



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

NINTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2007/2008), NINTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY MARCH 11, 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

NEW QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 48 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister provide the Senate with a copy of the report from the Volvo engineers in respect of the accident involving the articulated bus owned by the Public Transport Service Corporation?

(Answer due by 26.03.08)

Question No. 49 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture Land and Marine Resources

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister provide the Senate with a copy of the lease agreement, inclusive of the details of the conditions associated with the lease which was issued to Pernod Ricard Trinidad and Tobago limited by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago?

(Answer due by 26.03.08)

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

***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. 10 to the Honourable Attorney General**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Would the Honourable Attorney General inform this Senate when she expects to have full computer aided transcription of court proceedings in the Magistrate's Court in Trinidad and Tobago?

***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 the Senate with the following information
 - i) a list of the names of persons who have benefited 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. 8 was deferred for one (1) week on 12.02.08, for one (1) week on 19.02.08, for one (1) week on 26.02.08 and for one (1) week on 04.03.08.

* Question No. 10 was deferred for one (1) week on 12.02.08, for two (2) weeks on 19.02.08 and for one week on 04.03.08.

* Question No. 11 was deferred for one (1) week on 19.02.08 and for two (2) weeks on 26.02.08

***Question No. 12 to the Honourable Attorney General**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Attorney General provide the Senate with:

- A. A detailed list of the matters in which Mr. Douglas Mendes, S.C. has been retained by:
- i) the Government of Trinidad and Tobago;
 - ii) the Integrity Commission;
 - iii) the National Lotteries Control Board;
 - iv) the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago; and
 - v) any other State Enterprise and/or Statutory Authority during the period January 01, 2002 and December 31, 2007.
- B. Could the Attorney General also provide a detailed breakdown of the fees paid to the said Senior Counsel during the same period?

***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. 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. 12 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 19.02.08 and for one (1) week on 04.03.08.

* Question No. 13 was deferred for one (1) week on 19.02.08 and for two (2) weeks on 26.02.08

* Question No. 14 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 26.02.08.

***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 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?

***Question No. 20 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister inform the Senate as to the status of the on-going investigations into the La Brea Industrial Development Company (LABIDCO) project?

* Questions Nos. 15 and 16 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 26.02.08

* Question No. 19 was deferred for one (1) week on 12.02.08, for one (1) week on 19.02.08, for one (1) week on 26.02.08 and for one (1) week on 04.03.08.

* Question No. 20 was deferred for one (1) week on 04.03.08.

- B. Could the Minister also inform the Senate what steps are being taken to have this outstanding matter concluded?

Question No. 25 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the multi-million dollar International Waterfront Project, Could the Minister inform the Senate:

- (i) how many contracts were signed between the State and UDeCOTT, for the management of the project ;
- (ii) the names of any other company that signed contracts with UDeCOTT for project management and construction from the commencement of the project to December 31, 2007;
- (iii) the details of the amount of money paid to each of these contractors;
- (iv) whether these contracts were the subject of competitive tendering or a sole selective basis; and
- (v) if the contracts were on a sole selective basis, what were the rationale and reasons for same?

Question No. 26 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister provide the Senate with the details of the final cost of the construction of the Prime Minister's residence and Diplomatic Centre?
- B. Could the Minister also provide the Senate with the details of payments of Value-Added tax, Income and Corporation taxes, and all other corporate taxes by the Shanghai Construction Corporation of China during the period of construction of the said Prime Minister's residence and Diplomatic Centre?

Question No. 27 to the Honourable Prime Minister

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the Mustill Tribunal that enquired into the conduct of the Chief Justice, could the Prime Minister inform the Senate:

- (i) whether official copies of the report would be made available to Members of Parliament;
- (ii) if the answer is in the affirmative, could he state exactly when;
- (iii) whether he intends to table the report in Parliament; and
- (iv) if the answer is in the negative, could he provide the rationale and reasons for not doing so?

Question No. 40 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Basharat Ali)

With respect to the award of a 390.6 million dollar contract to Austal Ships Pty. for the construction of six (6) fast patrol vessels, could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (i) the details of the tendering process; and
- (ii) the arrangements that are in place for the financing of this contract?

- 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:

- (i) **The debate on the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday March 04, 2008 will be resumed:**

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)

- (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 provide for the application on Trinidad and Tobago of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and to provide for matters connected with or related thereto”.

(By the Minister of Social Development)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday February 26, 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)

Jean Sandy
Clerk of the Senate(Ag.)

Senate Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN
March 05, 2008

ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY MARCH 11, 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. 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
PORT OF SPAIN**

March 05, 2008