



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**ORDER PAPER**

NINETEENTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2009), NINTH PARLIAMENT  
TUESDAY JUNE 09, 2009 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) Audited Financial Statements of the University Students' Guarantee Loan Fund for the year ended December 31, 2007.  
**(By the Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education)**
  - (ii) The International Child Abduction Order, 2009.  
**(By the Minister of Foreign Affairs)**
7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES
8. QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

**NEW QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

**Question No. 148 to the Honourable Minister of Education**

**(By Senator Dr. Sharon-ann Gopaul-McNicol)**

Could the Minister provide the Senate with the details, inclusive of the names of the schools and the number of students from each Senior Secondary School throughout Trinidad and Tobago, who have received a full certificate in the CXC examinations for the academic years 2006-2007; 2007-2008 and 2008-2009?

**(Answer due by 30.06.09)**

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

## **Questions for Oral Answer**

### **\*Question No. 15 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Could the Minister inform this Senate of the date for the full enforcement of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act with specific reference to the introduction of the Breathalyzer?

### **\*Question No. 40 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

With respect to the construction of the National Academies of Performing Arts in Port-of-Spain and San Fernando, could the Minister provide the Senate with:

- (a) a detailed status report on the Construction of the National Academies of Performing Arts;
- (b) the original estimated cost of construction of the National Academies;
- (c) the initial projected completion dates for both Academies;
- (d) the current estimated cost and new projected cost of the construction of the Academies; and
- (e) the new projected completion dates for the National Academies?

### **\*Question No. 73 to the Honourable Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (a) Is the Minister aware that workers who have contracted the HIV virus are victims of blatant discrimination at the work place?
- (b) Could the Minister state if it is the intention of his government to introduce legislation to make it illegal for victims of the HIV virus to be discriminated against and, if so, when?

### **Question No. 84 to the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

With respect to the present global and regional economic crisis, could the Minister inform the Senate of the likely short and medium term impact on the manufacturing sector as it relates to:

- (i) the size of the sector; and
- (ii) the employment level?

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\* Question No. 15 was deferred for (2) weeks on 03.03.09, for two (2) weeks on 17.03.09, for two (2) weeks on 07.04.09, for three (3) weeks on 28.04.09 and for three (3) weeks on 19.05.09.

\* Question No. 40 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 05.05.09 and for three (3) weeks on 19.05.09.

\* Question No.73 was deferred for three (3) weeks on 19.05.09.

**\*Question No. 90 to the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry**

**(By Senator Gail Merhair)**

With respect to the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) signed on October 15, 2008, could the Minister provide the Senate with a status report on the implementation process as at March 31, 2009?

**Question No. 105 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

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

- A. Would the Minister indicate to the Senate any cost overruns on the Maqueripe beach upgrade?
- B. Would the Minister also state if there was planning approval for the said beach upgrade?

**Question No. 106 to the Honourable Minister of Science Technology and Tertiary Education**

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

- A. Would the Minister indicate to the Senate what is the scheduled completion date for the Institute of Marine Affairs building at Chaguaramas?
- B. Would the Minister also state if there have been any cost overruns on this project and if so, could the Minister state the amount?

**Question No. 107 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

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

Would the Minister indicate to the Senate the timeframe for the Oily and Hazardous Waste Rules to be laid in Parliament?

**\*Question No. 126 to the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**(By Senator Gail Merhair)**

With respect to the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), could the Minister advise the Senate of:

- (i) the benefits this country derives from its membership in the Association; and
- (ii) the benefits derived by this country by hosting the Secretariat of the ACS?

**Question No. 131 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**

**(By Senator Gail Merhair)**

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate whether the Government is in the process of developing a policy framework to recover the outstanding balance of \$9,562,355.22 in overpayment by various Ministries for the period 2007/2008?

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\* Question No. 90 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 19.05.09 and for one (1) week on 02.06.09.

\* Question No. 126 was deferred for one (1) week on 19.05.09 and for two (2) weeks on 26.05.09

**Question No. 134 to the Honourable Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs**

**(By Senator Gail Merhair)**

Could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (i) the date of Cabinet's approval with respect to increased stipends to trainees at the Youth Development Center; and
- (ii) the commencement date of the payment of increased stipends to these trainees?

**Question No. 136 to the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry**

**(By Senator Gail Merhair)**

Could the Minister state whether the Ministry of Trade and Industry adhered to the guidelines outlined by the Chief Personnel Officer with respect to the engagement of persons on contract during the period 2007/2008?

**Question No. 143 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources**

**(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)**

- A. Could the Minister inform the Senate what programmes have been instituted or proposed to establish cold storage facilities at the major fishing areas in Trinidad and Tobago, namely: Cedros, Oropouche, Mayaro, Carli Bay, Claxton Bay, Waterloo, Las Cuevas, Blanchisseuse, Erin and Moruga for the period of January 2007 to March, 2009?
- B. Could the Minister further inform the Senate what facilities, equipment and infrastructure namely: secured boat storage facilities, washrooms, jetty construction, engine repair centres and fish-sale area that have been established or proposed for use by fishermen in these communities during the said period?

**Question No. 144 to the Honourable Minister of Health**

**(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)**

Could the Minister inform the Senate whether there are any plans, proposals or approvals for the establishment of a Burns Unit and/or a Trauma Center at each, or any, of the various industrial and energy sites in Trinidad including, but not limited to, Point Fortin, Forest Reserve, Penal, Galeota, Pointe-a-Pierre and Pt. Lisas within the next two years?

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) **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House approve the decision of the President to acquire the lands described in Appendix II to the Order Paper for the public purposes specified.  
**(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources)**

#### Bills Second Reading:

- (i) 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)**
- (ii) **The debate on the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday May 19, 2009 will be resumed:**  
A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Integrity in Public Life Act, Chap. 22:01”.  
**(By the Attorney General)**
- (iii) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, Chap. 4:01”.  
**(By the Attorney General)**
- (iv) A Bill entitled, “An Act to vest jurisdiction for all family matters and juvenile matters in a Division of the High Court to be called the Family Court and to make provision for matters connected therewith.”  
**(By the Attorney General)**
- (v) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Evidence Act, Chap 7:02”  
**(By the Attorney General)**
- (vi) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Evidence Act, Chap. 7:02”  
**(By the Attorney General)**

### PRIVATE BUSINESS

#### Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday May 26, 2009 will be resumed:**

**WHEREAS** the operations of the Water and Sewerage Authority are vital and indispensable to the good health and welfare of the people of Trinidad and Tobago;

**AND WHEREAS** the Water and Sewerage Authority and its functions are provided for by Parliament;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that government take all the necessary steps to ensure that the sewerage function of the Authority remain entirely and solely the responsibility of the Water and Sewerage Authority as provided for in law.

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

- (ii) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago take immediate steps to give effect to proposals of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) through appropriate legislation and administrative action in respect of statistical reporting of oil, gas and mining revenue payments made to the government of Trinidad and Tobago by the various companies involved in the exploitation of our natural resources in order to promote energy revenue transparency which has been deemed a non-partisan issue by EITI.

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (iii) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate call on the government of Trinidad and Tobago to root out all corrupt practices in the management of the public purse;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that individuals found engaging in such activities be subjected to swift and compelling justice;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Senate call on the government to take immediate steps to effect legislation dealing with public procurement practices and standards in Trinidad and Tobago.

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (iv) **WHEREAS** it is the role of the Parliament to oversee and scrutinize the actions of the Executive arm of the State;

**AND WHEREAS** Parliament has established a number of mechanisms to give effect to its role;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate call on the government to promote standards of good governance by permitting the Parliament and its Committees to function efficiently and effectively.

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (v) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Minister of Finance be afforded the financial, technical and human resources by the government to join in the fight against drug trafficking and other crimes involving large financial transactions being conducted in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago?

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

- (vi) **WHEREAS** Trinidad and Tobago has been a signatory of the ILO and its conventions, recommendations and standards for a number of years;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the government take immediate actions to respond to all request by the ILO to give effect to all the Conventions, Recommendations and Standards to which Trinidad and Tobago is a signatory.

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

(vii) **WHEREAS** child mortality is a sensitive indication of a country's state and pace of development;

**AND WHEREAS** child mortality is critical evidence of basic priorities and core values of a country's administration;

**AND WHEREAS** the health and well-being of children and their mothers is not only a human rights imperative, but a sound economic decision in order to assure the country's future;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Government drastically increase meaningful investment in the health and well-being of children and their mothers.

**(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)**

### **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

#### **Motions:**

- (i) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate adopt the Report of the Special Select Committee of the Senate appointed to consider and report on a Bill entitled, "The Emergency Ambulance Services and Emergency Medical Personnel Bill, 2009".

**(By the Minister of Health)**

- (ii) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate adopt the First Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Bills entitled "An Act to provide for the protection of personal privacy and information" and "An Act to give legal effect to electronic documents, records and signatures."

**(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources)**

Neil Jaggassar  
**Clerk of the Senate**

**Senate Secretariat  
The Red House  
PORT OF SPAIN  
June 03, 2009**





ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY JUNE 09, 2009

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 29 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources

**(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)**

Could the Minister inform the Senate of the Ministry's programmes, in the different geographical regions of Trinidad and Tobago specifically geared to the planting, harvesting, processing and marketing of cocoa to regional and international markets?

**(Answer due by 17.04.09)**

Question No. 32 to the Honourable Minister of Tourism

**(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)**

With respect to the Ministry's budgetary allocation for the years 2003 to 2008, could the Minister inform the Senate what sums of money were used directly or indirectly to promote the following non-carnival festivals:

- (i) Eid-ul-Fitr
- (ii) Divali,
- (iii) Shouter Baptist Liberation Day,
- (iv) Santa Rosa Festival,
- (v) Shiv Ratri,
- (vi) Eid-ul Adha; and
- (vii) other festivals of a similar religious/cultural base?

**(Answer due by 17.04.09)**

Question No. 33 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs

**(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)**

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate what sums of money were provided by the Ministry to assist with activities of each of the following religious/cultural festivals - Divali, Shouter Baptist Liberation Day, Eid-ul-Fitr, Hosay, Santa Rosa Festival and Phagwa for the years 2003-2008?

**(Answer due by 17.04.09)**

Question No. 34 to the Honourable Minister of Health

**(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)**

Could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (i) the number of beds purchased and allocated to each hospital in Trinidad and Tobago for the period 2003-2008?
- (ii) the number of beds occupied in hospitals throughout Trinidad and Tobago;

- (iii) the existing hospital bed capacity per population ratio;
- (iv) the formula /criteria used in determining the bed per population ratio for the years 2003-2008;
- (v) any proposed increase in the number of hospital beds in 2009; and
- (vi) the proposed allocation of these beds to hospitals throughout Trinidad and Tobago?

**(Answer due by 17.04.09)**

**Question No. 60 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

With respect to local and foreign consultants employed in each Government Department, Ministry or Agency controlled by the State or any State Enterprise, could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (a) the total number of consultants employed;
- (b) the name of each consultant and the specific areas/projects that each consultant is advising the government on;
- (c) the exact duration of each of these contracts;
- (d) the cost of the services of each consultant?

**(Answer due by 13.05.09)**

**Question No. 62 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Could the Honourable Minister state what are the annual interest rates used in determining the country's debt service projections?

**(Answer due by 13.05.09)**

**Question No. 63 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

- (i) the amount of money borrowed directly by the State from both foreign and local sources during the period January 2007 to March 31, 2009;
- (ii) the specific purposes for which the money was borrowed;
- (iii) the specific rate of interest charged on each of these loans; and
- (iv) the levels of borrowing planned for the next four years and their precise allocation in respect of development programmes and projects?

**(Answer due by 13.05.09)**

**Question No. 64 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (A) Could the Minister outline in detail the various assets being held in her capacity as Corporation Sole on behalf of the People of Trinidad and Tobago?

- (B) Could the Minister also state the estimated value of these assets?
- (C) Could the Minister further give a breakdown of any changes on the portfolio of assets on a year-to-year basis over the period January 2007 – March 31, 2009?

**(Answer due by 13.05.09)**

**Question No. 65 to the Honourable Prime Minister**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Could the Prime Minister provide the Senate with the following information:-

- (a) the number of official overseas trips each Minister of Government, including the Prime Minister, has taken since January 2007 to March 31, 2009;
- (b) the exact reason/nature and duration of each Minister's visit abroad; and
- (c) the cost of each trip including airfares, advanced allowances, and hotel accommodation?

**(Answer due by 13.05.09)**

**Question No. 79 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (a) Could the Minister provide the Senate with:
  - (i) the names of all the contractors engaged by WASA for the period January 2007 to March 31, 2009;
  - (ii) the exact nature of works these contractors have been engaged to perform; and
  - (iii) the duration of these contracts and the financial value of each contract?
- (b) Could the Minister further state:
  - (i) how many contractors have been paid to date;
  - (ii) how many contractors have not been paid and exactly when would they be paid?

**(Answer due by 13.05.09)**

**Question No. 82 to the Honourable Minister of Public Administration**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (a) Could the Minister state whether the Public Service is over-staffed or under-staffed, and if so, by how many and in which categories?
- (b) Could the Minister further state in precise and definite terms the current size of trained professional personnel in the Public Service and their respective categories?
- (c) Could the Minister also advise the Senate of the precise size in terms of numbers on the establishment of the Public Service in respect of the following categories:-
  - (i) Civil Servants
  - (ii) Fire Officers,
  - (iii) Prison Officers,
  - (iv) Police Officers,
  - (v) Teachers,

Defence Force Personnel both in the Regiment and the Coast Guard inclusive of the Air Guard.

**(Answer due by 13.05.09)**

**Question No. 101 to the Honourable Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

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

Would the Minister provide the Senate with a detailed list of all the projects undertaken by the Government that are utilizing renewable energy sources for the period January 01, 2007 to March 31, 2009?

**(Answer due by 13.05.09)**

**Question No. 130 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**

**(By Senator Gail Merhair)**

Could the Minister provide the Senate with the terms and conditions of agreements signed by thirty-two (32) persons employed on contract in the Ministry of Finance for the year 2007/2008, but which were not submitted to the Auditor General's Department as reported at item 2.34 on Page 103 of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2007/2008?

**(Answer due by 09.06.09)**

**Question No. 132 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources**

**(By Senator Gail Merhair)**

With respect to motor vehicles under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, could the Minister provide this Senate with:

- (i) a list of all motor vehicles on its Register; and
- (ii) the purposes for which the vehicles are assigned?

**(Answer due by 09.06.09)**

**Question No. 133 to the Honourable Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

**(By Senator Gail Merhair)**

With respect to persons employed on contract in the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries, could the Minister provide the Senate with:

- (i) a list of contracted employees for the period 2007/2008;
- (ii) the terms and conditions of employment; and
- (iii) the salaries of each of these officers?

**(Answer due by 09.06.09)**

**Question No. 135 to the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs**

**(By Senator Gail Merhair)**

Could the Minister provide the Senate with a list of the items bought and disposed of by the Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in Geneva during the period 2007/2008?

**(Answer due by 09.06.09)**



**APPENDIX II**

<b>DESCRIPTION OF LAND</b>	<b>PUBLIC PURPOSES FOR WHICH TO BE ACQUIRED</b>
<p>1. A parcel of land comprising 4,9698 square hectares more or less, situate at Adelphi Road, Mason Hall in the Parish of St. George, in the Ward of Tobago and described in the Schedule and coloured raw sienna on a plan of survey signed by the Director of Surveys and dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2001 and filed in his office, is required for a public purpose: Construction of the Mason Hall Secondary School.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SCHEDULE</u></b></p> <p>The parcel of land comprising 4,9698 square hectares more or less, situate at Adelphi Road, Mason Hall in the Parish of St. George, in the Ward of Tobago and said to belong now or formerly to Adelphi Estates.</p> <p>This parcel of land is more particularly shown coloured raw sienna on a Survey Plan issued under Survey Order 86/91 and signed by the Director of Surveys on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2001 and filed in Book 1243 as Folio 45, in the Vault of the Lands and Surveys Division, Old General Post Office Building, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain.</p>	<p>Construction of the Mason Hall Secondary School</p>

**Senate Secretariat  
The Red House  
PORT OF SPAIN  
June 03, 2009**