SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWENTIETH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2020/2021)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY APRIL 13, 2021 AT 1:30 P.M.

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 Social Development and Family Services)

       (By the Minister of Social Development and Family Services)

       (By the Vice-President)

       (By the Minister of Works and Transport)

   (v) The Consolidated Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards for the year ended September 30, 2019.
       (By the Minister of Trade and Industry)

       (By the Minister of Finance)

   (vii) The Annual Report of the Children’s Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended September 30, 2019.
       (By the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister)
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(By Senator the Hon. Clarence Rambharat)

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

*Question No. 82 to the Attorney General
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of reports that there are no systems in place to receive payments of the $1000 fine for failing to wear a face mask in a vehicle, vessel or in public, can the Attorney General indicate when will the appropriate systems be put in place?

Question No. 89 to the Minister of Trade and Industry
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of the substantial increase in the price of steel products and the consequential impact on the cost of construction, can the Minister indicate what measures will be taken to address this situation?

Question No. 90 to the Minister of Finance
(By Senator Wade Mark)
As regard Caribbean Airlines (CAL), can the Minister advise as to the following:
(i) whether the Government intends to inject any new finances into the operations of the company;
(ii) has the company been seeking to raise any new loans from any financial institution(s) to finance its operations; and
(iii) if the answer to (ii) is in the affirmative, what is the name of the financial institution(s)?

Question No. 91 to the Attorney General
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of reports of instances of bail fraud involving Court staff, police and bailors at Magistrates’ Courts, can the Attorney General indicate whether these reports will be investigated?

*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;

* Question No. 82 was deferred for two weeks on 23.03.2021
* Question No. 108 was deferred for two weeks on 24.03.2021
(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. 115 to the Planning and Development**  
(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)
As regard the Bill brought in the 11th Parliament to establish a National Statistical Institute of Trinidad and Tobago, can the Minister advise as to:
(i) whether a similar Bill will be brought for consideration in the 12th Parliament; and
(ii) if the answer to (i) is not in the affirmative, how does the Government propose to address the CSO's ongoing challenges as regard access to the data necessary to calculate more accurate GDP figures?

**Question No. 116 to the Minister of Finance**  
(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)
Can the Minister advise as to the state of readiness of the regulations with respect to the Disposal of State Land under section 57A of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act, 2015?

**Question No. 117 to the Minister of National Security**  
(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)
Given the increase in incidents of praedial larceny being experienced by farmers, can the Minister advise as to the following:
(i) whether praedial larceny squads exist in all station districts where there are farming communities;
(ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what are the names of said station districts; and
(iii) are the squads in the station districts identified at (ii) above active; and
(iv) if the answer to (iii) is not in the affirmative, will the inactive squads be reactivated?

**Question No. 127 to the Minister of Finance**  
(By Senator Charrise Seepersad)
Given a 2021 report by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) which highlights significant financial losses to this country as a result of transfer pricing in the energy industry, can the Minister indicate:
(i) what measures, if any, are being taken to recover said losses;
(ii) whether the Government is considering the introduction of legislation to guard against transfer pricing; and
(iii) if the answer to (ii) is in the affirmative, when will said legislation be brought to Parliament?

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 amend the Electronic Payments into and out of Court Act, 2018’.
(By the Attorney General)

(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 Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, Chap. 11:24’.
(By the Attorney General)

(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)
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)

WHEREAS on April 24, 2018 the Senate unanimously passed a resolution calling on the Government “to introduce legislation on parliamentary autonomy during the Fourth Session of the Eleventh Parliament and have same referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament for consideration and report before the end of the Fourth Session of the Eleventh Parliament”;

AND WHEREAS on February 12, 2019, in the Senate, the Attorney General committed to making best efforts to have legislation on Parliamentary Autonomy introduced in the Fourth Session of the Eleventh Parliament;

AND WHEREAS to date the Government has not presented to Parliament a legislative framework on Parliamentary Autonomy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to re-establish its commitment to introduce a legislative framework on Parliamentary Autonomy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to table, within three (3) months, an implementation road map geared towards introducing legislation on Parliamentary Autonomy and have same referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament for consideration and report.
(By Senator Wade Mark)
ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY APRIL 13, 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)

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PORT OF SPAIN

April 08, 2021