



SENATE

ORDER PAPER

**SIXTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2002/2003), EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2002 AT 1:30 P.M.**

1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OF A NEW SENATOR
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES
8. QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS
9. QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMEN OF SESSIONAL AND SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEES
10. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
11. STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS
12. PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS
13. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS
14. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY
15. PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

1. A Bill entitled, “An Act to re-enact the Rent Restriction Act, Chap. 59:50 and to validate things done thereunder”.
(By the Minister of Legal Affairs)
2. A Bill entitled, “An Act to validate certain acts of Former-Act Companies”.
(By the Minister of Legal Affairs)
3. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Children’s Authority Act, 2000”.
(By the Attorney General)
4. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Adoption of Children Act, 2000”.
(By the Attorney General)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **WHEREAS** the Report of the Constitution Commission (‘the Hyatali Commission’) appointed in 1987, under the Commissions of Enquiry Act Chapter 19:01, made recommendations which have never been debated in Parliament or presented officially to the public for consideration and comment; and

WHEREAS there have been no adjustments to the Republican Constitution (1976) at any time in the last twenty-five years in response to changing social and cultural circumstances; and

WHEREAS there have been in the last ten years an increase in the electorate’s “dissatisfaction with the existing political establishment, and confusion and uncertainty about what options for meaningful change are open.” (Wooding Commission Report); and

WHEREAS the historic electoral tie in the General Election of 2001 has had the following effects among others: (a) focusing the public’s attention on the Republican Constitution’s strengths and weaknesses; (b) causing for the first time in the history of the country a significant number of individuals, institutions, and citizen groups acting independently to examine the Constitution and conclude unanimously that there is a crying need for constitution reform; and (c) impelling the political parties to declare during the 2002 General Election Campaign their urgent intention, if elected, to undertake Constitution Reform; and

WHEREAS the now governing People’s National Movement in its Election Manifesto 2002 commits the party to the “widest possible discussion and participation in the process leading up to the Reform of the Constitution for a modern Trinidad and

Tobago” and to developing a Constitution “capable of ensuring the involvement of all its citizens in the running of the country” and permitting “equity in the distribution of the resources”;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago articulate its position on the question of Constitution Reform indicating: (a) what areas of the Constitution it considers to be in urgent need of review; (b) whether it proposes piecemeal reform or a comprehensive review; (c) how it intends to involve the population in the process; and (d) what steps it will take to ensure that this crucial exercise is completed no later than eighteen months after the first sitting on October 17, 2002 of the first session of the Eighth Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Sen. Prof. Kenneth Ramchand)

2. **WHEREAS** there is a growing need for skills training and training in science and technology in developing societies like Trinidad and Tobago; and

WHEREAS many unmonitored and unregulated tertiary institutions have sprung up to cater to the desire to acquire such training and skills among students of differing levels, ages and abilities who have not gained entry to the University of the West Indies; and

WHEREAS there are other institutions and initiatives old and new in post secondary and tertiary education in Trinidad and Tobago whose programmes are associated with different sectors of the economy; and

WHEREAS there is a need to create a body with the intellectual authority and material and human resources to assess, regulate, and direct the development of this confusing array of so-called tertiary offerings and integrate them into coherent and authentic tertiary education programmes contributing to the social and economic development of the country; and

WHEREAS there is a need, further, for an institution founded on the recognition that skills training and training in science and technology depend upon scientific research and technological innovation of the kind associated with those places of higher learning called Universities; and

WHEREAS graduates of such a technical institution should be recognized as recipients of a University degree and a University education;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago reorganize and integrate this side of the tertiary education provision, ensure efficiency and high standards and contribute to solving developmental problems and human needs, by giving modern Trinidad and Tobago what it needs and deserves – a Technical University of Trinidad and Tobago which can stand proudly beside, and share the national work with, the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies.

(By Sen. Prof. Kenneth Ramchand)

3. **WHEREAS** a healthy democracy depends on a well informed citizenry

WHEREAS citizens are entitled to know how Members of Parliament represent them in Parliament

WHEREAS there is a need for citizens to have at first hand and, as far as practical, information regarding what transpires in the country's Parliament, and,

WHEREAS the information gap between the proceedings in Parliament and citizens' awareness needs to be closed as far as practical

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government arrange, with appropriate permission, for full debates and the business of both Houses to be transmitted to the public through the electronic media (television and radio) in an equitable and discreetly edited form on fixed days of the week and with such transmission to begin before the end of the year 2003.

(By Sen. Prof. Ramesh Deosaran)

Dawn Dolly
Ag. Clerk Of The Senate

Senate Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN

November 13, 2002