



**SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**ORDER PAPER**

**TWENTY-SECOND SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2007/2008), NINTH PARLIAMENT  
TUESDAY JUNE 17, 2008 AT 1:30 P.M.**

1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OF A NEW SENATOR
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE VICE-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. 83 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (a) With respect to the Housing Development Corporation's (HDC) housing units located at Olera Heights, Circular Road, San Fernando, could the Minister provide the Senate with a list of the names and addresses of all the successful applicants drawn by random computer selection;
- (b) the dates on which each successful application was made; and
- (c) the names of the successful applicants who received keys at a public ceremony in May, 2007?

**(Answer due by 04.07.08)**

**Question No. 84 to the Honourable Attorney General**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (a) Could the Attorney General provide the Senate with the names of the Government Ministries, State Enterprises (fully or partially owned), Statutory Bodies and/or Corporations which have engaged the services of the Law Firm Hobsons during the period January 01, 2006 to May 31, 2008; and
- (b) Could the Attorney General also provide the Senate with a breakdown of all the fees and/or sums of monies paid to the Law Firm Hobsons by each of the entities that engaged their services?

**(Answer due by 04.07.08)**

**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX**

**Questions for Oral Answer**

**\*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. 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. 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?

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\* 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, for one (1) week on 01.04.08, for one week on 08.04.08, for one (1) week on 15.04.08, for one (1) week on 22.04.08, for one (1) week on 29.04.08, for one (1) week on 06.05.08, for one (1) week on 13.05.08, for one (1) week on 20.05.08 and for one (1) week on 27.05.08.

\* Question No 26 was deferred for one (1) week on 11.03.08, for one (1) week on 18.03.08, for one (1) week on 01.04.08, for one (1) week on 08.04.08, for one (1) week on 15.04.08, for one (1) week on 22.04.08, for two (2) weeks on 29.04.08, for one (1) week on 13.05.08, two (2) weeks on 20.05.08 and for two weeks on 03.06.08.

\* Question No. 28 was deferred for one (1) week on 18.03.08, for one (1) week on 01.04.08, for (1) one week on 08.04.08, for one (1) week on 15.04.08, for one (1) week on 22.04.08, for one (1) week on 29.04.08, for one (1) week on 06.05.08, for one (1) week on 13.05.08, for one (1) week on 20.05.08, for one (1) week on 27.05.08. and for two (2) weeks on 03.06.08.

- 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. 34 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- A. Could the 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?

**\*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. 47 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (a) Could the Minister inform the Senate whether the government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has been able to access funding from the UNDP's programme for critical development and technical projects?
- (b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, could the Minister provide the Senate with a status report on the funding accessed from the programme during the last three (3) years?
- (c) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, could the Minister inform the Senate:
- (i) whether Trinidad and Tobago has graduated out of the programme; and
  - (ii) whether projects that could have been funded by the UNDP must now be financed by the Government?

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\* Question No. 34 was deferred for one (1) week on 01.04.08, for one (1) week on 08.04.08, for one (1) week on 15.04.08, for one (1) week on 22.04.08, for one (1) week on 29.04.08, for one (1) week on 06.05.08, for two (2) weeks on 13.05.08 and for three (3) weeks on 27.05.08.

\* Question No. 45 was deferred for one (1) week on 08.04.08, for three (3) weeks on 15.04.08, for one (1) week on 06.05.08, for one (1) week on 13.05.08, for one (1) week on 20.05.08, for one (1) week on 27.05.08 and for two (2) weeks on 03.06.08.

\* Question No. 47 was deferred for one (1) week on 15.04.08, for one (1) week on 22.04.08, for two (2) weeks on 29.04.08, for two (2) weeks on 13.05.08, for one (1) week on 27.05.08 and for two (2) weeks on 03.06.08.

**\*Question No. 74 to the Honourable Minister of Health****(Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

Could the Minister advise whether there exists any facility for traumatized individuals to access psychiatric treatment (mental health services) at any of our public health institutions?

If not, would the Government urgently consider providing such services?

**\*Question No. 75 to the Honourable Minister of Finance****(Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

- (i) Could the Minister state what role the private banking sector played in the slide of the TT dollar against the US dollar from \$5.75 to \$6.30 in the period 1991 to 2007?
- (ii) Could the Minister also state how did the private banking sector as well as the working population of Trinidad and Tobago benefit from the scenario at (1) above.

**Question No. 78 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport****(Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

Could the Minister state whether the Government intends to locate an airstrip in the Sea Lots area for small aircraft?

- 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 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)**


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\* Questions Nos. 74 and 75 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 03.06.08

- (ii) A Bill entitled “An Act to provide for the payment of compensation in respect of members of the Teaching Service who suffer injury or die in circumstances arising out of and in the course of employment with the State”.

**(By the Minister of Education)**

- (iii) A Bill entitled “An Act to establish the Trinidad and Tobago National Steel Symphony Orchestra Corporation and for matters incidental thereto.”

**(By the Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs)**

- (iv) A Bill entitled “An Act to prevent tobacco use by young people; enhance public awareness of the hazards of tobacco use and ensure that consumers are provided with information to make more fully informed decisions about using tobacco; protect individuals from exposure to tobacco smoke; prohibit or restrict promotional practices; prevent illegal conduct, including but not limited to smuggling; provide for regulation of tobacco products to mitigate against the harmful effects of tobacco; provide for sufficient regulatory flexibility to respond to new technological and scientific innovations and findings and to changes in consumer behaviours; create a national co-ordinating institution for tobacco control and provide for other related matters and purposes.”

**(By the Minister of Health)**

- (v) An Act to amend the Pensions Act, Chap. 23:52

**(By the Minister of Education)**

- (vi) An Act to regulate emergency ambulance services, to provide for the registration of emergency medical personnel in Trinidad and Tobago, for the establishment of a National Emergency Ambulance Authority and for matters connected therein.

**(By the Minister of Health)**

### PRIVATE BUSINESS

#### Motions:

- (i) **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)**

- (ii) **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)**

(iii) **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)**

(iv) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate condemn the Government for supporting Caribbean Airlines in its proposed acquisition of a private jet.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Senate demand of the Government the immediate cancellation of its decision and/or support to acquire a private jet.”

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

**Neil Jaggassar  
Clerk of the Senate**

Senate Secretariat  
The Red House  
PORT OF SPAIN

June 11, 2008

**ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY JUNE 17, 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. 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. 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. 66 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Could the Minister of Finance provide the Senate with details concerning Government's travel arrangements for the period January 2002 to April 15, 2008 in respect of the following specific matters:

- (i) the number of times that the Prime Minister and any other Government Officials travelled on the Guardian Holdings Limited Private Executive Jet;
- (ii) an outline of the various dates travelled;
- (iii) the various destinations;
- (iv) the quantum or value of money spent to date utilizing the services of Guardian Holdings Limited Private Executive Jet
- (v) The cost per hour for using the Guardian Holdings Limited Executive Private Jet?

**(Answer due by 16.05.08)**

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

**June 11, 2008**