



SENATE

ORDER PAPER

NINETEENTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2002/2003), EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY MARCH 25, 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
7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES
8. *QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 22 to the Honourable Minister of Public Administration and Information

(By Senator Wade Mark)

A. Could the Minister give details to this Senate about:

- (i) The total amount of arrears of increment paid to public officers to date?
- (ii) The total quantum of arrears of increment that is still owed to public officers to date?

B. Could he indicate:

- (i) The number of public officers who have received their arrears of increment to date;

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

- (ii) The positions of those officers in the public service;
- (iii) The number of public officers still to be paid;
- (iv) The total sum of money outstanding?

- C. Could the Minister state when would those public officers who have not yet been paid their increment receive their arrears of increment? Could he further state whether the government has established a deadline for payment of those outstanding arrears of increment?

Question No. 23 to the Honourable Minister of Public Administration and Information

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister state whether the First and Second Divisions of the Police Association; the Fire Service and Members of the Teaching Service would also be receiving arrears of increment?
- B. If the answer is in the affirmative, could he also state:
- (i) What total amount of money each association or group of public officers would be entitled to?
 - (ii) When would these public officers receive their arrears of increment?

Question No. 24 to the Honourable Minister of Public Administration and Information

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister state whether daily-rated workers have received their arrears of increment?
- B. If they have, could he indicate:
- (i) The total sum of monies paid or to be paid to each worker?
 - (ii) The total number of daily-rated workers who are entitled to receive arrears of increment?

Question No. 41 to the Honourable Minister of Public Administration and Information

(By Senator Kenneth Ramchand)

Could the Minister of Public Administration and Information state:

- A. (i) How many buildings or parts of buildings in Trinidad and Tobago are at present being rented by Government for official purposes?
- (ii) What are the addresses of these premises, and for each, what is the square-footage of rented space?
- B. Could the Minister also state:
- (i) What is the rent being paid for each of the rented spaces?
- (ii) Who is the owner of each of the rented spaces, and to whom is the rent being paid?
- (iii) For each building or part of a building, when did the lease or rental agreement begin?

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

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate was adjourned on Tuesday February 25, 2003, 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)

7. **WHEREAS** the Government during the period 1995 to 2001 instituted several measures to combat corruption in public office and to empower the population.

AND WHEREAS the object of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill 2001, was to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act No. 11 of 1987 to implement further and more effective measures for the prevention of corruption by (inter alia) increasing the number of corruption and corruption related offences, providing protection for informers and whistleblowers and establishing an *Anti-Corruption Commission* equipped with the expertise required to monitor and investigate allegations of corruption, with integrity and without political interference, and to initiate prosecutions in both the public and private sectors.

AND WHEREAS this said bill was laid in Parliament in July 2001 but lapsed upon the dissolution of Parliament in August 2001 before it had been able to be debated and passed.

AND WHEREAS there still is an urgent need to address objectively the issues of corruption, transparency and probity in public affairs.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government take all the required steps to expedite the enactment of legislation similar (if not identical with) the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill 2001 in order to implement further and more effective measures for the prevention of corruption.

(By Senator Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

1. An Act to amend the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01
(By the Attorney General)
2. An Act to amend the Freedom of Information Act, 1999
(By the Minister of Public Administration and Information)
3. An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, Chap. 75:01
(By the Minister of Finance)

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

March 19, 2003

**DAWN DOLLY
Clerk Of The Senate**

APPENDIX I

SENATE

ORDER PAPER

**NINETEENTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2002/2003), EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY MARCH 25, 2003 AT 1:30 P.M.**

8. **QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS**

Questions for Written Answer

Question No. 2 to the Honourable Minister of Public Administration and Information

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister 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?

Question No. 3 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment

(By Senator Wade Mark)

A. Could the Honourable Minister provide the Senate with a detailed breakdown on the following issues as it relates to the Solid Waste Management Company or any of its affiliated companies for the period January 2002 to the present time and continuing:

- (i) the number of persons employed
- (ii) the names of those persons
- (iii) their qualifications
- (iv) their addresses
- (v) their work experience

- (vii) their terms and conditions of employment, inclusive of salaries,
and
- (viii) the duration of their contracts?

B. Could the Honourable Minister state whether those jobs were advertised and could he produce or provide the relevant information and/or documentation to support transparency in the recruitment process?

DAWN DOLLY
Clerk of the Senate

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March 19, 2003