

Select Committee to Consider Petitions of Concerned Citizens
A Bill for, Goods and Services Tax Act, 2021

MINUTES OF FOURTH MEETING

Date: 03rd June, 2021

Start Time: 2:09 pm

Location: House of Assembly Conference Room

Members Present

Hon Member for Road North, Mr. Merrick Richardson (Chairperson)
Hon Member for SIWED, Mr. Kyle Hodge
Hon Member for SIWED, Mr. Kenneth Hodge
Hon Member SIWED, Mrs. Quincia Gumbs-Marie

In Attendance

Dr. Wycliffe Fahie
Mr. David Cary [*Left the meeting at 3:29pm*]
Ms. Glenneva Hodge (Via MS Teams Application)

Mr. Lenox Proctor, Clerk of the Assembly
Ms. Vanisha Proctor. Clerk of Committees

1. Prayer

Ms. Vanisha Proctor, said prayers.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Committee adopted the agenda as circulated.

3. Approval of Minutes

The Committee approved the Minutes of the Second Meeting as circulated.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Committee:

- a) Confirmed that the minutes of previous meeting be published at www.gov.ai
- b) Was informed that the press release concerning the establishment and objectives of the Committee had been circulated.

5. Agreement on Lines of Inquiry

- a) The Committee instructed that the lines of inquiry be amended to incorporate feedback provided by Dr. Fahie via email on June 1st.

2.1 The timing of implementation; Is it a good time?

I think "is it a good time" is a very narrow question in terms of arriving at a yes or no answer. Maybe we can consider the pros and cons of the timing' That may give more elbow room.

2.4 Tax burden -Is it an additional tax or a replacement tax? Does it necessarily have to be one or the other? It may very well be shades of grey rather than black or white.

2.5 Can the population afford it? can be approached with say a 2.6 Can the government survive fiscally without it or a similar tax?

b) Agreement on List of Witnesses

The Committee:

- a) Agreed to include in the list of witnesses the following:
- i. on a draft list of witnesses as outlined below:
 - i. At least twelve petitioners
 - ii. Deputy Comptroller of Inland Revenue
 - iii. Dr. Lowell Hughes
 - iv. Ms. Melinda Goddard
 - v. Patrick Mardenborough
 - vi. Social Security

c) Further Literature Review

- a) The Committee agreed to include the Annual Business Survey and Balance of Payments Reports for review.

d) Forward work Programme

- a) No amendments were made to the Forward Work Programme.
- b) The Committee agreed to send correspondence to the Premier requesting that it be allowed to finish its work and report to the Assembly, before the Bill for Goods and Services Tax is further progressed.

e) Other Business

None

f) Adjournment

- a) The Meeting was adjourned at 3:420pm.