

SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES BILL, 2020

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SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES ACT, 2020

AN ACT relating to the National Security Council, to provide for the establishment of regional and district security councils, to specify the agencies responsible for the security of the State and to provide for related matters.

PASSED by Parliament and assented to by the President:

National Security Council

Composition of National Security Council

1. The National Security Council established by article 83 of the Constitution consists of

- (a) the President;
- (b) the Vice-President;
- (c) the Ministers holding the portfolios of foreign affairs, defence, interior and finance and such other Ministers as determined by the President;

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- (d) the Chief of Defence Staff and two other members of the Armed Forces;
- (e) the Inspector-General of Police, the Commissioner of Police responsible for the Criminal Investigation Department and one other member of the Police Service;
- (f) the Director-General of the Prisons Service;
- (g) the Director of External Intelligence;
- (h) the Director of Internal Intelligence;
- (i) the Director of Military Intelligence;
- (j) the Commissioner of Customs, Excise and Preventive Service; and
- (k) three persons appointed by the President.

Procedure at meetings of the Council

2. (1) The President shall preside at meetings of the Council and in the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside.

(2) The President may, acting in consultation with the Council, invite such other persons as the President considers necessary for any deliberations of the Council.

(3) The person invited to participate in the deliberations of the Council under subsection (2) shall not vote on a matter for decision before the Council.

(4) The Council shall regulate the procedure at the meetings of the Council.

Secretary to the Council

3. The Secretary to the Cabinet is the Secretary to the Council.

Functions of the Council

4. The functions of the Council in accordance with article 84 of the Constitution include

- (a) considering and taking appropriate measures to safeguard the internal and external security of the country;
- (b) ensuring the collection of information relating to the security of the country and the integration of the domestic and foreign security policies relating to the Council so as to enable the security services and any other departments and agencies of the Government to co-operate more effectively in matters relating to national security;