The Official Gazette

(EXTRAORDINARY)

OF GUYANA

Published by the Authority of the Government

GEORGETOWN, TUESDAY 8TH MARCH, 2016

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GEORGETOWN, Demerara – Printed and Published every Saturday and on such Extraordinary Days as may be directed by the Government by Guyana National Printers Limited, 1 Public Road, La Penitence, Greater Georgetown.

TUESDAY 8TH MARCH, 2016
TO EXAMINE, ADVISE, REPORT AND TO PROBE into the disturbances and resultant deaths of 18 prisoners at the Camp Street Prisons, Georgetown on the morning of the 3rd of March, 2016 and the subsequent disturbances.

WHEREAS it is provided by section 2 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, Cap. 19:03, that the President may issue a Commission appointing one or more Commissioners and authorising such Commissioner or Commissioners to inquire into any matter in which an inquiry would, in the opinion of the President, be for Public Welfare.

AND WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the President that such an inquiry into the disturbances and resultant deaths of 18 prisoners at the Camp Street Prisons, Georgetown on the morning of the 3rd of March, 2016 and subsequent disturbances would be for Public Welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, acting under the provisions of the Commission of Inquiry Act, Cap. 19:03, and by virtue and in exercise of all powers enabling me in that behalf, I do hereby issue this Commission and appoint —
a) Mr. James Patterson as a Commissioner and Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry;

b) Ms. Merle Mendonca as a Commissioner of the Commission of Inquiry; and

c) Mr. Dale Erskine as a Commissioner of the Commission of Inquiry.

“to enquire into all the circumstances surrounding the death of eighteen (18) Prisoners from the Camp Street Prison, Georgetown on the morning of Thursday 3rd of March, 2016, to report the findings and conclusions to the Minister of Public Security and make recommendations on any action that should be taken to avoid a recurrence”.

The Terms of Reference

1. The Inquiry will investigate, examine and report on:

- The causes, circumstances and conditions that led to the disturbances on the morning of the 3rd of March, 2016 that resulted in the death of 18 Prisoners and any other subsequent disturbances at the Camp Street Prisons, Georgetown.

- Inquire into the nature of all injuries sustained by the Prisoners during the disturbances on the morning of the 3rd of March, 2016 and any other subsequent disturbances.

- Determine whether the conduct of the staff of the Guyana Prisons Service who were on duty on the morning of the 3rd of March, 2016 and thereafter was in conformity with the Standard Operating Procedures of the Guyana Prisons Service.

- Determine whether the deaths of the 18 prisoners was as a result of the negligence, abandonment of duty, disregard of instructions, inaction of the Prison Officers who were on duty on the night of the 2nd of March, 2016 and the morning of the 3rd of March, 2016.

2) Recommendations

The Commission shall make comprehensive recommendations to ensure the safety of the prisons.

(i) Examine and make findings and recommendations to improve the physical infrastructure of the prison;

(ii) The existing security arrangements in respect of the custody, management and control of prisoners.

(iii) The appropriate treatment of prisoners in compliance with legal and other requirements.

(iv) To prevent a recurrence of any such disturbances.
(3) **Rules of Procedure**

(i) The Inquiry must consider the views of stakeholders including:
- Staff of the Prisons and their Unions;
- Members of the Judiciary;
- Prisoners accommodated within the Camp Street Prisons
- Staff of the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Social Protection;
- Any other stakeholders the Inquiry deems appropriate.

(ii) This commission shall render its report, findings and recommendations to the Minister of Public Security by the 28th of March, 2016 or such other date as the Minister of State shall determine.

(iii) This Inquiry shall be conducted continually at the Conference Room of the Department of Public Service, Ministry of the Presidency, 164 Waterloo Street, South Cummingsburg and in such other places as the Chairman may determine.

(iv) The Inquiry shall be held in public, with reservation nevertheless to the Commissioners to exclude any persons/persons if they deem fit for the due conduct of the Inquiry, the preservation of Order or for any other reason.

(v) The Commission shall commence work on the 7th day of March, 2016 and the Chairman shall take appropriate steps to ensure that the Commission complete its work and submit its report within the aforesaid time.

(vi) The Chairman and one other Commissioner shall constitute a quorum.

(vii) Subject to the above, this Commission shall establish and regulate its own procedures for the conduct of the Inquiry and shall be governed by the aforesaid provisions of the Constitution of Guyana, the Commissions of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03, the High Court Act, Chapter 3:01 and any other Laws enabling.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, at Georgetown, Guyana, this 7th day of March, 2016.

**By the President’s Command**

[Signature]

Minister of State