1. PRAYERS

2. OATH OR AFFIRMATION

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

5. PETITIONS

6. PAPERS

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. 86 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Owing to the non-payment of moneys to the telecommunications provider(s) for the use of mobile devices and landlines by First Division officers of the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service, can the Minister advise, as at February 09, 2021, whether:

(i) said mobile devices and landlines were disconnected; and

(ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, when will payments be made to the said provider(s)?

Question No. 87 to the Minister of Health
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Given increases in the price of over-the-counter medication at pharmacies across the country by approximately six percent (6%), can the Minister indicate whether price regulation measures will be implemented to protect consumers from price gouging?
Question No. 88 to the Minister of Labour
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Given the request made by the Trinidad and Tobago Registered Nurses Association for the Government to ratify the ILO Convention No. 149, can the Minister advise as to if and when said Convention will be ratified?

Question No. 106 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Paul Richards)
Given the February 2021 reports of a Prisons Officer being detained for trafficking prison contraband, can the Minister indicate what steps are being taken to prevent such activities in the Prison service?

Question No. 108 to the Attorney General
(By Senator Charrise Seepersad)
Given that notwithstanding Trinidad and Tobago’s enactment of tax laws in compliance with the European Union’s (EU) requirements, this country remains on a list of twelve (12) countries considered to be non-compliant, can the Minister advise as to:
(i) whether the Government is taking steps to implement the additional reforms necessary to comply with the EU’s tax governance criteria;
(ii) whether the Government has set an agenda and timetable to implement the additional reforms referred to at (i) above;
(iii) how has ‘non-compliance’ been impacting day-to-day banking transactions between Trinidad and Tobago and European Banks; and
(iv) what, if any, cost has been incurred by Trinidad and Tobago as a result of being deemed non-compliant?

Question No. 113 to the Minister of Works and Transport
(By Senator Jayanti Lutchmedial)
In light of reports that a fraudulent Government cheque for construction works at the Toco Port project was accepted as genuine by a commercial bank in Diego Martin, what measures are being taken by the Government to prevent a recurrence?

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

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

15. PUBLIC BUSINESS
GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

WHEREAS it is provided by section 4 of the Quarantine Act, Chap. 28:05 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the Minister of Health may make Regulations, with respect to the whole or any part of Trinidad and Tobago, including the ports and coastal waters thereof, for preventing;

(a) danger to public health from ships or aircraft or persons or things therein, arriving at any place; and
(b) the spread of infection by means of any ship or aircraft about to leave any place, or by means of any person or thing;

AND WHEREAS it is provided by the said section 4 of the Act, that Regulations made under this section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS the Minister has on the 4th day of February, 2021 made the Quarantine (Maritime) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021(hereinafter called “the Regulations”);

AND WHEREAS the Regulations were laid in the House of Representatives on the 5th day of February, 2021;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the Regulations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Quarantine (Maritime) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021 be approved.
(By the Minister of Health)

Bills Second Reading:

(i) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to give effect to the Economic Partnership Agreement between CARIFORUM States (the Caribbean Community and the Dominican Republic) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; to effect consequential amendments to the Customs Act, Chap. 78:01 and for related matters’.
(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)

(ii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Special Reserve Police Act, Chap. 15:03 and the Police Complaints Authority Act, Chap. 15:05’.
(By the Attorney General)

(iii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Electronic Payments into and out of Court Act, 2018’.
(By the Attorney General)

(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

(By the Minister of Labour)

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)

(ii) WHEREAS the statistics on violent crimes against women and girls have been widely reported by the TTPS from late 2020 to present;

AND WHEREAS said reports have garnered nationwide focus and given rise to several accounts of similar experiences by women, whose cases have not been followed-up and solved by Police;

AND WHEREAS the public has consistently called for the passage of legislation and improvements to the service delivery of public agencies in relation to, inter alia, non-lethal weapons, transportation and judicial process, to support the protection of women and girls against violent crimes;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to critically assess the deficiencies in the current systems to deal with the incidence of violent crimes against women and girls;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government present to the Parliament, within three (3) months, a legislative agenda and policy implementation plan to more effectively address the rising incidence of violence against women and girls.

(By Senator Paul Richards)

(iii) WHEREAS availability of foreign exchange is important for investment and competitiveness in the private sector and a shortage of foreign exchange can hamper prospects for diversification and economic recovery aspired to in the fiscal strategy outlined in Budget 2020/2021;

AND WHEREAS the revenue received from foreign energy companies has been on the decline since 2015 and is now exacerbated by the negative socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS it is recognised that micro, small and medium-sized businesses and the wider population continue to experience the negative effects of decreasing levels of foreign exchange in Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to table, within three (3) months, a comprehensive strategy to address the negative socio-economic impacts being experienced by micro, small and medium sized businesses and the wider public owing to ongoing shortages in foreign exchange in this country.

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

(iv) WHEREAS the Senate, as a House of Parliament, ought to afford Members such freedom of debate so as to allow full, frank and meaningful discussion within the constraints of the Standing Orders and well established parliamentary practice;

AND WHEREAS the position and authority of the President of the Senate ought not to be used in a partisan manner to prevent and or stymie criticism of the Government;
AND WHEREAS the Senate President is the servant of the Senate and not of the Government and as such ought to be impartial and unbiased at all times;

AND WHEREAS the President of the Senate by her rulings has demonstrated her bias in favor of the PNM Government and her lack of understanding of the nature and role of the Office of President of the Senate;

AND WHEREAS by her actions the Senate President has stifled the freedom of debate guaranteed by the Constitution and thus brought this Senate into disrepute;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate declare that it has lost confidence in the President of the Senate, Senator the Honourable Christine Kangaloo.

(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

March 23, 2021
APPENDIX

ORDER PAPER – WEDNESDAY MARCH 24, 2021

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

*Question No. 92 to the Attorney General
(By Senator Wade Mark)

As regard the British company known as Edmonds Marshall McMohan (EMM), can the Attorney General provide the Senate with the following information:
(i) the date on which the company was contracted by the Government and/or the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service;
(ii) the sum paid thus far to the company; and
(iii) the amount owed to the company?
(Answer due by 20.03.2021)

Question No. 114 to the Minister of Finance
(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to contractors who have been paid through financial institutions involved in factoring services during the period 2016 to 2020, can the Minister provide the following:
(i) the names of each financial institution employing the factoring services method;
(ii) the respective debt incurred by each financial institution; and
(iii) a detailed breakdown of the amount of outstanding Government debt owed to the various contractors?
(Answer due by 06.04.2021)

Question No. 125 to the Minister of Education
(By Senator Wade Mark)

As regard the National Bursaries Programme, can the Minister provide the following information:
(i) what are the criteria needed to access the 500 bursaries under said programme;
(ii) what is the process involved in applying for said bursaries;
(iii) what are the names and qualifications of the members of the Selection Committee;
(iv) are the allowances under the new programme larger than those received by scholarship winners; and
(v) what are the priority areas of post-secondary education and training as determined by the Ministry
(Answer due by 13.04.2021)

Question No. 126 to the Minister of Finance
(By Senator Charrise Seepersad)

Given reports that the Financial Intelligence Unit has recorded an increased total of 1,831 Suspicious Activity and Suspicious Transactions Reports for the period 2019-2020, valued at $27Bn, and that ninety-seven percent (97%) of said reports were related to Tax Evasion (29%), Money Laundering (29%), Suspicious Financial Activity (22%), Fraud (12%), and Drug Trafficking (5%), can the Minister advise as to the following:
(i) what are the reason(s) identified, if any, for the increase in said activity;
(ii) what deficiencies in anti-money laundering policies, if any, have been highlighted by the said statistics;

* Question No. 92 was deferred for two weeks on 23.03.2021
(iii) does the Unit operate on par with international standards in relation to the collection, analysis and dissemination of financial intelligence and information; and

(iv) is the Government actively taking steps to implement further reforms to address any deficiencies identified at (ii)?

(Answer due by 13.04.2021)
NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTION

The under-mentioned Question which has been accepted by the President in accordance with Standing Order 25 is hereby forwarded for the attention of the Minister concerned.

1. **TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**
   (By Senator Wade Mark)
   In light of the uncertainty surrounding the purchase/supply of the 351,000 doses of Pfizer vaccines for this country, can the Minister advise whether said order has been cancelled?