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THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE 10TH AUGUST, 2023
LEGAL SUPPLEMENT — B

GUYANA

Seal No. 92 of 2023

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY

TO INQUIRE INTO AND REPORT ON

THE EVENTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES CONNECTED WITH AND CONCERNING THE FIRE AT THE FEMALE DORMITORY OF THE MAHDIA SECONDARY SCHOOL, MAHDIA, ON THE NIGHT OF 20/21 MAY, 2023 THAT RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF TWENTY (20) CHILDREN, INJURIES TO PERSONS, AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE DORMITORY

LS

By the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

PRESIDENT

WHEREAS, it is provided by section 2 (1) of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, Chap. 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 the public welfare;

AND WHEREAS the President is of the opinion that such an inquiry into certain events and circumstances connected with and concerning the fire at the female dormitory of the Mahdia Secondary School, Mahdia ("the Mahdia Dormitory"), on the night of 20/21 May 2023 that resulted in the deaths of twenty (20) children, injuries to persons, and destruction of the Mahdia Dormitory, would be for the public welfare;

NOW THEREFORE by virtue of the powers conferred on me by the said Act and all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I do hereby issue this Commission and appoint –

(i) Major General Ret'd Joseph Govinda Singh, MSS
(ii) Joycelin Kim Kyte-Thomas
(iii) Derrick Rowan John

to be Commissioners under the said Act to inquire into the matters set out hereinunder and to make such findings, observations, and recommendations arising out of its deliberations, as appropriate, and in keeping with its Terms of Reference, to report to the President, in writing, the result of such Inquiry, *viz:*

1. Inquire into and report on the events and circumstances leading up to and causes of the Mahdia Dormitory Fire on the night of the 20th of May, 2023.

2. Inquire into and report upon the actions taken to provide swift care, medical attention, and other forms of support and assistance to the injured and their families, and to the families and relatives of the deceased.

3. Make such recommendations and observations as the Commission may deem fit, including such measures and actions that the Commission may consider necessary and appropriate to prevent the recurrence of such tragedy.

I DIRECT that you, Major General Ret'd Joseph Govinda Singh, shall be the Chairman of the Commission;

AND I DIRECT that the Chairman and other Commissioners shall constitute a quorum;

AND I DIRECT that the Commission shall render its report, findings, and recommendations to the President, in writing, within two (2) months or within such other time as may be directed by the President;

AND I DIRECT that the Inquiry shall be conducted continually at Georgetown and Mahdia and/ or in such other places as the Commission may determine;

AND I DIRECT that the Inquiry shall be held in public with reservation nonetheless to the Commissioners to exclude any person or persons as they deem fit, for the due conduct of the Inquiry, the preservation of order, or for any other reason;

AND I DIRECT that the Commission shall commence its work at a time to be determined by the Chairman and the Chairman shall take appropriate steps to ensure that the Commission completes its work and submits its report within the aforesaid timeframe;

AND I DIRECT that subject to the above, the Commission shall establish and regulate its own procedure for the conduct of the Inquiry and shall be governed by the provisions of the Constitution, the Commissions of Inquiry Act, the High Court Act, and any other relevant law.

AND I FURTHER DIRECT the Commissioner of Police to detail officers to attend upon the Commissioners to keep them safe and to preserve order during the proceedings of the Commission, to serve summonses on witnesses and to perform such duties as the Commissioners shall direct.

Given under my hand and the Seal of The Co-operative Republic of Guyana at the Office of President, Georgetown, Guyana this *Tenth* day of August, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three in the Fifty-Fourth year of the Republic.

By the President's Command

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance

GUYANA

Seal No. 93 of 2023

COMMISSION
APPOINTING THE CHAIRMAN
of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Events and Circumstances connected with and concerning the fire at the Female Dormitory of the Mahdia Secondary School, Mahdia, on the night of 20/21 May, 2023 that resulted in the deaths of twenty (20) children, injuries to persons and the destruction of the Dormitory

LS

By the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

President

WHEREAS it is provided by Section 2 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03 that the President may issue a Commission appointing one or more Commissioners to inquire into any matter in which an inquiry would in the opinion of the President, be for the public welfare.

AND WHEREAS, the President is of the opinion that such an inquiry into the deaths of twenty (20) children due to the fire at the Female Dormitory of the Madhia Secondary School, Mahdia would be for the public welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, acting under the aforementioned provision and by virtue and in exercise of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I do hereby appoint

Major General Ret'd Joseph Govinda Singh, MSS

to be Chairman with effect from the date of this Commission.

Given under my hand and the Seal of The Co-operative Republic of Guyana at the Office of President, Georgetown, Guyana *Tenth* day of August, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three in the Fifty-Fourth year of the Republic

By the President's Command

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance

GUYANA

Seal No. 94 of 2023

COMMISSION

Appointing a Member

of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Events and Circumstances connected with and concerning the fire at the Female Dormitory of the Mahdia Secondary School, Mahdia, on the night of 20/21 May, 2023 that resulted in the deaths of twenty (20) children, injuries to persons and the destruction of the Dormitory.

LS

By the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

President

WHEREAS, it is provided by Section 2 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03 that the President may issue a Commission appointing one or more Commissioners to inquire into any matter in which an inquiry would in the opinion of the President, be for the public welfare.

AND WHEREAS, the President is of the opinion that such an inquiry into the death of twenty (20) children due to the fire at the Female Dormitory of the Madhia Secondary School, Mahdia would be for the public welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, acting under the aforementioned provision and by virtue and in exercise of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I do hereby appoint –

Joycelin Kim Kyte-Thomas

to be Commissioner with effect from the date of this Commission.

Given under my hand and the Seal of The Co-operative Republic of Guyana at the Office of President, Georgetown, Guyana *Tenth* day of August, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three in the Fifty-Fourth year of the Republic

By the President's Command



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance

GUYANA

Seal No. 95 of 2023

COMMISSION

Appointing a Member

of the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Events and Circumstances connected with and concerning the fire at the Female Dormitory of the Mahdia Secondary School, Mahdia, on the night of 20/21 May, 2023 that resulted in the deaths of twenty (20) children, injuries to persons and the destruction of the Dormitory

LS

By the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

President

WHEREAS it is provided by Section 2 of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03 that the President may issue a Commission appointing one or more Commissioners to inquire into any matter in which an inquiry would in the opinion of the President, be for the public welfare.

AND WHEREAS, the President is of the opinion that such an inquiry into the death of twenty (20) children due to the fire at the Female Dormitory of the Madhia Secondary School, Mahdia would be for the public welfare.

NOW THEREFORE, acting under the aforementioned provision and by virtue and in exercise of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I do hereby appoint –

Derrick Rowan John

to be Commissioner with effect from the date of this Commission.

Given under my hand and the Seal of The Co-operative Republic of Guyana at the Office of President, Georgetown, Guyana *Tenth* day of August, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three in the Fifty-Fourth year of the Republic

By the President's Command



Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance

GUYANA

Seal No. 96 of 2023

Instrument Appointing the Secretary
to the Presidential Commission of Inquiry into the Events and Circumstances connected with and concerning the fire at the Female Dormitory of the Mahdia Secondary School, Mahdia, on the night of 20/21 May, 2023 that resulted in the deaths of twenty (20) children, injuries to persons and the destruction of the Dormitory

LS

By the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

President

WHEREAS, a Commission of Inquiry was appointed to inquire into and report on the Events and Circumstances connected with and concerning the fire at the Female Dormitory of the Mahdia Secondary School, Mahdia, on the night of 20/21 May, 2023 that resulted in the deaths of twenty (20) children, injuries to persons and the destruction of the Dormitory.

AND WHEREAS, it is provided by section 6 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, Chapter 19:03, that the President may approve a Secretary to attend the sittings of the Commission to record their proceedings, to keep their papers, summons and to minute the testimony of witnesses, and generally to perform such duties connected with such inquiry as the commissioners shall prescribe, subject to the directions, if any, of the President.

NOW THEREFORE, acting under the aforementioned provision and by virtue and in exercise of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I do hereby appoint-

Javed Khomeini Shadick

as Secretary of the above-mentioned Commission of Inquiry with effect from the date of this Instrument.

Given under my hand and the Seal of The Co-operative Republic of Guyana at the Office of President, Georgetown, Guyana *Tenth* day of August, Two Thousand and Twenty-Three in the Fifty-Fourth year of the Republic

By the President's Command

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance