



SENATE

## ORDER PAPER

TWENTY-SECOND SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2002/2003), EIGHTH PARLIAMENT  
TUESDAY APRIL 15, 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. 28 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment**

*(By Senator Wade Mark)*

- A. Could the Minister tell the Senate what is the estimated cost to the taxpayer to cut one metre of grass and to clear and clean one metre of drain?
- B. Could the Minister state when compared with the daily-rated workers of the Ministry of Works and the various Regional and Municipal Corporations whether it is costing taxpayers less to perform tasks identified at (A) above under the Community-Based Protection and Enhancement Programme (*CEPEP*)?

**Question No. 29 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment**

*(By Senator Wade Mark)*

Could the Minister advise the Senate about the total sum of money spent to date by the State on the Community-Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (*CEPEP*) to ensure its preservation and continuance?

**Question No. 30 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport**

*(By Senator Wade Mark)*

Could the Minister state whether:

- (i) The government intends to contract out work currently performed by daily-rated employees in his Ministry?
- (ii) The government intends to retrench thousands of daily-rated workers in the public sector?
- (iii) The public works currently performed by companies under (*CEPEP*) Programme pose a direct threat, if not, challenge to the future employment of daily-rated workers in the public sector?

**Question No. 47 to the Honourable Attorney General**

*(By Senator Dana Seetahal)*

A. Could the Honourable Attorney General provide the following information:

- i. The number of appellants sentenced to terms of imprisonment who are still in custody awaiting the hearing of an appeal for more than one (1) year?
- ii. The number of such appeals arising from the Magistrates' Court?
- iii. The number of appeals referred to in (ii) above that have not yet been fixed because of the failure of the Magistrate/Magistrates' Court to provide Notes of Evidence and/or Magistrates' reasons?

B. Could the Minister state what measures, if any, are being affected to speed up the hearing of Magistrates' Court appeals?

**Question No. 50 to the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance as Leader of the House**

*(By Senator Prof. Kenneth Ramchand)*

A. Could the Minister provide this House with:

- (i) The names and qualifications of the investigators used to gather information for relocating the Red House,

- (ii) The dates when the investigation began and ended,
- (iii) The procedures followed by the investigators,
- (iv) The facts established by the investigations, and
- (v) The arguments based upon the facts gathered by his Ministry's investigation which led to the recommendation that there is need to construct a new building for Parliament?

B. Could the Minister supply to Members of this House copies of the Report submitted by his investigators?

**Question No. 51 to the Honourable Attorney General**

*(By Senator Prof. Kenneth Ramchand)*

Could the Minister tell this House:

- (i) What funds have been allocated for the year 2003 and how much has been expended in 2003 on works connected with the Magistrates' Court on St. Vincent Street?
- (ii) If there was no allocation or spending in 2003, when was the last time that funds were spent on works connected with the Magistrates' Courts referred to? and
- (iii) What is the total sum so far expended on the Magistrates' Court?

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 provide for the punishment of Kidnapping for ransom and other related offences and for matters incidental thereto”.  
(*By the Minister of National Security*)
  
2. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01”.  
(*By the Attorney General*)

## PRIVATE BUSINESS

### Motions:

**The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate was adjourned on Tuesday March 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** 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)*

3. **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)*

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)*

**DAWN DOLLY**  
**Clerk Of The Senate**

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

**April 09, 2003**

**APPENDIX I**

**SENATE**

**ORDER PAPER**

**TWENTY-SECOND SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2002/2003), EIGHTH PARLIAMENT  
TUESDAY APRIL 15, 2003 AT 1:30 P.M.**

8. **QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS**

**Question 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?

**DAWN DOLLY  
Clerk of the Senate**

**SENATE SECRETARIAT  
The Red House  
Abercromby Street  
PORT OF SPAIN**

**April 09, 2003**