



SENATE

## ORDER PAPER

THIRTEENTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2002/2003), EIGHTH PARLIAMENT  
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 04, 2003 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
  - (i) Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Penal-Debe Regional Corporation for the year ended December 31, 1997.  
*(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)*
7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES
8. \*QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS
  - Questions For Oral Answer
  - Question No. 3 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment**  
*(By Senator Wade Mark)*
    - A. Could the Honourable Minister tell this Senate about the number of new persons employed by the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), giving their names, qualifications, work experience, and the respective positions occupied during the period January 2002 to the present time?
    - B. Could the Honourable Minister further state whether these jobs were publicly advertised?
    - C. Could he also provide the relevant information and documentation to support the transparency of the recruitment process?

**Question No. 7 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment**

*(By Senator Wade Mark)*

- A. Could the Honourable Minister inform this Senate whether:
- (i) houses owned by WASA have been sold, to whom were they sold, their location, and at what prices during the period January, 2002 to the present time?
  - (ii) the houses which were sold were properly valued?
- B. Could the Minister state what method was used by the Authority to dispose of these houses?
- C. Could the Minister further state which government agency, if any, was responsible for the supervision and sale of these WASA houses?

**Question No. 8 to the Honourable Prime Minister**

*(By Senator Wade Mark)*

- A. Could the Prime Minister indicate what steps are being taken in respect of the commencement of the proposed Commissions of Enquiries into the following projects:-
- The transfer of BWIA to Edward Acker and his Associates
  - First Citizens Bank write off of customers' debts
  - The La Brea Industrial Complex
  - Project Pride and Pegasus
  - The Sale of National Fisheries
  - The Sale of Farrell House Hotel
  - The Sale of T&TEC's power generation facilities, and
  - The Severn Trent Contract?

**\*Questions for Written Answers are at Appendix I.**

**Questions 3 and 7 were deferred on December 17, 2002.**

- B. If no steps have yet been taken to commence these enquiries, could the Prime Minister indicate the reasons for the delay?

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 validate certain acts of Former-Act Companies”.  
*(By the Minister of Legal Affairs)*
2. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Registrar General Act, Chap. 19:03”.  
*(By the Minister of Legal Affairs)*
3. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Pilotage Act, Chap. 51:02”.  
*(By the Minister of Works and Transport)*
4. A Bill entitled, An Act to validate the cancellation of certain postage stamps.  
*(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)*

### **PRIVATE BUSINESS**

**Motions:**

The debate on the following Motion, which was in progress when the Senate was adjourned on Monday November 26, 2002, will be resumed:

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)*

4. **WHEREAS** Section 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago provides for all citizens the right to equality of treatment from any public authority in the exercise of any function and the right to equality before the law and the protection of the law;

**AND WHEREAS** both Houses of Parliament have already passed into law the Equal Opportunities Act;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Government takes immediate steps to have the Equal Opportunity Legislation proclaimed and fully effected in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

*(By Senator Wade Mark)*

5. **WHEREAS** the events of terrorism and terrorists' actions of *September 11, 2001* have caused grave pain and hurt and resulted in the death of thousands of innocent lives.

**WHEREAS** the United States of America has embarked upon "*an all out war*" against terrorism and terrorists' groups and is seeking the support of all Member States worldwide in the fight against terrorism and terrorists.

**AND WHEREAS** many citizens of this country are concerned about terrorism and terrorists and the negative and disastrous impact that they can cause on the lives and welfare of the people of this nation.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this House urges the Government to declare before this House how it proposes to deal with any form of terrorism or terrorists' group in this country particularly those with a proven track record in subversive and criminal activities.

*(By Senator Robin Montano)*

6. **WHEREAS** serious concerns have arisen in the national community over the operations of the banking industry in Trinidad and Tobago.

**AND WHEREAS** it is in the best interest of Trinidad and Tobago that there be vibrant and strong banking institutions that operate not only in the best interest of the banks themselves but also in the best interest of the citizens.

**AND WHEREAS** the UNC Administration supported the Financial Sector Ombudsman and promoted Truth In Lending Legislation in order to establish more effective monitoring and vigilance of market conduct in the Financial Services Sector.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Government take all required steps and implement all necessary measures which could include but not be limited to the immediate establishment of the Office Banking Ombudsman and the expeditious enactment of the Truth In Lending Legislation in order to protect both citizens and Government from inappropriate banking practices and thus maintain the confidence and integrity of the Banking Sector.

*(By Senator Robin Montano)*

**Senate Secretariat  
The Red House  
PORT OF SPAIN**

**Dawn Dolly  
Ag. Clerk Of The Senate**

**January 29, 2003**

## **APPENDIX I**

### 8. QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

#### **\*QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

1. Could the Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment provide a detailed breakdown of WASA's operating expenditure, revenue collection and net deficit, if any, on a monthly basis for the period January 2002 to the present time?

*(By Senator Wade Mark)*

2. Could the Minister of Public Administration and Information give a detailed breakdown of contract workers employed by the Government in the various Ministries, Statutory Authorities, State Enterprises and Public Utilities during the period January 2002 to the present time and continuing as follows:

- (i) Names, addresses and positions occupied;
- (ii) Terms and conditions of service (inclusive of monthly salaries and allowances); and
- (iii) Duration of their respective contracts?

*(By Senator Wade Mark)*

3. Could the Minister of Works and Transport provide a detailed breakdown of the Maintenance Security and Training Company (MTS) or any of its affiliated companies on the following:

- i. The number of persons employed;
- ii. Their qualifications;
- iii. Their work experience;
- iv. Their addresses;
- v. Their terms and conditions of employment; and
- vi. The duration of their contracts for the period January 2002 to the present time and continuing?

*(By Senator Wade Mark)*