



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

SEVENTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2007/2008), NINTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2008 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 ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 4 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Would the Honourable Minister inform this Senate when the Licensing Authority will be fully computerized in order to bring relief to the drivers of this country and particularly to protect against any fraudulent activities within the Authority?

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

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- i. The total cost of hotel accommodation and meals expended in Trinidad and Tobago to accommodate the former Minister, Senator the Honourable Joan Yuille Williams at the Trinidad Hilton during her term as Minister viz: 2002-2007?

* Question No. 4 was deferred for one (1) week on 15.01.08, for one (1) week on 22.01.08 , for two (2) weeks on 29.01.08, for one (1) week on 12.02.08 and for one (1) week on 19.02.08.

* Question No. 6 was deferred for two(2) weeks on 29.01.08, for one (1) week on 12.02.08 and for one (1) week on 19.02.08.

- ii. Whether all Ministers, similarly circumstanced are entitled to this facility as the former Minister?

***Question No. 8 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Would the Honourable Minister inform this Senate whether:

- i. The Fire Services of Trinidad and Tobago is sufficiently equipped to combat fires in high rise buildings now being constructed in Port of Spain and environs and San Fernando?
- ii. If the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, would the Honourable Minister inform this Senate of the type of equipment provided to the Fire Services?
- iii. If the answer to (i) is in the negative, would the Honourable Minister state what steps are intended to remedy the situation?

***Question No. 11 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister inform the 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 benefitted from such assistance for the period 2002 to December 2007.
 - ii) the amount of financial assistance provided to each person; and
 - iii) the names of the institutions involved?

***Question No. 13 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister provide the Senate with:

- A. A list of all organizations that have received funding/grants and/or financial support from the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs during the period January 02, 2002 to December 31, 2007?
- B. Could the Minister also provide the details of the amount provided and for what purpose?

* Question No. 8 was deferred for one (1) week on 12.02.08 and for one(1) week on 19.02.08

* Questions Nos. 11 and 13 were deferred for one (1) week on 19.02.08.

Question No. 14 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the grant of any scholarship, assistance or funding to nationals of Trinidad and Tobago by the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, would the Minister advise the Senate:

- i. the total amount of money allocated for each of the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007;
- ii. the amount of money utilized from the overall allocation for each of the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007;
- iv. the various purposes of training/areas of study; and
- v. the criteria used by the Ministry in determining eligibility for accessing funding/assistance?

Question No. 15 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister provide the Senate with a list of the Members who comprise the committee in the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs charged with the responsibility for determining the grant of scholarships/funding to needy individuals?
- B. Could the Minister provide the Senate with copies of the brochures/pamphlets containing the procedure and criteria adopted by the committee for determining the eligibility for scholarships/funding?

Question No. 16 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister provide the Senate with the details of the structure of its National Service Programme?
- B. Could the Minister also inform the Senate of the amount of money allocated to this National Service Programme on a yearly basis for the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?
- C. Could the Minister indicate to the Senate the total number of citizens who have benefited from the National Service Programme and what type of programme was offered to these citizens during the period?

***Question No. 19 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Basharat Ali)

- A. Could the Minister inform the Senate whether the two Interim Vessels procured under an Interim Facility Contract with V.T. Shipbuilding International were

* Question No. 19 was deferred for one (1) week on 12.02.08 and for one (1) week on 19.02.08.

delivered in October, 2007 as promised by the Honourable Prime Minister in his statement to the House of Representatives on April 20, 2007?

B. If the answer to (A) is in the negative, could the Minister outline the reason or reasons for the delay?

C. Could the Minister state what is the revised delivery date of these vessels?

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

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday January 29, 2008, will be resumed:

(i) **WHEREAS** there exist in Trinidad and Tobago a privately run security Industry which employs in excess of fifty thousand security guards who are unprecepted;

AND WHEREAS these unprecepted security officers are required to work under conditions which may be inconsistent with the provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA);

AND WHEREAS many guards are remunerated at low rates of pay thereby requiring many to work excessively long hours;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for government to protect the rights of these workers and to guard them against exploitation;

AND WHEREAS the government has not established the necessary standards and regulations to govern the private security industry;

BE IT RESOLVED that the government take all necessary steps to ensure that unprecepted private security guards are not exploited by virtue of the high demand for security services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the government take all the necessary measures to enact into law the relevant legislation to establish the necessary standards and regulations that would govern the private security industry.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (ii) **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)

- (iii) **WHEREAS** there are allegations of widespread corruption and mismanagement of the money spent by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS there are allegations of a lack of transparency;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to account for the manner in which it has conducted the financial affairs of the State and for its failure to take corrective action.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (iv) **WHEREAS** financial support for election campaigns is necessary for a healthy multi-party democracy;

AND WHEREAS the electorate needs to be satisfied that all viable political parties contest elections under conditions which are fair and transparent;

AND WHEREAS the issue of election financing has been the subject of widespread public concern during the last thirty years in this country;

BE IT RESOLVED that Parliament appoint a Joint Select Committee to consider establishing a legislative framework to govern the financing of election campaigns and to submit its report with recommendations to both Houses of Parliament within six months of its appointment.

(By Senator Prof. Ramesh Deosaran)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) **The debate on the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday February 19, 2008, will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Legal Profession Act, 1986.”

(By the Attorney General)

- (ii) A Bill entitled, “An Act to provide for the implementation by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago of the Agreement Establishing the Seat of the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Offices of the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission.”

(By the Minister of Foreign Affairs)

- (iii) A Bill entitled “An Act to establish the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region in Trinidad and Tobago and for related matters”.

(By the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment)

Neil Jaggassar
Clerk of the Senate

Senate Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN
February 20, 2008

ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2008

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 1 to the Honourable Attorney General

(By Senator Prof. Ramesh Deosaran)

With respect to the specific offences 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 four years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006.

- a. How many times each offence was committed (reported) in each of these years?
- b. How many persons have been charged for each offence 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 of these offences?
- g. What type(s) of offence(s) have they been charged for while out on bail?
- h. Of those charged for each of such offences while out on bail, how many have been convicted?
- i. Of this convicted lot, what type of sentence did they receive?

(Answer due by 15.01.08)

Question No. 21 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister provide the Senate with the names, profession, occupation and/or company or corporative association of all Chinese Nationals who have acquired resident status in Trinidad and Tobago during the period January 01, 2002 to December 31, 2007?

(Answer due by 08.02.08)

Question No. 24 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister provide the Senate with copies of the International Waterfront Project contract detailing the terms and conditions of the Contract which was entered into by the Urban Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the Government and Bouygues Bâtiment International of France?

(Answer due by 08.02.08)

Question No. 32 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**(By Senator Prof. Ramesh Deosaran)**

With respect to the responsiveness and mobility of police officers in the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, would the Minister inform this Senate:

- (a) what is the total number of vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles purchased by the Government and given to the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service for each of the years, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007;
- (b) what is the total cost for the various items in each year of purchase;
- (c) how many usable vehicles, motorcycles and bicycles are now available for the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service; and
- (d) how are they distributed among the various Units, Departments and Divisions of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service?

(Answer due by 20.02.08)**Question No. 33 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources****(By Senator Wade Mark)**

With respect to the allocation and distribution of three thousand acres (3,000) acres of land cultivated with citrus located at Todd's Road which formerly belonged to Caroni (1975) Limited, could the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources provide the Senate:

- a. with a list of the names of the beneficiaries who were able to access smaller parcels of land; and
- b. with a list of the names of public officers, retired or currently working in the Ministry of Agriculture and/or their spouses who were beneficiaries from the said allocation of smaller parcels?

(Answer due by 23.02.08)**Question No. 35 to the Honourable Minister of Finance****(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

Could the Minister provide the Senate with the justification for maintaining this country's continued linkage to the US Dollar, in light of that currency's growing decline against world currencies?

(Answer due by 29.02.08)**Question No. 36 to the Honourable Minister of Finance****(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

In light of Trinidad and Tobago's relatively abundant resources and wealth, could the Minister inform the Senate:

- a. why the National currency is valued below the Barbados Dollar; and

- b. whether the Government intends to correct this anomaly and if not, the reason or reasons for not doing do?

(Answer due by 29.02.08)

Question No. 37 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)

Could the Minister provide the Senate with the rationale behind Trinidad and Tobago's currency policy?

(Answer due by 29.02.08)

Question No. 38 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)

Could the Minister advise the Senate what measures are used to determine an increase in Trinidad and Tobago's currency circulation float to meet the needs of the growing economy and population?

(Answer due by 29.02.08)

Question No. 39 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)

With respect to this country's Heritage and Stabilization Fund, could the Minister state in detail:

- a. the various currencies and/or securities in which the Fund is held; and
b. the name(s) of the institutions in which the Fund is held, both locally and abroad?

(Answer due by 29.02.08)

**Senate Secretariat
The Red House
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