 The following documents referenced in the technocrats' presentation were provided to the Committee:

- i. UK - Communications Act, 2003;
- ii. *Figueroa v. Canada (Attorney General)*, [2003] 1 S.C.R. 912, 2003 SCC 37;
- iii. *08-205 Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (01/21/10)*- United States Supreme Court
- iv. Khushbu Agrawal, Yukihiro Hamada and Alberto Fernández Gibaja, *Regulating Online Campaign Finance - Chasing the Ghost, 2021*. International IDEA;
- v. ACE Project - Assessment of Strengths and Weaknesses of Existing Legal Frameworks;
- vi. Venice Commission - *Guidelines on Political Party Regulation*, 2nd edition, 2020;
- vii. International IDEA - *Funding of Political Parties and Election Campaigns - Handbook on Political Finance 2014*;
- viii. United Nations, OCHR - *Human Rights and Elections: A Handbook on International Human Rights Standards on Elections*. Professional Training Series No. 2/ Rev.1, 2021; and
- ix. Brennan Center for Justice - *Analysis: New York's Big Donor Problem & Why Small Donor Public Financing Is an Effective Solution for Constituents and Candidates*.

4.4 The Committee thanked the technocrats of the Law Reform Commission for their presentation and granted them leave to depart the meeting.

4.5 The Chairman advised that the presentation comparing the advantages and risks of the various campaign finance approaches, would be uploaded to Rotunda.

WAY FORWARD

5.1 The Committee agreed that:

- i. the Secretariat will develop a Public Call for Submissions to be disseminated in the daily newspapers as well as on the Parliament's website and social media platforms, including its Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages;
- ii. the Secretariat will work with the Corporate Communications Department to prepare a feature on the Bill, which will be presented on the Parliament Channel 11 and Parliament Radio 105.5 FM;

- iii. the Secretariat will disseminate letters requesting submissions from stakeholders;
- iv. the deadline for submissions on the Bill shall be **Friday April 15, 2022**;
- v. the List of Stakeholders will be updated to include the Council for Responsible Political Behavior and the Ministry of Finance; and
- vi. the Secretariat will write to the following organisations/persons to identify experts who can assist the Committee with its deliberations:
 - The Venice Commission;
 - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS);
 - The Canadian High Commission- Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley, former Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Canada;
 - The Jamaican High Commission-The Electoral Commission of Jamaica;
 - LUMIN Consulting;
 - The Organisation of American States (OAS);
 - The United Nations Development Programme;
 - The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES);
 - The Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS);
 - The International Republican Institute (IRI);
 - The National Democratic Institute; and
 - The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network.

ADJOURNMENT

- 6.1 There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to **Monday April 11, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.**
- 6.2 The adjournment was taken at 5:49 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

March 28, 2022



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL, 2020

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION (2021/2022)
HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY APRIL 11, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Committee Members

Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP	-	Member
Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	-	Member
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	-	Member
Mr. Davendranath Tancoo, MP	-	Member
Mr. Randall Mitchell	-	Member
Mr. Deeroop Teemal	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Ms. Sharla Elcock	-	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Roger Hector	-	Legal Officer I
Ms. Allisia Williams	-	Legal Research Officer
Ms. Sherlana Ramdeen	-	Procedural Clerk Intern
Mr. Khaleem Ali	-	Legal Unit Intern
Mrs. Susannah Gittens	-	Business Operations Assistant II

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mr. Nigel de Freitas	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member
Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP	-	Member
Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy	-	Member
Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP	-	Chairman

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE DAY

- 1.1 The Secretary informed members that the Chairman would be absent. Members were further advised that in the absence of the Chairman, the Committee was required to elect

a Member to perform the duties of Chairman for the day's meeting in accordance with Standing Orders 112(4) of the House of Representatives and 102(4) of the Senate.

- 1.2 The Secretary invited nominations for Chairman for the day. Mr. Mitchell was nominated on a motion moved by Mr. Teemal and seconded by Mr. Tancoo.
- 1.3 There being no other nominations, the Secretary declared Mr. Mitchell the duly elected Chairman for the day.
- 1.4 Mr. Mitchell assumed the Chair.

COMMENCEMENT

- 2.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.
- 2.2 The Chairman advised that the following members had asked to be excused from the day's meeting:
 - Mr. Nigel de Freitas;
 - Mr. Wade Mark;
 - Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP; and
 - Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING

- 3.1 The Committee considered the Minutes of the Third Meeting held on Monday March 28, 2022.
- 3.2 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Mr. Deeroop Teemal and seconded by Mr. Davendranath Tancoo.
- 3.3 The Minutes of the Third Meeting were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 4.1 **Per item 4.3**, the Chairman advised that the technocrats of the Law Reform Commission had submitted the following additional documents, which were uploaded to the Rotunda Application:
 - A Model Bill on the Reporting of Campaign Contributions and Expenditures;
 - South African Development Community - Draft SADC Model Law on Elections;
 - Money in Democracy: Australia's Political Finance Laws Across The Federation; and

- UNODC Public sector legislative and administrative measures, including measures to enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and, where applicable, the funding of political parties.

4.2 **Per item 5.1 (i)**, the Chairman advised that:

- (i) The Public Call for Submissions was disseminated in the daily newspapers on the following days:
 - Trinidad Express: Monday April 4, 2022,
 - Trinidad Guardian: Thursday April 7, 2022, and
 - Trinidad and Tobago Newsday: Monday April 11, 2022.
- (ii) The Public Call for Submissions was also circulated on Parliament’s social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.
- (iii) The deadline for submissions as agreed by the Committee was April 15, 2022.

4.3 **Per item 5.1 (ii)**, the Chairman informed the Committee that:

- (i) The Secretariat disseminated letters to stakeholders on Monday April 4, 2022 requesting submissions on the Bill.
- (ii) The Chairman provided the following updates in relation to responses received from stakeholders:
 - Via electronic correspondence dated April 8, 2022, the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT) indicated that they have no comments on the Bill.
 - Via electronic correspondence dated April 5, 2022, political leader of The National Coalition for Transformation (NCT), Ms. Nalini Dial indicated that the party was pleased to be considered a stakeholder.
 - Via telephone call dated April 5, 2022, the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) advised that they will review their previous submissions and add further comments, if necessary.
 - Via electronic correspondence, Ms. Marissa John, Executive Assistant, Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago requested an extension to April 29, 2022, for the submission of comments.
 - Via email dated April 7, 2022, correspondence was received from Mrs. Farzana Nasir-Mohammed, Director, Legal, Criminal Justice Unit, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs requesting the inclusion

of the National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Committee (NAMLC) to the list of stakeholders.

- Via letter dated April 5, 2022, the Commissioner of Police advised that the request was forwarded to the Deputy Director Legal Services for consideration, attention and requisite action.
- Via email dated April 11, 2022, Mr. Marcus Ramkissoon, Political Leader of the Trinidad Humanity Campaign requested a two-week extension for the submission of comments on the Bill.

4.4 **Per item 5.1 (v)**, the Chairman advised that the List of Stakeholders was updated to include the following entities:

- Council for Responsible Political Behaviour;
- The Ministry of Finance;
- National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Committee (NAMLC); and
- The Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago.

4.5 **Per item 5.1 (vi)**, the Chairman advised that:

- (i) via letter dated April 6, 2022, the Secretariat wrote to the following organisations to identify experts who could assist the Committee with its deliberations:
 - (1) The Venice Commission;
 - (2) The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS);
 - (3) The Canadian High Commission- Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley, former Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Canada;
 - (4) The Jamaican High Commission-The Electoral Commission of Jamaica;
 - (5) LUMIN Consulting;
 - (6) The Organisation of American States (OAS);
 - (7) The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
 - (8) Mr. Charles Chauvel, Global Lead and Asia-Pacific Focal Point, Inclusive Processes and Institutions, (UNDP);
 - (9) The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES);
 - (10) The Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS);
 - (11) The International Republican Institute (IRI);
 - (12) The National Democratic Institute (NDI);
 - (13) The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA);
 - (14) The Electoral Assistance Division of the UN Department of Political Affairs (UNEAD); and

(15) The ACE Electoral Knowledge Network.

(ii) Further to these letters, the Chairman advised the Committee of the following responses:

- In response to a written request received from International Republican Institute (IRI), the Secretariat held a meeting with the IRI on Monday April 11, 2022, to discuss the support that could be extended to the Committee during its deliberations on the Bill. The IRI agreed to submit a proposal to the Committee explaining various options on how the organisation could assist by April 25, 2022.
- Via electronic correspondence dated April 6, 2022, Ms. Marina Piper, Officer-in-Charge, OAS, advised that the Committee's letter of request has been forwarded to the OAS Headquarters and awaits their response.
- Via electronic correspondence dated April 7, 2022, Ms. Leslie-Ann Boisselle, Foreign Policy and Diplomacy Service Officer of the Canadian High Commission advised that it will look into the matter and respond soonest.
- Via electronic correspondence dated April 7, 2022, Ms. Melissa Johnson, Senior Policy and Project Officer of LUMIN Consulting informed that the request would be reviewed and a response sent at the earliest opportunity.
- Via electronic correspondence dated April 8, 2022, Mrs. Isele Robinson-Cooper Programme Officer of Inclusive Growth and Social Policy Office, UNDP advised that a response would be forwarded at the earliest opportunity.
- Via electronic correspondence dated April 10, 2022, Mr. Charles Chauvel, Global Lead and Asia Pacific Focal Point Inclusive Processes and Institutions, UNDP, forwarded his CV for consideration by the Committee. The Chairman noted that Mr. Chauvel had previously worked with the JSC established during the 10th Parliament to consider Campaign Financing.

WAY FORWARD

5.1 Members agreed that requests for extensions would be deliberated at the next meeting.

5.2 Following a brief discussion, it was also agreed that the Secretariat would:

- (i) circulate the Hansard of the debate on a motion that the House do appoint a special select committee to make recommendations as to what principles and systems of financing of political parties would be appropriate in the public interest for Members' information, dated Friday October 27, 2006;

- (ii) write to governance and electoral institutions from the United Kingdom, particularly the Electoral Commission, seeking expert assistance on the Bill; and
- (iii) follow-up with the NCT to ascertain whether they intend to make submissions on the Bill.

ADJOURNMENT

6.1 There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to **Monday April 25, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.**

6.2 The adjournment was taken at 3:32 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

April 11, 2022

JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) (No.2) BILL, 2020

**MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION (2021/2022)
HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY APRIL 25, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Committee Members

Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP	-	Member (and Chairman for the Day)
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	-	Member
Mr. Davendranath Tancoo, MP	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member
Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Ms. Sharla Elcock	-	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Roger Hector	-	Legal Officer I
Ms. Allisia Williams	-	Legal Research Officer
Ms. Sherlana Ramdeen	-	Procedural Clerk Intern

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP	-	Chairman
Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	-	Member
Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP	-	Member
Mr. Deeroop Teemal	-	Member
Mr. Nigel de Freitas	-	Member
Mr. Randall Mitchell	-	Member

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE DAY

1.1 The Secretary informed members that the Chairman would be absent. Members were further advised that in the absence of the Chairman, the Committee was required to elect a Member to perform the duties of Chairman for the day's meeting in accordance with Standing Orders 112(4) of the House of Representatives and 102(4) of the Senate.

1.2 The Secretary invited nominations for Chairman for the day. Ms. Cudjoe was nominated on a motion moved by Mr. Hinds and seconded by Dr. Dillon-Remy.

1.3 There being no other nominations, the Secretary declared Ms. Cudjoe the duly elected Chairman for the day.

1.4 Ms. Cudjoe assumed the Chair.

COMMENCEMENT

2.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:19 p.m.

2.2 The Chairman advised that the following members had asked to be excused from the day's meeting:

- Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP;
- Mr. Colm Imbert, MP;
- Mr. Nigel de Freitas; and
- Mr. Randall Mitchell.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING

3.1 The Committee considered the Minutes of the Fourth Meeting held on Monday April 11, 2022.

3.2 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds and seconded by Mr. Davendranath Tancoo.

3.3 The Minutes of the Fourth Meeting were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 **Per item 4.5**, the Chairman advised that:

- (i) The Secretariat held a meeting with Ms. Jessica Birks, Political Counsellor, High Commission of Canada, on Friday April 22, 2022, to discuss the request of the Committee for the assistance of Mr. Jean-Pierre Kingsley, former Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Canada.
- (ii) The High Commission for Jamaica has indicated, via email dated Friday April 22, 2022, that the request for an expert was transmitted to the Electoral Commission of Jamaica.
- (iii) Lumin Consulting (the management consulting firm of the University of the West Indies) has recommended Mrs. Maxine Henry Wilson, a former Jamaican Parliamentarian and Government Minister, as an expert to assist the Committee.
- (iv) By email dated Friday April 22, 2022, the International Republican Institute has indicated that it is consulting its global network of experts and partners on the request for an expert. They expect to submit a list of recommendations for the Committee's consideration by Thursday April 28, 2022.

- (v) By email dated Tuesday April 12, 2022, the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) has requested further information to identify an appropriate expert.

4.2 **Per item 5.2** the Chairman advised that:

- (i) On Tuesday April 12, 2022, the Secretariat circulated the Hansard dated Friday October 27, 2006, of the debate on a motion that the House do appoint a special select committee to make recommendations as to what principles and systems of financing of political parties would be appropriate in the public interest.
- (ii) Based on a discussion which arose during the Committee's Fourth Meeting, the Secretariat wrote to the following agencies from the United Kingdom:
 - British High Commission seeking expert assistance on the Bill from the Electoral Commission UK; and
 - The Commonwealth Secretariat seeking expert assistance from the Commonwealth Electoral Network and the Commonwealth Election Professionals Initiative.

STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSIONS

5.1 The Chairman advised that the following stakeholders submitted submissions on the Bill:

- Mr. Clyde Weatherhead;
- The Election and Boundaries Commission (inclusive of advice from Mr. Russell Martineau, C.M.T, S.C.);
- The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago;
- The Trinidad Humanity Campaign;
- The Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Civil Society of Tobago;
- Friends of TNT; and
- The OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation.

5.2 The Chairman advised that the following organisations requested extensions of the deadline for submissions:

- The Congress of the People (14 days);
- The Unity of the People (27th April);
- The Unrepresented People's Party (2nd May);
- The National Coalition for Transformation (no date provided); and
- The National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Committee (no date provided).

5.3 Following a short discourse, the Committee agreed to extend the deadline for submissions to **Friday May 6, 2022**.

INTERIM REPORT

- 6.1 The Chairman reminded Members of the Committee's reporting deadline of April 30, 2022 and advised that an Interim Report would be prepared for laying in Parliament.
- 6.2 The Committee agreed to seek an extension of its reporting deadline to **September 2, 2022**.

WAY FORWARD

- 7.1 Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed that the technocrats assigned to assist the Committee by the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC) would be invited to join the Committee's next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to **Monday May 9, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.**
- 8.2 The adjournment was taken at 3:59 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

April 25, 2022



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL, 2020

**MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION (2021/2022)
HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY MAY 9, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP	-	Chairman
Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP	-	Member
Mr. Davendranath Tancoo, MP	-	Member
Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member
Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy	-	Member
Mr. Deeroop Teemal	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Ms. Sharla Elcock	-	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Roger Hector	-	Legal Officer I
Ms. Allisia Williams	-	Legal Research Officer

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	-	Member
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	-	Member
Mr. Nigel de Freitas	-	Member
Mr. Randall Mitchell	-	Member

COMMENCEMENT

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:19 p.m.
- 1.2 The Chairman advised that the following members had asked to be excused from the day's meeting:
 - Mr. Colm Imbert, MP;
 - Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP; and

— Mr. Randall Mitchell.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING

- 2.1 The Committee considered the Minutes of the Fifth Meeting held on Monday April 15, 2022.
- 2.2 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Mr. Wade Mark and seconded by Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe.
- 2.3 The Minutes of the Fifth Meeting were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 3.1 **Per items 5.2 and 5.3**, the Chairman advised that:
 - 1) by correspondence dated April 27, 2022, the Secretariat informed stakeholders that the revised deadline for comments on the Bill was Friday May 6, 2022; and
 - 2) by Monday May 9, 2022, submissions were received from the following six (6) stakeholders:
 - Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission;
 - Clyde Weatherhead (additional comments);
 - Progressive Empowerment Party;
 - Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI);
 - The Congress of the People; and
 - National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Committee (NAMLC).
- 3.2 **Per item 6.1**, the Chairman advised that the Committee's interim report seeking an extension of its reporting deadline to September 2, 2022 was laid in the House of Representatives on April 29, 2022.
- 3.3 **Per item 7.1**, the Chairman advised that:
 - 1) The following Attorneys-at-Law assigned to assist the Committee by the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC) were invited to join the Committee's meeting:
 - Ms. Lorraine John, Assistant Chief Parliamentary Counsel, Legislative Drafting Department (Drafting); and
 - Mr. Parvin Sookhai, Parliamentary Counsel, Legislative Drafting Department (Drafting).
 - 2) Mrs. Paula Cross Horton, Senior Legal Research Officer, Law Reform Commission was also invited to join the Committee's meeting.

STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSIONS

4.1 The Chairman advised that the following organisations requested extensions of the deadline for submissions:

- Movement for National Development;
- National Coalition for Transformation;
- One Tobago Voice;
- Patriotic Front;
- Unity of the People;
- Unrepresented People’s Party; and
- The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

4.2 Following a short discourse, the Committee agreed to extend the deadline for submissions to **Monday May 23, 2022**.

EXPERT RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 The Chairman advised that:

- 1) via electronic correspondence dated Thursday April 28, 2022, Mr. John E. Lewis, Regional Peace and Development Advisor for the United Nations in the Caribbean, advised that the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), UNDP, would defer to UNDP Trinidad and Tobago on the recommendation of an expert;
- 2) via electronic correspondence dated Thursday May 5, 2022, Ms. Jessica Birks, Political Counsellor, High Commission of Canada, responded to the Committee’s request for expert assistance from Mr. Jean Pierre Kingsley, who served as the president and CEO of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and was the Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Canada. She advised that Mr. Kingsley has requested additional information and would thereafter decide whether to submit his name for consideration;
- 3) via email dated Thursday April 28, 2022, the International Republican Institute (IRI) made the following proposals for two types of pro-bono, short-term technical expertise:

Proposal 1

- *IRI has identified Mr. Salvador Romero, former president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Bolivia on two occasions, former director of the Center for Electoral Advice and Promotion (CAPEL), and the former executive secretary of the Electoral Organizations of the Americas. Mr. Romero would be able to provide an initial assessment of the JSC’s needs and existing draft legislation over two to three virtual working sessions. Mr. Romero has extensive experience collaborating with legislators and political actors across Latin America and the Caribbean and has recently completed a similar assessment for the IRI in Ecuador.*

Proposal 2

- IRI proposes to organise a series of virtual peer-to-peer exchanges with current and former government officials such as:
 - Hon. Santia Bradshaw, current member of Parliament (MP) and Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados;
 - Mr. Jatzel Román, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic;
 - Hon. Aisha Dukku, current MP in Nigeria;
 - Krzysztof Lisek, former MP in the Polish and European Parliament; and
 - Rt. Hon. Mathias Mpuuga, current MP in Uganda.

IRI has found that these peer-to-peer exchanges can provide practical insights, best practices and lessons learned on complex topics such as political party and campaign financing laws. IRI further advised that, upon request, a more extensive list of potential experts from its global network or a more extensive list of potential speakers from its global network could be identified.

- 4) via email dated Monday May 9, 2022, the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) submitted the CV of Mr. Grant Masterson for the Committee's consideration. Mr. Masterson is the Head of Programme, Governance, EISA, and has considerable expertise in strengthening democratic processes, observing elections, and supporting political parties; and
- 5) all CVs received from experts to date have been uploaded to the Rotunda Application.

WAY FORWARD

6.1 Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed that:

- 1) the Secretariat will communicate to stakeholders the new deadline for submissions which is Monday **May 23, 2022**;
- 2) the Secretariat will contact Mr. Jean Pierre Kingsley former Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Canada to clarify his request for further information;
- 3) Members will give feedback on their preferred experts by **Friday May 13, 2022**;
- 4) the Secretariat will liaise with the IRI on arranging the proposed Peer to Peer Exchange on **Monday June 6, 2022**, if convenient;
- 5) the Secretariat will prepare a summary on the system of electoral reform for each panelist in the Peer to Peer Exchange; and
- 6) the Attorneys of the Law Reform Commission and the Chief Parliamentary Counsel who have been assigned to assist the Committee will be invited to attend the Peer to Peer Exchange.

ADJOURNMENT

7.1 There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to **Monday June 6, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.**

7.2 The adjournment was taken at 3:55 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

May 9, 2022



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL, 2020

**MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION (2021/2022)
HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY JULY 11, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Committee Members

Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP	-	Member (and Chairman for the Day)
Dr. Amery Browne	-	Member
Mr. Randall Mitchell	-	Member
Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon	-	Member
Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Ms. Sharla Elcock	-	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Roger Hector	-	Legal Officer I
Ms. Allisia Williams	-	Legal Officer I
Ms. Sherlana Ramdeen	-	Procedural Clerk Intern
Mr. Khaleem Ali	-	Legal Intern
Mrs. Susannah Gittens	-	Business Operations Assistant II
Ms. Darielle Neptune	-	Legal In Service Trainee

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP	-	Chairman
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	-	Member
Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	-	Member
Mr. Davendranath Tancoo, MP	-	Member
Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member
Mr. Deeroop Teemal	-	Member

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE DAY

- 1.1 The Secretary informed members that the Chairman would be absent. Members were further advised that in the absence of the Chairman, the Committee was required to elect a Member to perform the duties of Chairman for the day's meeting in accordance with Standing Orders 112(4) of the House of Representatives and 102(4) of the Senate.
- 1.2 The Secretary invited nominations for Chairman for the day. Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe was nominated on a motion moved by Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon and seconded by Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy.
- 1.3 There being no other nominations, the Secretary declared Ms. Cudjoe the duly elected Chairman for the day.
- 1.4 Ms. Cudjoe assumed the Chair.

COMMENCEMENT

- 2.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. and welcomed new members Dr. Amery Browne and Mrs. Paula Gopee- Scoon.
- 2.2 The Chairman advised that the following members had asked to be excused from the day's meeting:
 - Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP;
 - Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP;
 - Mr. Colm Imbert, MP; and
 - Mr. Wade Mark.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SIXTH MEETING

- 3.1 The Committee considered the Minutes of the Sixth Meeting held on Monday May 9, 2022.
- 3.2 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Ms. Cudjoe and seconded by Dr. Dillon- Remy.
- 3.3 The Minutes of the Sixth Meeting were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 4.1 **Per item 6.1**, the Chairman advised that:
 - (i) By email dated Wednesday May 11, 2022, all stakeholders were informed of the extension of the deadline date for the submission of comments to Monday May 23, 2022.
 - (ii) Submissions have since been received from the following stakeholders:
 - Movement for National Development on Tuesday May 24, 2022;

- Youth Votes Matter on Thursday May 26, 2022;
- Unity of the People on Friday May 27, 2022; and
- Mr. Rufus Ferdinand, Deputy Chief Operations Officer, CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security on Tuesday June 7, 2022.

(iii) Via email dated Thursday May 26, 2022, the Secretariat requested the assistance of Ms. Jessica Birks, Officer at the Canadian High Commission in securing the CV of Mr. Jean Pierre Kingsley. The Secretariat has not received a response to date.

(iv) Via email dated Monday May 9, 2022, Members were reminded to provide their feedback on their preferred experts by Friday May 13, 2022. Via email dated Thursday May 26, 2022, a subsequent reminder to Members was sent requesting feedback. To date, feedback has been received from two (2) Members:

- Mr. Wade Mark, and
- Mr. Colm Imbert, MP.

(v) The Secretariat prepared a summary on the electoral systems of the panellists for the *Peer to Peer Exchange* to be hosted and moderated by the International Republican Institute (IRI), which was sent to members via electronic correspondence dated Friday June 24, 2022.

REVIEW OF PEER TO PEER EXCHANGE

5.1 On Monday June 27, 2022, the International Republican Institute (IRI) hosted and moderated a virtual *Peer to Peer Exchange* with the following current and former government officials:

- Hon. Abdullahi Sa'ad Abdulkadir, MP, Deputy Chair of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), House of Representatives of Nigeria;
- Mr. Krzysztof Lisek, former MP in the Polish and European Parliament;
- Rt. Hon. Mathias Mpuuga, current MP in Uganda; and
- Mr. Jatzel Román, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic.

5.2 The Chairman provided a brief synopsis of the issues raised by the panellists. Members were informed that the presentation of Mr. Lisek was uploaded onto Rotunda.

5.3 Following a short discourse, the Committee agreed to follow-up with the Honourable Santia Bradshaw, current member of Parliament (MP) and Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados, either directly or through the IRI, to have her present on campaign financing in that jurisdiction.

UPDATE ON STAKEHOLDER SUBMISSIONS

6.1 The Chairman reported that, as at July 8, 2022, the Committee has received a total of twenty-five (25) submissions. Submissions were received from the following:

1. Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS);
2. Civil Society of Tobago;
3. Friends of TNT;
4. Mr. Allan Karim;
5. Mr. Clyde Weatherhead;
6. Mr. Dan Russell Ethan Martineau, BSc, MBA;
7. Mr. Nigel Henry;
8. The Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago;
9. The Congress of the People;
10. The Election and Boundaries Commission (inclusive of advice from Mr. Russell Martineau, C.M.T, S.C.);
11. The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (FIUTT);
12. The Media Association of Trinidad and Tobago (MATT);
13. The Movement for Social Justice (MSJ);
14. The National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Committee (NAMLC);
15. The National Joint Action Committee (NJAC);
16. The OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation;
17. The Progressive Empowerment Party;
18. The Progressive Party;
19. The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT);
20. The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce (TTCIC);
21. The Trinidad & Tobago Publishers & Broadcasters Association (TTPBA);
22. The Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI);
23. The Trinidad Humanity Campaign(THC);
24. Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission(TTSEC); and
25. Youth Votes Matter.

DISCUSSION ON SELECTION OF AN EXPERT

7.1 The Chairman reported that, by email correspondence dated Monday July 4, 2022, Ms. Samantha Montanari, with responsibility for Regional Security Policy at the British High Commission advised that inquiries were made with the UK Electoral Commission and the Westminster Foundation regarding an expert. Ms. Montanari would update the Committee on feedback received.

7.2 The Committee agreed that the Secretariat would recirculate the CVs of the experts and the new deadline for feedback from Members on their preferred expert would be **Friday July 22, 2022.**

- 7.3 The Committee also agreed that selection of an expert would be discussed at the next meeting.
- 7.4 It was also agreed that the Secretariat would circulate the draft Terms of Reference to assist members in their selection and that Members may also submit comments, recommendations or suggestions on the draft to the Secretariat.

ADJOURNMENT

- 8.1 There being no other business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting to **Monday July 25, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.**
- 8.2 The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

July 11, 2022



JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) (NO.2) BILL, 2020

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION (2021/2022)
HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY JULY 25, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Committee Members

Mrs. Camille Robinson-Regis, MP	-	Chairman
Mr. Davendranath Tancoo, MP	-	Member
Dr. Amery Browne	-	Member
Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon	-	Member
Mr. Wade Mark	-	Member
Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy	-	Member
Mr. Deeroop Teemal	-	Member

Secretariat

Ms. Chantal La Roche	-	Secretary
Ms. Sharla Elcock	-	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Roger Hector	-	Legal Officer I
Ms. Allisia Williams	-	Legal Officer I
Ms. Sherlana Ramdeen	-	Procedural Clerk Intern
Mr. Khaleem Ali	-	Legal Intern

ABSENT/EXCUSED

Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP	-	Member
Mr. Fitzgerald Hinds, MP	-	Member
Mr. Colm Imbert, MP	-	Member
Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP	-	Member
Mr. Randall Mitchell	-	Member

COMMENCEMENT

- 1.1 The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:14 p.m.
- 1.2 The Chairman opened the meeting and asked to be excused from the day's proceedings due to conflicting engagements. The Committee agreed that Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon

would be the Chairman for the Day in her absence. The substantive Chairman then left the meeting and Mrs. Gopee-Scoon assumed the Chair.

- 1.3 The Chairman advised that the following members had asked to be excused from the day's meeting:
- Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP;
 - Mr. Saddam Hosein, MP; and
 - Mr. Randall Mitchell.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH MEETING

- 2.1 The Committee considered the Minutes of the Seventh Meeting held on Monday July 11, 2022.
- 2.2 The motion for the confirmation of the Minutes was moved by Dr. Browne and seconded by Dr. Dillon-Remy.
- 2.3 The Minutes of the Seventh Meeting were approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- 3.1 **Per item 7.2 and 7.4,**
The Chairman informed Members that by email dated Thursday July 14, 2022, Members were advised that the new deadline for feedback on their preferred expert would be Friday July 22, 2022. The CVs of the experts, along with the draft Terms of Reference, were also circulated for Members' consideration. The Chairman noted that, in response to the extended deadline, Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy provided feedback.
- 3.2 As at 3:00 p.m. Monday July 25, 2022, only three Members of the Committee, Mr. Wade Mark, Mr. Colm Imbert and Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy, indicated their preferred expert.
- 3.3 **Per item 4.1(iii),**
The Committee was advised that, though correspondence was sent to the Canadian High Commission on Thursday May 26, 2022 to ascertain the interest of Mr. Jean-Pierre Kinglsey, no response had been received to date.

DISCUSSION ON SELECTION OF AN EXPERT

- 4.1 The Chairman reviewed the qualifications and experiences of the following experts:
- (i) Dr. Salvador Romero, former President of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal of Bolivia on two occasions, former Director of the Centre for Electoral Advice and Promotion (CAPEL), and the former Executive Secretary of the Electoral Organisations of the Americas. Mr. Romero's services have been offered free of charge.
 - (ii) Mrs. Maxine Henry Wilson, a former Jamaican parliamentarian and Government Minister, whose relevant experiences are outlined as follows:

- (a) 1994-2003- Member of the Electoral Advisory Commission responsible for developing and implementing policy on the reform of the electoral system including campaign financing;
- (b) 1994-2007- Member of Legislation Subcommittee of the Cabinet;
- (c) 1994-2002- Leader of Government Business in the Senate piloting all Bills on Electoral Reform; and
- (d) 2003-2012- Member of Parliamentary subcommittee considering the Bills on Electoral Reform.

(iii) Mr. Grant Masterson, Head of Programmes: Governance, for the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA). Mr. Masterson possesses over 20 years of experience in the democracy and governance field, specialising in African elections, democratic processes and institutions in the non-profit space. He served as an Election Observer to over 30 elections.

(iv) Mr. Charles Chauvel, Global Lead on Inclusive Institutions and Processes, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); former Advisor on Parliamentary Development (UNDP); and former Member of Parliament in New Zealand. Mr. Chauvel provides policy advice and programme support to UNDP regional hubs and country offices on civic engagement, constitution-making, elections, parliaments and women's political participation.

4.2 Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to have another round of discussions to select an expert, as well as to have the Secretariat obtain the full CVs of Mr. Grant Masterson and Mr. Charles Chauvel.

CARRY OVER OF BILL/ FINAL REPORT

5.1 The Committee agreed that a Final Report be laid at the next Sitting of the House of Representatives. The Report shall recommend that the House take note of the work achieved and the progress made by the Committee thus far, and that a Committee be appointed in the Third (3rd) Session to continue work on the Bill and adopt, as part of its records, all work completed to date.

ADJOURNMENT

6.1 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

I certify that these minutes are true and correct.

Chairman

Secretary

July 25, 2022

APPENDIX II
STAKEHOLDER LISTING AND
LIST OF AGENCIES FOR ENGAGING AN EXPERT

STAKEHOLDER LISTING

ORGANISATION
STATE/GOVERNMENT AGENCIES
Central Bank
Central Statistical Office
Equal Opportunity Commission
Financial Investigation Branch of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service
The Election and Boundaries Commission
The Financial Intelligence Unit
The Law Reform Commission
The Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel
Tobago House of Assembly
MEDIA
CNC3, Guardian Media Limited
Daily News Limited (Newsday)
Express Newspaper
The Media Association of Trinidad and Tobago
The Trinidad & Tobago Publishers & Broadcasters Association
Mr. Richard Lord
POLITICAL PARTIES
Congress of the People
Green Party
Innovative Democratic Alliance
Movement for National Development
Movement for Social Justice
National Coalition for Transformation
National Joint Action Committee
National Solidarity Assembly
New National Vision
One Tobago Voice
Patriotic Front
People's National Movement
Port of Spain People's Movement
Progressive Democratic Patriots
Progressive Empowerment Party
Progressive Party

United National Congress
Unity of the People
Your Party Trinidad and Tobago
ACADEMIA
Faculty of Law, UWI, St. Augustine
Faculty of Social Sciences, UWI, St. Augustine
SALISES, UWI, St. Augustine
The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago
University of Trinidad & Tobago (UTT)
BUSINESS COMMUNITY
American Chamber of Industry and Commerce of Trinidad and Tobago
Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago
British Caribbean Chamber of Commerce
Chaguanas Chamber of Commerce
Couva / Pt. Lisas Chamber of Commerce
Downtown Owners and Merchants Association (DOMA)
Employers' Consultative Association of Trinidad and Tobago
European Business Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago
Penal / Debe Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Business Association
Securities Dealers Association of Trinidad and Tobago
The Advertising Agencies Association of Trinidad and Tobago
The Co-operative Credit Union League of Trinidad and Tobago
The Greater Tunapuna Chamber of Industry & Commerce
Tobago Business Chamber
Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce
Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association
THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT
National Trade Union Centre of Trinidad and Tobago
Joint Trade Union Movement
Federation of Independent Trade Unions and NGOs
National Union of Government and Federated Workers(NUGFW)
Oilfield Workers Trade Union
Public Service Association (PSA)
CIVIL SOCIETY
Civil Society of Tobago (CivilNet)
Council for Responsible Political Behaviour

Heliconia Foundation
Tobago Youth Council
Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services
Trinidad and Tobago Institute for Women in Leadership
Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute
Trinidad Youth Council
Women’s Institute for Alternative Development
Youth Votes Matter
INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS
Digicel
FLOW
Fintech Association of Trinidad and Tobago
Greendot
Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago
Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago

LIST OF AGENCIES ENGAGED FOR AN EXPERT

List of Agencies engaged for an Expert
CARICOM IMPACS
Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS)
Electoral Assistance Division of the UN Department of Political Affairs (UNEAD)
Elections Canada
Electoral Commission of Jamaica
Electoral Commission UK
Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA)
Electoral Support Section- Commonwealth Secretariat
International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
International Republican Institute (IRI)
Lumin Consulting (UWI)
National Democratic Institute
The Organisation of American States (OAS)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
United Nations Department of Political Affairs
Venice Commission - Council of Europe