



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

NINTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2021/2022)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.

1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OR AFFIRMATION
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
 - (i) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Finance to the First Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee on the Examination of Audited Financial Statements of the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (UDeCOTT) for the financial years 2014 and 2015.
(By the Minister of Finance)
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 8 to the Attorney General

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister advise why the Board of Directors of Petrotrin failed to meet the June 30, 2021 deadline to decide whether to file an application to the High Court to set aside the results of the approximately \$1Bn arbitration award to A&V Oil and Gas Limited or to pay said award?

Question No. 9 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the recent allocation of US\$644m of Special Drawing Rights to this country by the International Monetary Fund, can the Minister provide details of the areas of public investment to which this sum will be committed?

Question No. 11 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister provide a status report on the investigation into the theft of TT\$1.7m via a wire transfer conducted between Lake Asphalt of Trinidad and Tobago (1978) Limited and a bitumen supplier?

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

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to provide for the designation, development, operation and management of Special Economic Zones, the establishment of the Special Economic Zones Authority, the repeal of the Free Zones Act, Chap. 81:07, the regulation of Special Economic Zones and matters related thereto.
(By the Attorney General)
- (ii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to repeal the Livestock and Livestock Products Board Act, Chap. 67:05'.
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday November 23, 2021 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS all Senators have a duty to uphold the dignity, discipline and decorum of Parliament and defend it against disrespect;

AND WHEREAS failure to uphold the dignity of Parliament, by disregarding its rules, by using unparliamentary language, by disobeying and ignoring the authority of the Presiding Officer, diminishes and erodes public confidence in said institution;

AND WHEREAS conduct calculated to obstruct, intimidate or impede Members in the discharge of their duties is a breach of privilege;

AND WHEREAS all Opposition Senators who were present at the meeting of the Electoral College on October 21, 2021 made abusive and malicious assertions; imputed false and improper motives, and cast negative reflections on the character and impartiality of all Independent Senators during said proceedings of the Electoral College, and in the media;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate censure the unparliamentary conduct of said Opposition Senators who by threat or molestation have attempted to obstruct, impede, influence or interfere with said Independent Senators in the performance of their duties;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Select Committee be established to consider and report on a code of ethical conduct and behavior for Senators.

(By Senator Anthony Vieira)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chapter 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 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)

- (iii) **WHEREAS** in 2001 the States of the Caribbean Community established by agreement (by treaty) the Caribbean Court of Justice (“the Court”), convinced that the Court would have a determinative role in the development of Caribbean jurisdiction steeped in the ethos of the region;

AND WHEREAS Trinidad and Tobago, having ratified without reservation the agreement establishing the Court, is bound under treaty to refer its appeals to the Court in lieu of continuing to have them heard by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council;

AND WHEREAS the unique and varied legal matters which arise in the Caribbean are far removed and foreign to the society, culture and habits of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, as sentiment echoed by Privy Council judges and senior British legal figures;

AND WHEREAS almost all Commonwealth States outside the Caribbean as well as four CARICOM states, have since delinked from the Privy Council, recognizing that it goes against the sovereignty of independent nations, and is therefore politically unacceptable, to have such a foreign tribunal permanently entrenched in their Constitutions as their final appellate Court;

AND WHEREAS this is an appropriate time for Trinidad and Tobago to accede to the Court in its appellate jurisdiction, so that the Country’s civil, criminal and constitutional appeals can be heard by the Court, which will also serve this Country’s democratic and developmental objectives regarding affordability, relevance and increased access to justice;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate agree that the Caribbean Court of Justice be recognized as the final Court of Appeal for Trinidad and Tobago and that the appropriate amendments be made to alter the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago so as to entrench the court as its final court of appeal.

(By Senator Anthony Vieira)

- (iv) **WHEREAS** availability of foreign exchange is important for investment and competitiveness in the private sector and a shortage of foreign exchange can hinder prospects for diversification and economic recovery aspired to in the Government's fiscal strategy;

AND WHEREAS energy sector revenues continue to be adversely affected by lower domestic energy production due to natural gas supply challenges, ongoing maintenance activity and temporary plant closures;

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and the wider population continue to experience the negative effects of limited access to foreign exchange, notwithstanding interventions by the Central Bank and the Government to ease tight foreign exchange market conditions;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to table in Parliament, within six (6) months, a comprehensive policy framework that will guide key stakeholders, including MSMEs, on how the Government intends to navigate the worsening foreign exchange market to overcome downside risks in the medium term.

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

- (v) **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 reaffirm its commitment to introduce a legislative framework on Parliamentary Autonomy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to introduce in Parliament, within three (3) months, a Bill on Parliamentary Autonomy and have same referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament for consideration and report.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (vi) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 1(2) of the Data Protection Act 2011 that the Act shall come into operation on such day as is fixed by the President by Proclamation;

AND WHEREAS Part 1 and sections 7 to 18, 22, 23, 25(1), 26 and 28 of the Act were operationalised on January 06, 2012 and section 42(a) and (b) were operationalised on August 20, 2021;

AND WHEREAS there are other sections of the Act that offer the necessary checks and balances in safeguarding the personal data/information of every citizen;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to immediately proclaim the remaining sections of the Data Protection Act and in the process ensure the necessary checks and balances aimed at safeguarding citizens' fundamental right to privacy.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

(vii) **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 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

November 25, 2021



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

NINTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2021/2022)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 30, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M.

NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the Vice-President in accordance with Standing Order 25 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Ministers concerned.

1. **TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**

(By Senator Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy)

Given that COVID-19 mortalities now include four children and having regard to the threat posed by the new Omicron variant, what new response strategies are being considered by the Government to reduce infection and mortality rates?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVICES**

(By Senator Jayanti Lutchmedial)

In light of the murder of a prison officer on November 29, 2021, in the company of his three year old daughter, can the Minister advise what interventions will be provided to assist the child in managing the resulting trauma?

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