



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

THIRTY-SEVENTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2007/2008), NINTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY OCTOBER 21, 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 Provident Fund for the year ended September 30, 2006.
(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 Provident Fund for the year ended September 30, 2007.
(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 Strategic Services Agency for the year ended September 30, 2002.
(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)
 - (iv) A White Paper - A Policy Framework for the Expanded Role of the Nurse – The Establishment of Advance Practice Nurses in Trinidad and Tobago 2007.
(By the Minister of Health)
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. 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. 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 Trade and Industry**

(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?

***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. 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, for two (2) weeks on 22.07.08 for two (2) weeks on 09.09.08 and for two (2) weeks on 23.09.08.

* Question No. 87 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 29.07.08, for two (2) weeks on 09.09.08 and for two (2) weeks on 23.09.08..

* Question No. 88 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 30.07.08, for two (2) weeks on 09.09.08 and for two (2) weeks on 23.09.08.

* Question No. 92 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 09.09.08 and for two (2) weeks on 23.09.08.

***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. 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. 93 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 09.09.08 and for two (2) weeks on 23.09.08.

* Question No. 103 was deferred for one (1) week on 09.09.08 and for three (3) weeks on 16.09.08

* Question No. 104 was deferred for one (1) week on 09.09.08 and for two weeks on 16.09.08

* Question No. 105 was deferred for one (1) week on 09.09.08 and for three (3) weeks on 16.09.08.

***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?

***Question No. 107 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 state:

- (i) who were the agent(s) of the loan for both the borrower and lender(s) ; and
- (ii) what was the commission and/or fees paid on the transaction to these agents?

- 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 amend the Pensions Act, Chap. 23:52”.

(By the Minister of Public Administration)

* Question No. 106 was deferred for one (1) week on 09.09.08 and for three (3) weeks on 16.09.08.

* Question No. 107 was deferred for three (3) weeks on 16.09.08.

- (ii) A Bill entitled “An Act to amend the Teachers’ Pensions Act Chap. 39:02”
(By the Minister of Public Administration)
- (iii) A Bill entitled “An Act to amend the Assisted Secondary School Teachers’ Pensions Act, Chap. 39:03”.
(By the Minister of Public Administration)
- (iv) 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)
- (v) 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)
- (vi) 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)
- (vii) A Bill entitled “An Act to amend the Prison Service Act, Chap. 13:02
(By the Minister of National Security)
- (viii) A Bill entitled “An Act to amend the Income Tax Act, Chap. 75:01
(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **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)

- (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
October 13, 2008

ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY OCTOBER 21, 2008

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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. 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**

October 13, 2008