



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWELFTH SITTING, FIFTH SESSION (2006/2007), EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2006 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 WRITTEN ANSWERS APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 2 to the Honourable Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (a) Could the Minister provide the Senate with copies of the Memoranda of Understanding and/or Agreements entered into between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and ALCOA, and the GORTT and ALUTRIN, regarding the establishment in Trinidad and Tobago of Alumina Smelter Plants; and
- (b) Could the Minister also state the exact price that the Government intends to charge the companies for the use of the country's natural gas?

* Question No. 2 was deferred for three (3) weeks on Tuesday November 07, 2006 and for two (2) weeks on Tuesday November 28, 2006.

Question No. 14 to the Honourable Attorney General**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- A. With respect to the recent court matters involving the Honourable Chief Justice, could the Attorney General provide the Senate with a list of the names, status and rank of all Attorneys-at-Law who represented:
- i. Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) and/or the Deputy Public Prosecutions;
 - ii. The Commissioner of Police; and
 - iii. The State?
- B. Could the Attorney General also provide the Senate with:
- i. A list of all the fees paid to these Attorneys;
 - ii. A breakdown of all the expenses involved in connection with this matter in the Privy Council in London; and
 - iii. The names of all the Attorneys including state Attorneys who addressed the Privy Council?

Question No. 15 to the Honourable Attorney General**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- A. With respect to the complaint made to the Integrity Commission by the President of the Public Services Association against the Minister of Health regarding a conflict of interest in the Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP), could the Attorney General inform this Senate if the investigation has been completed;
- B. If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, could the Attorney General indicate to the Senate what were the findings of the Integrity Commission;
- C. If the answer to (A) is in the negative, could the Attorney General state:
- i. The reason (s) for the delay in bringing this investigation to a conclusion; and
 - ii. The expected date for the completion of this investigation?

Question No. 16 to the Honourable Attorney General**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- A. With respect to the complaint made to the Integrity Commission by the Maha Sabha regarding the award of a Radio Broadcast License to a company owned by Mr. Louis Lee Sing; could the Attorney General inform the Senate whether the investigation has been completed?
- B. If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, could the Attorney General inform the Senate of the findings of the Integrity Commission; and
- C. If the answer to (A) is in the negative, could the Attorney General inform the Senate:
- i. The reason for the delay in bringing this investigation to a conclusion; and
 - ii. The expected date for the completion of this investigation?

Question No. 19 to the Honourable Minister of Housing**(By Senator Basharat Ali)**

- A. Could the Minister advise whether the Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation is exempt from the Central Tenders Board Ordinance in accordance with Section 29 (1) of Act No. 24 of 2005?
- B. If the answer is in the affirmative, have Rules been laid in Parliament in accordance with Section 29 (4) of the said Act?
- C. If the answer is in the affirmative, please advise the date on which they have been laid?
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 OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES
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. **The debate on the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday December 05, 2006 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the law relating to the minimum age for admission to employment in Trinidad and Tobago".

(By the Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development)

PRIVATE BUSINESS**Motions:**

The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday November 28, 2006, will now be resumed:

- (i) **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House appoint a Committee to sit jointly with a Committee of the House of Representatives to assess the adequacy of the Building that houses the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago with a view to planning for the long-term accommodation of Parliament and report its recommendations to this House within six months:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Joint Select Committee be empowered to send for persons, papers and records and sit from place to place.

(By Senator Dr. Eastlyn McKenzie)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** the fears and concerns of law-abiding citizens have increased over the worsening crime situation in Trinidad and Tobago, resulting in severe psychological, social and economic consequences;

AND WHEREAS the Government has expended vast sums of money on resources for fighting crime and on foreign expertise and assistance with no visible effect on the spiraling crime situation;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate:

- (a) express its concern over Government's performance in handling crime,
- (b) call on the government to explain to the Senate why the actions of the relevant agencies have so far consistently failed to produce the desired results; and
- (c) agree that the Government outline, with specific performance targets and mechanisms for accountability, what concrete measures it intends to take to deal effectively with the serious crime situation now facing the country so as to facilitate the pathway to national consensus and civic mobilization.

(By Senator Prof. Ramesh Deosaran)

- (iii) **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 the Senator Wade Mark)

- (iv) **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 Youth 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)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate adopt the 3rd Report of the Public Accounts Committee for the Third Session (2004-2005) of the Eighth Parliament.

(By Senator Basharat Ali)

Neil Jaggassar
Clerk of the Senate

Senate Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN

December 06, 2006

ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY DECEMBER 12, 2006

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

Question No. 1 to the Honourable Attorney General

(By Senator Professor Ramesh Deosaran)

With respect to the specific crimes of robbery, burglary, larceny, abduction, kidnapping, assault, house break-in, possession of drugs and drug trafficking, could the Minister inform the Senate for each of the last three years 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005:

- (a) How many times each crime was committed (reported) in each of these years?
- (b) How many persons have been charged for each crime in each year?
- (c) Of those charged, how many have been granted bail or refused bail in the Magistrate's Court?
- (d) Of those refused bail in the Magistrate's Court, how many on appeal have had such bail subsequently granted in the High Court?
- (e) Of those granted bail in the Magistrate's Court, how many have had this decision on appeal reversed in the High Court?
- (f) Of those granted bail in the Magistrate's Court, or in the High Court, how many have subsequently been charged for one or more crimes?
- (g) What type(s) of crime(s) have they been charged for while out on bail?
- (h) Of those charged for each of such crimes while out on bail, how many have been convicted?
- (i) Of this convicted lot, what type of sentence did they receive?

(Answer due by 08.11.06)

Question No. 4 to the Honourable Minister of Planning and Development

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (a) Could the Minister provide the Senate with the following information from the establishment of the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (UDeCOTT):
 - (i) The number and names of projects undertaken by UDeCOTT;
 - (ii) The types of financial arrangements governing each project;
 - (iii) The cost of each project; and
 - (iv) The names and addresses of all contractors engaged by UDeCOTT in the execution of those projects?
- (b) Will the Minister further state whether the accounts and financial statements of UDeCOTT have been audited as is customary and the names of the auditing firms engaged for these projects;
- (c) Could the Minister also state whether UDeCOTT has been in full compliance with the provisions of the Central Tenders Board Act;
- (d) If the answer is in the affirmative, could the Minister provide a full account of the process involved; and

- (e) If it is in the negative, will the Minister provide details of the Tender procedures employed by UDeCOTT in the award of contracts?

(Answer due by 11.11.06)

Question No. 5 to the Honourable Minister of Planning and Development

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Hon. Minister of Planning and Development provide the Senate with a detailed understanding of the procurement procedures adopted by Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (UDeCOTT) with respect to the Tarouba project as well as all the other projects undertaken by UDeCOTT from the period January 01, 2002 to October 30, 2005?

(Answer due by 11.11.06)

Question No. 6 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development , Culture and Gender Affairs

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (a) Could the Minister inform this Senate whether her Ministry has provided financial assistance or awarded scholarships to persons desirous of pursuing studies at Universities in Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean region and/or internationally?
- (b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister provide this Senate with the following information
- (i) a list of the names of persons who have benefited from such assistance for the period 2002 to April, 2006;
 - (ii) the amount of financial assistance provided to each person; and
 - (iii) the names of the institutions involved?

(Answer due by 11.11.06)

Question No. 7 to the Honourable Minister of Health

(By Senator Dr. Tim Gopeesingh)

- (a) Would the Honourable Minister please inform this Senate of the name of the Company which was awarded a contract for the purchase and supply of C.T. and M.R.I. machines for use in the nation's hospital?
- (b) Would the Honourable Minister further inform this Senate of:
- (i) The names of the Directors of that company;
 - (ii) The number and names of the companies which submitted all bids;
 - (iii) The value of each bid submitted;
 - (iv) The value of the successful bidders' tender; and
 - (v) The names of the members of the Specification Committee and the Evaluation Committee involved in the award of this contract?

(Answer due by 16.11.06)

Question No. 8 to the Honourable Minister of Health**(By Senator Dr. Tim Gopeesingh)**

Would the Honourable Minister provide the following information in respect of the contract awarded by the Ministry of Health for the purchase and supply of equipment in respect of the establishment of the new Coronary Angiography Unit at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex:

- (i) The names of the Directors of that company;
- (ii) The number and names of the companies which submitted all bids;
- (iii) The value of each bid submitted;
- (iv) The value of the successful bidders' tender; and
- (v) The names of the members of the Specification Committee and the Evaluation Committee involved in the award of this contract?

(Answer due by 16.11.06)**Question No. 9 to the Honourable Minister of Health****(By Senator Dr. Tim Gopeesingh)**

- (a) Would the Honourable Minister provide the list of all pharmacies which fill prescriptions issued under the Government's Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (C-DAP).
- (b) Would the Honourable Minister inform this Senate of the following:
 - (i) The total value of prescriptions filled by each pharmacy under the C-DAP from the commencement of operations to August 2006?

(Answer due by 16.11.06)**Question No. 10 to the Honourable Minister of Health****(By Senator Dr. Tim Gopeesingh)**

- (a) Would the Honourable Minister inform this Senate of the total number of persons employed by the North West Regional Health Authority (NWRHA) and the North Central Regional Health Authority (NCRHA) between 2002 and the present?
- (b) Would the Minister also provide this Senate with the following information:
 - (i) The names of persons mentioned in part (a) above; and
 - (ii) The positions to which those persons were appointed?
- (c) Would the Honourable Minister further inform this Senate of any role played by Eastman and Associates Company Limited in the selection and placement process used to employ persons referred to in part (b) of this question?

(Answer due by 16.11.06)