



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

**ORDER PAPER**

**TWENTY-FOURTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2007/2008), NINTH PARLIAMENT  
TUESDAY JULY 01, 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. 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?

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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, for one (1) week on 27.05.08, for two (2) weeks on 03.06.08 and for two (2) weeks on 17.06.08.

**\*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. 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?

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\* 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, 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, for one (1) week on 20.05.08, for one (1) week on 27.05.08 and for three (3) weeks on 03.06.08.

\* Question No. 25 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 three (3) weeks on 29.04.08 and for three (3) weeks on 20.05.08.

\* 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, for two weeks on 03.06.08, for two (2) weeks on 17.06.08 and for three (3) weeks on 10.06.08 .

**\*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. 46 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport****(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (a) With respect to the Volvo manufactured articulated buses owned by the Public Transport Service Corporation, could the Minister inform the Senate who are the local agents for these buses?
- (b) Could the Minister also inform the Senate whether those agents have a workshop and spare parts facility in Trinidad?
- (c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, could the Minister state where this workshop and spare parts facility is located?

**\*Question No. 68 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport****(Senator Wade Mark)**

With respect to the numerous reports over the past seven (7) years of fraudulent activities at the offices of the Licensing Authority, particularly the Port-of-Spain office, could the Minister inform the Senate of the steps or measures taken by his Government to stamp out such illegal practices?

**\*Question No. 71 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport****(Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

Could the Minister provide the following information for the period January 01, 2002 to December 31, 2007:

- (i) how many vehicles have been registered for use on Trinidad and Tobago roads?
- (ii) of that number, how many are diesel powered?
- (iii) of the number that are diesel powered, how many have been registered as "P" vehicles for private use?

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\* 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, for two (2) weeks on 03.06.08 and for two (2) weeks on 17.06.08.

\* Question No. 46 was deferred 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 and for one (1) week on 27.05.08 and for three (3) weeks on 03.06.08.

\* Question No. 68 was deferred for one (1) week on 20.05.08, for one (1) week on 27.05.08 and for three (3) weeks on 03.06.08.

\* Question No. 71 was deferred for one (1) week on 27.05.08 and for three (3) 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. 76 to the Honourable Minister of Finance****(Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

- (i) Can the Minister explain the repeated shortages of US currency claimed by the private banking sector which obtains US currency from the Central Bank for trading?
- (ii) Why does the Government not make US currency directly available to the private sector from Central Bank to obviate this recurrent problem?

**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?

**Question No. 82 to the Honourable Minister of Finance****(Senator Basharat Ali)**

Could the Minister advise the Senate on the following:

- a. the amount of petroleum revenues deposited to the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund for each of the quarters ending December 31, 2007 and March 31, 2008 respectively in accordance with Sub-sections 13 (1) and 13(2) of the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund Act No.6 of 2007;
- b. the basis of such transfers, including but not limited to the average unit realized price of crude oil and natural gas and the amount of petroleum profits tax, supplemental petroleum tax and royalties collected in each quarter; and
- c. the unit price for crude oil and natural gas derived in accordance with Sub-section 13(3) of the Act?

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\* Questions Nos. 74 and 75 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 03.06.08 and for two (2) weeks on 17.06.08.

\* Question No. 76 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 10.06.08

\* Question No. 78 deferred for two (2) weeks on 17.06.08

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 June 17, 2008 will be resumed:**

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)**

- (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) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Monday June 23, 2008 will be resumed:**

**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 24, 2008**





**ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY JULY 01, 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. 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)**

**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)**

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

**June 24 2008**