



## SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

### ORDER PAPER

TWELFTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2007/2008), NINTH PARLIAMENT  
TUESDAY APRIL 08, 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
  - (i) Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Arima Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2000.  
**(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)**
  - (ii) The Annual Report of the Integrity Commission for the year 2007.  
**(By the Vice President of the Senate)**
  - (iii) The National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation in Trinidad and Tobago: 2006-2020  
**(By the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment)**
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?

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\* 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, for one (1) week on 19.02.08, for one (1) week on 26.02.08, for two (2) weeks on 04.03.08, one (1) week on 18.03.08 and one (1) week on 01.04.08.

**\*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. 12 to the Honourable Attorney General****(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Could the Attorney General provide the Senate with:

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\* 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, for one (1) week on 04.03.08, for one (1) week on 11.03.08, for one (1) week on 18.03.08 and for one (1) week on 01.04.08 .

\* Question No. 10 was deferred for one (1) week on 12.02.08, for two (2) weeks on 19.02.08, for one week on 04.03.08, for one (1) week on 11.03.08, for one (1) week on 18.03.08 and for one (1) week on 01.04.08.

\* Question No. 11 was deferred for one (1) week on 19.02.08, for two (2) weeks on 26.02.08, for one (1) week on 11.03.08, for one (1) week on 18.03.08 and for one (1) week on 01.04.08.

\* Question No. 12 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 19.02.08, for one (1) week on 04.03.08, for one (1) week on 11.03.08, for one (1) week on 18.03.08 and for one (1) week on 01.04.08.

- A. A detailed list of the matters in which Mr. Douglas Mendes, SC 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. 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?

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\* Question No. 13 was deferred for one (1) week on 19.02.08, for two (2) weeks on 26.02.08, for one (1) week on 11.03.08, for one (1) week on 18.03.08 and for one (1) week on 01.04.08.

\* Question No. 15 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 26.02.08, for one (1) week on 11.03.08, for one (1) week on 18.03.08 and for one (1) week on 01.04.08.

\* Question No. 16 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 26.02.08, for one (1) week on 11.03.08, for one (1) week on 18.03.08 and for one (1) week on 01.04.08.

- 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. 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?

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\* 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, for one (1) week on 04.03.08, for one (1) week on 11.03.08, for (1) week on 18.03.08 and for one (1) week on 01.04.08.

\* Question No. 25 was deferred for one (1) week on 11.03.08, for one (1) week on 18.03.08 and for one (1) week on 01.04.08.

\* Question No 26 was deferred for one (1) week on 11.03.08, for one (1) week on 18.03.08 and for one (1) week on 01.04.08.

- 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. 28 to the Honourable Prime Minister**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- A. Could the Prime Minister make available the official legal advice offered to him by Dr. Lloyd Barnett, Q.C. and Mr. Mark Strachan, Q.C. from Jamaica and the United Kingdom respectively on which his decision to have the President of the Republic establish a tribunal to investigate the conduct of the Chief Justice?
- B. Could the Prime Minister also provide the Senate with details of the legal costs and fees paid to both Dr. Lloyd Barnett, Q.C. and Mr. Mark Strachan, Q.C. for the said advice?

**\*Question No. 31 to the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

With respect to the recently concluded Economic Partnership agreement signed between the European Union and Cariforum, could the Minister:

- (i) state whether it is the intention of the Government to provide full disclosure of the agreement by having it tabled and debated in Parliament;
- (ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative could this Minister indicate when this would take place; and
- (iii) If the answer to (i) is in the negative, could the Minister explain the Government's rationale or reasons for not wishing to disclose the contents of the agreement?

**\*Question No. 34 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- A. Could the Minister of Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources provide the Senate with the rationale, if any, for the allocation and distribution of the 3000 acres of land cultivated with citrus located at Todd's Road?
- B. Could the Minister also state whether these lands were sub-divided and if so, by whom?
- C. Could the Minister further inform the Senate whether the final distribution and allocation exercise was approved by Cabinet and if so, when?

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\* Question No. 28 was deferred for one (1) week on 18.03.08 and for one (1) week on 01.04.08.

\* Question No. 31 was deferred for one week on 01.04.08

\* Question No. 34 was deferred for one (1) week on 01.04.08

**\*Question No. 42 to the Honourable Minister of Finance****(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Could the Minister state the measures, legislative or otherwise, the Government's intends to take to strengthen and support the Securities and Exchange Commission in its efforts to ensure that companies listed on the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange submit annual reports on a timely basis to allow shareholders to be better able to monitor and protect their investment.

**Question No. 43 to the Honourable Minister of National Security****(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Could the Minister inform the Senate whether the Government plans to fully implement a hi-tech, close-circuit television (CCTV) system in urban areas in Trinidad and Tobago to facilitate proper and timely policing in these areas?

**Question No. 44 to the Honourable Minister of Finance****(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (a) Could the Minister state whether the Government is aware that the value of the US dollar is on the decline in the global market?
- (b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, could the Minister advise the Senate of the effects of the decline on:
- (i) the foreign reserves of Trinidad and Tobago;
  - (ii) the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund, and
  - (iii) the foreign debt of Trinidad and Tobago.
- (c) Could the Minister also advise what steps the Government intend to take to protect the Trinidad and Tobago dollar?

**Question No. 45 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport****(By Senator Wade Mark)**

With respect to the ongoing United Nations Development Project for the computerization of the Licensing Office, could the Minister advise the Senate:

- (i) what is the status of this project;
- (ii) what was the sum of money allocated for this project;
- (iii) how much money, if any, has been spent on this project so far; and
- (iv) whether the project has been abandoned or is there a new completion date?

**Question No. 53 to the Honourable Attorney General****(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

- A. Could the Hon. Attorney General please inform this Senate whether there is a disparity in retirement benefits between Judges of the Industrial Court and that of similar officers of the regular Judiciary?

- B. If the answer is in the affirmative, could the Attorney General state what steps are being taken to rectify this discrepancy?

**Question No. 54 to the Honourable Minister of Health**

**(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

Could the Hon. Minister of Health advise this Senate whether the Government has any plans in place to underwrite the cost of medical treatment abroad for citizens suffering from diseases or injuries which cannot be treated locally?

**Question No. 55 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

**(By Senator Dr. Adesh Nanan)**

Would the Minister indicate a time frame for the Air Pollution Rules and the Hazardous Waste Rules to be laid in Parliament?

**Question No. 56 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

**(By Senator Dr. Adesh Nanan)**

Would the Minister indicate the advances made in the Meteorological Services Division from 2002 to present with respect to daily weather forecasting including storm tracking?

**Question No. 57 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

**(By Senator Dr. Adesh Nanan)**

Would the Minister give a status report on the Doppler Radar facility in the Central Range?

**Question No. 58 to the Honourable Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development**

**(By Senator Michael Annisette)**

What is the reason for the delay in bringing legislation for the Employee Injury and Disability Compensation before Parliament?

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) 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)**

- (ii) 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)**

- (iii) A Bill entitled “An Act to enable effect to be given to certain Conventions done at Geneva on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1949 and to the Protocols additional to those Conventions done at Geneva on 8<sup>th</sup> June, 1977 and for related purposes”

**(By the Minister of Foreign Affairs)**

- (iv) A Bill entitled “An Act to make provision for the transmission of advance passenger information respecting persons travelling to Trinidad and Tobago and for related matters”

**(By the Minister of National Security)**

- (v) A Bill entitled “An Act to amend the Retiring Allowances (Legislative Service) Act, Chap. 2:03

**(By the Attorney General)**

**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**  
**April 02, 2008**

**ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY APRIL 08, 2008**

**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

**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 so?

**(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. 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)****Question No. 50 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport****(By Senator Cindy D. Sharma)**

With respect to the new section of the Churchill Roosevelt Highway being constructed between Santa Rosa and Omera, could the Minister inform the Senate of the:

- a. initial time frame for its construction and how close it is to being completed?
- b. number of contracts that have been awarded during its construction?
- c. names of contractors that have been awarded contracts by the Ministry for its construction?
- d. amount of money estimated for its construction and the actual amount spent to date?

**(Answer due by 10.04.08)****Question No. 51 to the Honourable Minister of Social Development****(By Senator Cindy D. Sharma)**

- A. Would the Minister provide this Senate with the status of projects aimed at reintegrating and assisting children living on the streets?
- B. Could the Minister inform this Senate of the number of children that have benefited from these projects for the years 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007?

**(Answer due by 10.04.08)**

**Question No. 52 to the Honourable Attorney General**

**(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

- A. Could the Attorney General please inform this Senate
- i) How many Bills which have been duly debated and passed by Parliament since 2000 have remained unproclaimed?
  - ii) when such Bills will be proclaimed?
  - iii) why such Bills have not yet been proclaimed?
- B. Could the Minister also identify all unproclaimed Bills by name?

**(Answer due by 10.04.08)**

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

**April 02, 2008**