

**THE MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM) BILL,
2020**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bill No.:	House of Representatives Bill 14 of 2020
Introduced in:	House of Representatives
Introduced by:	Senator the Honourable Kazim Hosein [Minister of Local Government and Rural Development]
Introduced on:	14-Oct-2020
Published in Gazette on:	14-Oct-2020, Vol.59 No.188

This Bill seeks to amend nine (9) pieces of legislature; the Municipal Corporations Act, Chap. 25:04, the Burial Grounds Act, Chap. 30:50, the Cremation Act, Chap. 30:51, the Advertisements Regulation Act, Chap. 30:53, the Recreation Grounds and Pastures Act, Chap. 41:01, the Highways Act, Chap. 48:01, the Dogs Act, Chap. 67:54, the Property Taxes Act, Chap. 76:04 and the Planning and Facilitation of Development Act, No. 10 of 2014. As such, this act is cited as the Miscellaneous Provisions (Local Government Reform) Bill, 2020 and divided into eleven (11) distinct clauses.

The Municipal Corporations Act, Chap. 25:04.

Amendments to the Municipal Corporations Act have been accommodated under clause 3 of this Bill. This section has provided for the interpretation of certain words and phrases in the Act, as well as proposed revisions to new and existing definitions. The penalties attached to offences under this act have also been revised. This Bill has also provided for an addition to the list of areas to which the Act applies, to now include the Borough of Chaguanas. This section has accommodated for the terms and conditions surrounding the employment of Councillors, Aldermen and Mayors, and the respective remuneration and allowances. It has also inserted a new subsection which gives a Corporation the responsibility for employing persons and setting the parameters for required qualifications, disciplining and dismissal.

Additionally, this Bill has made accommodations for the inclusion of both a Municipal Council and an Executive Council, and their respective roles and responsibilities. New sections have also been inserted to outline the responsibilities for finance, planning and allocation of resources and several other responsibilities inclusive of, but not limited to, recreation grounds, public spaces, public health, sanitation, the environment, spatial planning and building inspection to name a few. The responsibilities of the day-to-day operations of the Municipal Corporation have also been outlined.

This clause has provided for each Municipal Police Service, as well as the Public Services Commission and the Statutory Authorities Services Commission to appoint a sufficient number of commissioned officers, subordinate police officers and constables. This clause went on to address the parameters for which Corporate Funds are to be allocated. This has now expanded to include the maintenance of pitch walks, rails, and benches around all parks and savannahs within Municipalities, as well as cremation sites.

The Burial Grounds Act, Chap. 30:50, The Cremation Act, Chap. 30:51, The Advertisements Regulation Act, Chap. 30:53, The Recreation Grounds and Pastures Act, Chap. 41:01, The Highways Act, Chap. 48:01

Amendments to these Acts have been accommodated under clauses 3-8 of this Bill. These sections have provided for the interpretation of certain words and phrases in the Act, as well as proposed revisions to new and existing definitions. The penalties attached to offences under the Burial Ground Act has also been revised, as well as amendments to the Act's regulations.

The Dogs Act, Chap. 67:54

Clause 9 of this Bill has provided for amendments to the Dogs Act. The penalty, for which the finder of a dog does not return the dog or bring it in to a detention centre, has increased. Additionally, the penalty for a person to have a dog go at large without being muzzled, as well as, the penalty for the owner of dog found at a large have also been revised.

The Property Taxes Act, Chap. 76:04

Clause 10 of the Bill has sought to amend the Property Taxes Act, Chap. 76:04. A new section has been inserted that requires the board of Inland Revenue to forward tax information to the Corporation that relates to residential land within the Corporation. There is also a new subsection that has required that the residential taxes be paid to the Municipal Corporation in which the residential land is located.

The Planning and Facilitation of Development Act, No. 10 of 2014

Clause 11 of the Bill has sought to amend the Planning and Facilitation Development Act. The amendment is made to the Fourth Schedule to remove the deletion of certain clauses.

****As of October 14 2020, this Bill was referred to the Joint Select Committee for consideration.**