



# SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

## ORDER PAPER

THIRTIETH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2007/2008), NINTH PARLIAMENT  
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 09, 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 Siparia Regional Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2000.  
**(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)**
  - (ii) Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Couva-Tabaquite-Talparo Regional Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2002.  
**(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)**
  - (iii) Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Couva-Tabaquite-Talparo Regional Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2003.  
**(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)**
  - (iv) Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Couva-Tabaquite-Talparo Regional Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2004.  
**(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)**
  - (v) Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Environmental Management Authority –Environmental Trust Fund for the year ended September 30, 2007.  
**(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)**
  - (vi) Annual Audited Financial Statements of Government Human Resource Services Company Limited for the period ended September 30, 2007.  
**(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)**

- (vii) Annual Audited Financial Statements of the National Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited for the years ended December 1999 to December 31, 2006.

**(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)**

- (viii) Annual Audited Financial Statements of Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Limited for the year ended March 31, 2008.

**(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)**

- (ix) MLC Maritime Labour Convention, 2006

**(By the Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development)**

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. 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?
- 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?

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\* 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, for three (3) weeks on 10.06.08, for one (1) week on 01.07.08 for one (1) week on 08.07.08, for one (1) week on 15.07.08, for one (1) week on 22.07.08, for one (1) day on 29.07.08. and for one (1) day on 30.07.08.

\* 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, for two (2) weeks on 03.06.08, for two (2) weeks on 17.06.08, for one (1) week on 01.07.08, for one (1) week on 08.07.08 and for two (2) weeks on 08.07.08.

**\*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?

**\*Question No. 86 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

**(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

Could the Minister state:

- (i) the total cost of repairs to the breakfast shed since commissioning; and
- (ii) the reason(s) for such repairs being undertaken so soon after the opening of the facility?

**\*Question No. 87 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

**(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

- a. Would the Minister indicate to this Senate whether the works being undertaken at the Prime Minister's residence are repairs, renovations or additions?
- b. If the works are repairs or renovations, would the Minister inform this Senate of their nature and cost?
- c. State whether there is one or more than one contractor?
- d. If the works are additions, would the Minister indicate whether these additions were in the original design?

**\*Question No. 88 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

**(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

- a. Would the Minister inform this Senate of the status of the Presidential suites proposed for the Trinidad Hilton?
- b. If the suites would no longer be constructed, could the Minister inform this Senate of any alternative arrangements being made for Heads of Government and other dignitaries?
- c. If alternative arrangements are being made, would the Minister state whether it is the Government's intention to bring these plans to Parliament prior to their execution?

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\* 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, for three (3) weeks on 03.06.08, for one (1) week on 01.07.08, for two weeks on 08.07.08 and for one (1) week on 22.07.08.

\* Questions Nos. 86 and 87 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 29.07.08.

\* Question No 88 was deferred for two weeks on 30.07.08.

**\*Question No. 89 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

**(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

Would the Minister inform this Senate:

- a. of the present status of the proposed hotel at the Centre for the Performing Arts?
- b. the expected date of completion?
- c. when will Parliament be informed of building details?

**\*Question No. 90 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

**(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

Would the Minister inform this Senate:

- (i) of the expected conclusion date of the joint exercise by Army and Police in Richplain, Diego Martin;
- (ii) whether the Ministry of National Security plans to establish a police post in the area?

**Question No. 91 to the Honourable Minister of Health**

**(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

- a. Would the Minister state the final estimated cost of the Scarborough Hospital?
- b. Would the Minister also indicate whether the Hospital will be completed on the original site or relocated?

**Question No. 92 to the Honourable Minister of Social Development**

**(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

Would the Minister state whether Government plans to raise the eligibility ceiling for Pensions to equal the personal tax allowance?

**Question No. 93 to the Honourable Minister of Social Development**

**(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)**

- a. Could the Minister inform this Senate whether the Government would make Old Age Grant available to citizens by bank transfer as well as through mail?
- b. Could the Minister also indicate whether the Government would permit life certification to be done by Medical certificate for periods of two years, with personal appearance every other year?

**Question No. 100 to the Honourable Minister of Education**

**(By Senator Cindy Devika Sharma)**

Could the Minister inform the Senate of the current status of the teachers' substitute programme?

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\* Questions Nos. 89 and 90 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 30.07.08

**Question No. 101 to the Honourable Minister of National Security****(By Senator Cindy Devika Sharma)**

With respect to the construction of the new Sangre Grande Fire Station, could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (i) the overall cost of construction;
- (ii) the expected dates of completion and official opening; and
- (iii) the number of fire engines expected to be housed at the station?

**Question No. 103 to the Honourable Minister of Energy and Energy Industries****(By Senator Cindy Devika Sharma)**

With respect to the destruction of land through unauthorised quarrying activities, could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (i) the existing plans, if any, for reclaiming these lands;
- (ii) the acreage of land already reclaimed by the Ministry;
- (iii) the estimated acreage of lands affected by unauthorised quarrying activities as at July 2008; and
- (iv) the estimated acreage of lands approved by Government for authorized quarrying activities as at July, 2008?

**Question No. 104 to the Honourable Minister of Finance****(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Could the Minister inform the Senate of the details of the new fuel hedge arrangement for Caribbean Airlines?

**Question No. 105 to the Honourable Minister of Planning Housing and the Environment****(By Senator Wade Mark)**

With respect to the Urban Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago securing US\$375 Million. funding on the US Private Placement Market to finance the Port of Spain Waterfront Project, could the Minister advise this Senate:

- (i) the number of investors involved;
- (ii) the names of the companies/investors involved;
- (iii) the terms of the loan, inclusive of interest rates, period of the loan, terms of repayment and currency of the loan; and
- (iv) what security or guarantee was provided?

**Question No. 106 to the Honourable Minister of Planning Housing and the Environment****(By Senator Wade Mark)**

With respect to the loan secured by UDeCOTT on the US Market for the Port of Spain Waterfront Project, could the Minister inform the Senate:

- (i) why was the borrower UDeCOTT and not the Government of Trinidad and Tobago;
  - (ii) what is the net revenue of UDeCOTT from which repayment installments can be made; and
  - (iii) whether the loan was the subject of several or a single offer of financing and the conditions for accepting the offer?
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**

#### **Motions:**

- (i) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 3(1) of the Development Loans Act, that the Government is authorized, inter alia, for the purposes of financing general development in Trinidad and Tobago or repayment of borrowings effected for general development, inter alia, by a statutory authority within the meaning of the Statutory Authorities Act, Chap. 24:01 or by an enterprise that is controlled by or on behalf of the State, from time to time to borrow money externally or internally in a sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate thirteen thousand million dollars in the currency of Trinidad and Tobago and thereafter such sum in such currency as may from time to time be specified by resolution passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives;

**AND WHEREAS** it is necessary for the Government to borrow further sums of money for the purposes stated in the said section;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that for the purposes stated in the said section, the Government is hereby authorized to borrow money externally or internally in a further sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate seven thousand million dollars in the currency of Trinidad and Tobago.

**(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)**

#### **Bills Second Reading:**

- (i) A Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Bail Act, Chap. 4:60."

**(By the Attorney General)**

- (ii) A Bill entitled “An Act to amend the Pensions Act, Chap. 23:52”.  
**(By the Minister of Public Administration)**
- (iii) A Bill entitled “An Act to amend the Teachers’ Pensions Act Chap. 39:02”  
**(By the Minister of Public Administration)**
- (iv) A Bill entitled “An Act to amend the Assisted Secondary School Teachers’ Pensions Act, Chap. 39:03”.  
**(By the Minister of Public Administration)**
- (v) 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)**
- (vi) A Bill entitled “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)**
- (vii) 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)**

### PRIVATE BUSINESS

#### Motions:

- (i) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate annul the Regional Health Authorities (Conduct) Regulations, 2008.  
**(By Senator Wade Mark)**
- (ii) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday July 22, 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)**

- (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)**

**Neil Jaggassar  
Clerk of the Senate**

**Senate Secretariat  
The Red House  
PORT OF SPAIN  
September 03, 2008**



**ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 09, 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. 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. 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)**

**Question No. 97 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**

**(By Senator Dr. Jennifer Kernahan)**

- A. Could the Minister provide the Senate with a detailed list (including of book values) of the assets owned by Caroni (1975) Ltd. at the beginning of 2003?
- B. Could the Minister also provide a detailed list (including of book values) of all the assets owned by the company at present?
- C. With respect to disposal of assets by the Company, could the Minister state:
  - (i) the name(s) of the person(s) or company to which the asset has been disposed/vested;
  - (ii) the disposal procedure used;
  - (iii) the price at which the asset was sold and the profit realized, where appropriate.

**(Answer due by 06.08.08)**

**Question No. 98 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources**

**(By Senator Dr. Jennifer Kernahan)**

- A. With respect to Fishery Landing Sites in Trinidad, could the Minister inform the Senate of:
  - (i) the location of all Landing Sites; and
  - (ii) the status regarding Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) inspection certification for each site?
- B. With regard to fishermen, companies or cooperatives at landing sites, could the Minister state:
  - (i) the value of equipment provided by the Ministry, used by each category at each site;
  - (ii) the average tonnage, by space of catch landed by each site for the period 2002-2007;

- (iii) the value of the yearly total catch by each category at each site for 2002 - 2007;
- (iv) the average tonnage and value of catch exported per site per annum for the years 2002 to 2007;
- (v) the average tonnage and value of catch sold on the local market per annum for the period 2002 to 2007.

**(Answer due by 06.08.08)**

**Question No. 99 to the Honourable Minister of Education**

**(By Senator Cindy Devika Sharma)**

- A. Could the Minister inform the Senate of all the Secondary Schools that were constructed and in operation during the period 2002 to July 2008?
- B. Could the Minister also name the Educational District to which each School belong and state the student population of each of these schools?

**(Answer due by 16.08.08)**

**Question No. 102 to the Honourable Minister of Social Development**

**(By Senator Cindy Devika Sharma)**

With respect to the National Plan of Action for Children aimed at establishing nutrition drop-in centres in cities and main towns for homeless and street children, would the Minister indicate to the Senate:

- (i) the total number of centres established as at July 2008?
- (ii) the locations of these centres; and
- (iii) the number of persons who have benefited from the operation of these centres as at July 2008.?

**(Answer due by 16.08.08)**

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

**September 03, 2008**