

The following reply to Vandeyar was published in the *Stabroek News* on the 23rd April 2002 under the caption **“When will Local Government Commission be set up?”**

21st April 2002.

Dear Editor,

I refer to a letter in *Stabroek News* of 21/4/00 by Mr. Hugh E. Vandeyar, Media Consultant who refers to a statement from a presentation delivered by me at a Law Conference held by the Guyana Bar Association that “Even the idea of a Local Government Commission has been cast aside” and wonders where I got this idea from.

I got the idea from the fact that the constitution amendment came into effect since February 2001, that is, more than a year ago and no Local Government Commission has been established to date and there is no indication that its constitution is imminent.

Rather than posit that nothing is further from the truth and nothing more, Mr. Vandeyar of the “Local Government Reform Task Force” had an obligation to give further and better particulars and inform the public when the Commission was established and who are its members.

If he cannot do this, he should maintain his silence and accept reality.

Yours faithfully

Jamela A. Ali
LL.B.(Hons.)(UWI), LL.M.
Attorney-At-Law

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Appendix

Local Government Commission not cast aside

Dear Editor,

We refer to your article captioned 'Defective constitution reform provisions posing problems' published in your newspaper dated Wednesday, April 17.

In this article, you quoted Attorney-at-Law Jamela Ali as saying that the idea of a Local Government Commission 'has been cast aside'.

We do not know where Ms Ali got this 'idea' from, but we would like to assure you and the public generally that nothing could be further from the truth.

In fact, and we are sure that you are also aware of this, the Constitution Amendment of Article 78A clearly states: "Parliament shall establish a Local Government Commission, the composition and rules of which empower the Commission to deal with, as it deems fit, all matters relating to the regulation and staffing of Local Government Organs and with dispute resolution within and between Local Government Organs."

Yours faithfully,

Hugh E. Vandeyar

Media Consultant

Local Government Reform Task Force