1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OR AFFIRMATION
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS

       (By the Minister of Finance)

        (By the Minister of Finance)

        (By the Minister of Finance)

   (iv) The Consolidated Financial Statements of the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Limited for the year ended March 31, 2019.  
        (By the Minister of Finance)

   (v) The Consolidated Financial Statements of the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Limited for the year ended March 31, 2020.  
       (By the Minister of Finance)
(By the Minister of Finance)

(By the Minister of Finance)

(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

(By the Minister of Public Administration and Digital Transformation)

(By the Minister of Public Administration and Digital Transformation)

(By the Attorney General)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 49 to the Minister of Education
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Given the recent decision by the Board of the University of Trinidad and Tobago to close four (4) of its campuses due to financial constraints, can the Minister indicate what impact this decision is expected to have on national employment levels?
Question No. 57 to the Minister of Education  
(By Senator Wade Mark)  
Can the Minister indicate the total amount spent on the construction of the Tamana Campus of the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), as at September 30, 2020?

Question No. 58 to the Minister of Education  
(By Senator Wade Mark)  
As regard the forensic audit into the operations of University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) conducted in 2016, can the Minister indicate the following:  
(i) what is the name of the forensic auditing firm that conducted said audit;  
(ii) what was the cost of the audit;  
(iii) what were the findings and recommendations of the audit; and  
(iv) when will a copy of the forensic audit be tabled in the Senate?

Question No. 72 to the Minister of Finance  
(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)  
Can the Minister indicate whether a feasibility study is being conducted to examine the inclusion of sole traders and members of the informal economy under the National Insurance System?

Question No. 74 to the Minister of Finance  
(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)  
Having regard to references contained in the Central Bank’s Monetary Policy Report, 2020 to the large number of errors/omissions on the country’s Balance of Payments account, can the Minister provide reasons for said errors/omissions?

Question No. 75 to the Minister of Finance  
(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)  
Given the Minister’s projection in his 2020/2021 Budget Statement that the fiscal deficit for 2021 is expected to total $8.209 billion or 5.6 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), can the Minister advise as to the following:  
(i) has a decision been taken by the Government as to how the deficit will be financed;  
(ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, does the Government intend to engage in any domestic borrowing, external borrowing or drawdown from the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund to finance said deficit; and  
(iii) what is the TTD value of the funds to be acquired from the sources mentioned at (ii), if any?

10. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

11. STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

12. PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

13. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

(i) The Livestock and Livestock Products Board (Repeal) Bill, 2021.  
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)
(By the Minister of Labour)

14. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

15. PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

(i) WHEREAS it is provided by section 38(1) of the Tobacco Control Act, Chap. 30:04 (hereinafter called “the Act”) that the Minister may make Regulations prescribing requirements and standards for tobacco product constituents, including emissions of smoked products, additives and product design and specifying methods for testing and measuring compliance with the performance prescribed and generally for carrying out the purpose of this Act;

AND WHEREAS it is also provided by section 38(1) of the Act that Regulations made under that section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS the Minister has on the 29th day of May, 2019 made the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (hereinafter called “the Regulations”);

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Regulations now be affirmed;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 be approved.
(By the Minister of Health)

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Motions:

(i) WHEREAS the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01 provides for the establishment of commissions to manage the conduct of enquiries into public officers, departments and matters of public welfare;

AND WHEREAS Commissions of Enquiry are recognized as an important tool for social investigation in contemporary society, an effective mechanism for delivering truth, justice and social or organizational reform, and a device for inquiring into and ameliorating matters of public concern;

AND WHEREAS successive Government administrations have failed to adequately address public concerns which have arisen from time to time on whether the Commissions of Enquiry in Trinidad and Tobago have been effectively and efficiently carrying out their mandate;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to review the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01 and the public inquiry process in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By Senator Anthony Vieira)
WHEREAS it is recognized that rising levels of domestic and foreign debt may negatively impact this country’s socio-economic development;

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that because of Government’s policies, the working population has been experiencing the effects of these rising debt levels;

AND WHEREAS international credit rating agencies have cautioned about Trinidad and Tobago’s future borrowings, given the economic constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government reconsider its borrowing policy in light of this country’s rising Debt-to-GDP ratio and the possible negative impact of same on the country’s socio-economic development;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to outline specific plans and programmes in respect of fulfilling its debt servicing obligations, in light of the economic constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

WHEREAS the Senate is asked to address amongst other things, complex legislation which necessitates focused deliberations;

AND WHEREAS the current global pandemic has impacted all aspects of life in Trinidad and Tobago, including the Parliament. As such, on August 29, 2020, the Senate agreed that the “time limit for Speeches in Debates be limited to 30 minutes for the mover/Member wrapping-up and the first speaker on the Opposition and Independent Benches, and 20 minutes for all other speakers”;

AND WHEREAS citizens are being encouraged to adapt to the ‘new normal’ while observing COVID-19 safety protocols;

AND WHEREAS the business of the Parliament should similarly adapt to the ‘new normal’ by allowing for the full time for Speeches in Debates;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate revert to the speaking time as set out in the Standing Orders with immediate effect.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
The Parliamentary Complex
The Red House
Abercromby Street
PORT OF SPAIN

February 04, 2021
Question No. 73 to the Minister of Finance
(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)
Can the Minister provide a breakdown, in TTD value, of loans guaranteed by the Ministry for the period October 2019 - November 2020 for each State Enterprise and Statutory Authority?
(Answer due by 03.02.2021)

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