



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

SEVENTEENTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2003/2004) EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 03, 2004 AT 1.30 P.M.

1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OF A NEW MEMBER
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
 1. Annual Audited Financial Statements of Trinidad and Tobago Free Zones Company Limited for the Financial year ended December 31, 2002.
(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. 22 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister provide details on:

- (i) The outstanding sums of monies owed to contractors for works done under the PURE Programme as at October 31, 2003?
- (ii) The breakdown of the sums owed and to whom?

* Question No. 22 was deferred for one week on 27/01/2004.

***Question No. 30 to the Honourable Minister of Labour and Micro Enterprise Development**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister outline in detail the sources of finance secured by the National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited for the period August, 2002 to October, 2002?
- B. Could the Minister also provide details, if any, of:
- (i) the forms and contributions of the loan secured;
 - (ii) the name or names of the relevant financial institution or institutions?

****Question No. 31 to the Honourable Minister of Labour and Micro Enterprise Development**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister provide:

- (i) the names of the loans officers employed by NEDCO during the period August, 2002 to October, 2002; and
- (ii) the criteria used by these officers in granting the same loans?

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**Motion:**

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives amendments to the Mediation (No.2) Bill, 2003 listed in Appendix II, be now considered.

(By the Attorney General)

Bills Second Reading:

1. A Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation Act, 1999 to extend the period of exemption from taxes and other charges".

(By the Minister of Public Utilities and the Environment)

2. A Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the National Lotteries Act, Chap. 21:04 to alter the definition of 'financial year'".

(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)

3. A Bill entitled, "An Act to provide for the Vesting of certain State Lands in the National Housing Authority for a term of 999 years".

(By the Minister of Housing)

4. A Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, 1997".

(By the Minister of Foreign Affairs)

5. A Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Extradition (Commonwealth and Foreign Territories) Act, 1985".

(By the Minister of Foreign Affairs)

6. A Bill entitled, "An Act to make provision for the efficient management of the Police Service, to consolidate, amend and revise the law relating to the Police Service and for other related matters".

(By the Minister of National Security)

7. A Bill entitled, "An Act to establish an independent body to investigate criminal offences involving police officers, police corruption and serious police misconduct and for other related matters".

(By the Minister of National Security)

8. A Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Constitution by providing for the establishment of a Police Management Authority, and for other related matters".

(By the Minister of National Security)

9. A Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01".
(By the Attorney General)
10. A Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago".
(By the Attorney General)
11. A Bill entitled, "An Act to implement the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Court of Justice and for other related matters".
(By the Attorney General)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

The debate on the following Motion, which was in progress when the Senate was adjourned on Tuesday November 04, 2003, will be resumed:

1. **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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Joint Select Committee of Parliament be appointed to consider and report on this matter so as to facilitate Government action.

(By Senator Professor Ramesh Deosaran)

2. **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.

AND WHEREAS this said Bill was introduced in the House of Representatives on July 20, 2001 but lapsed upon the dissolution of Parliament in August 2001.

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 to (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)

3. **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)

4. **WHEREAS** Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination states that “Particular efforts shall be made to prevent discrimination based on race, colour or ethnic origin, especially in the fields of civil rights, access to citizenship, education, religion, employment, occupation and housing”; and

WHEREAS Article 26 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts that “*Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit*”; and

WHEREAS on November 3rd 1973, Trinidad and Tobago ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination; and

WHEREAS section 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago recognises and declares that in Trinidad and Tobago there have existed and shall continue to exist, without discrimination by reason of race, origin, colour, religion or sex, certain fundamental human rights and freedoms; and

WHEREAS the National Anthem of Trinidad and Tobago resonates with the aspiration that “*Here every creed and race find an equal place*”; and

WHEREAS section 7 of the Education Act, Chap. 39:01 states, “*No person shall be refused admission to any public institution on account of religious persuasion, race, social status or language of such a person or of his parent*”; and

WHEREAS since December 24th 2001 there has been a renewal and an institutionalization of the victimization of and discrimination against employees of State Enterprises, Statutory Authorities, Government Ministries and Public Authorities by the PNM Government; and

WHEREAS, throughout our nation, through victimization and discrimination by the PNM government, citizens are denied the opportunity to access jobs, contracts and loans in the Unemployment Relief Programme (URP); the Community Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP) and the National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO) and other public programmes; and

WHEREAS, throughout the nation, citizens are denied equality of treatment in accessing training opportunities in the Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA); On the Job Training (OJT); Helping You Prepare for Employment (HYPE); Geriatric Adolescent/Partnership Programme (GAPP) and other public programmes; and

WHEREAS the Honourable Member for Diego Martin West and Minister of Housing has publicly affirmed a policy of racial and gender discrimination as contained in the *Social and Economic Framework 2004* policy document, notwithstanding its deletion as an "Errata":

BE IT RESOLVED that this House re-affirms its commitment to the elimination of discrimination in all its forms and the right of the individual to equality of treatment from public authorities.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

*Neil Jaggassar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)*

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

January 30, 2004

8. QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Questions for Written Answer

Question No. 3 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Sadiq Baksh)

Could the Minister of Works and Transport provide this House with the names of all citizens provided with Priority Bus Route passes?

(Answer by December 02, 2003)

Question No. 8 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister provide this Senate with a comprehensive breakdown on the foreign travel of all Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries on a monthly basis for the period January 2002 to November 30, 2003?
- B. Could the Minister state:
- (i) the various destinations or countries visited;
 - (ii) the purpose of the visits;
 - (iii) the length of time of these visits; and
 - (iv) the cost incurred by each of the officials on the visit mentioned over the period?

(Answer by January 10, 2004)

Question No. 9 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister provide this Senate with the various costs incurred by all officials within the State-owned Enterprises, Statutory Authorities and the various Public Utilities on all foreign travel on a monthly basis for the period January 2002 to November 30, 2003?

(Answer by January 10, 2004)

Question No. 10 to the Honourable Minister of Housing

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister provide this Senate with a detailed list of all applicants for housing accommodation to the Ministry of Housing from January 2002 to November 30, 2003 on a monthly basis in the following areas:
- (i) applications for land;
 - (ii) applications for rental units;

- (iii) applications for housing;
- (iv) applications for leases?

B. Could the Minister further provide this Senate with the names and addresses of all applicants during the same period?

(Answer by January 10, 2004)

Neil Jaggassar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

Senate Secretariat
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PORT OF SPAIN
January 30, 2004