



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

THIRTIETH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2009), NINTH PARLIAMENT
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 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) The Administrative Report of the Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited for the period 1st October, 2007 to 30th September, 2008

(By the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries)
 - (ii) The Administrative Report of the Ministry of Planning, Housing and the Environment for fiscal year 2007 to 2008.

(By the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment)
7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES
8. QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Questions for Oral Answer

*Question No. 13 to the Honourable Attorney General

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the judgment in the matter involving the challenge by the Prime Minister, Honourable Patrick Manning of the Crossing of the Floor Act relating to Dr. Rupert Griffith and Dr. Vincent Lasse, could the Attorney General inform this Senate of the status of the debt incurred by him?

* Question No. 13 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 17.02.09, for two weeks on 03.03.09, for two (2) weeks on 17.03.09, for two (2) weeks on 07.04.09, for two (2) weeks on 28.04.09, for two (2) weeks on 12.05.09 for one (1) week on 26.05.09, for two (2) weeks on 02.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 16.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 30.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 14.07.09 and for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09.

***Question No. 36 to the Honourable Attorney General**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Attorney General outline to the Senate the system of monitoring that is in place in respect of assessing and evaluating the performance of the nation's judges?

***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. 47 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**

(By Senator Mohammed Faisal Rahman)

Could the Minister provide the Senate with a detailed account of the cost of renting the two cruise ships to be used as floating hotels for the forthcoming Summit of the Americas?

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

(By Senator Dr. Adesh Nanan)

- A. Would the Minister indicate to the Senate whether all primary schools in Trinidad and Tobago have received the June 2008 National Test results?
- B. If the answer to (A) is in the negative, could the Minister inform the Senate of the reason(s) for the delay?

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

(By Senator Dr. Adesh Nanan)

* Question No. 36 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 28.04.09, for two (2) weeks on 12.05.09, for one (1) week on 26.05.09, for two (2) weeks on 02.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 16.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 30.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 14.07.09 and for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09.

* Question No. 40 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 05.05.09 for three (3) weeks on 19.05.09, for three (3) weeks on 09.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 30.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 14.07.09 and for three (3) weeks on 28.07.09.

* Question No. 47 was deferred for one (1) week on 12.05.09, for two (2) weeks on 19.05.09, for two (2) weeks on 02.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 16.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 30.06.09, one (1) week on 14.07.09 and for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09.

* Question No.91 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 12.05.09, for one (1) week on 26.05.09, for two (2) weeks on 02.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 16.06.09, for one (1) week on 30.06.09, for one (1) week on 07.07.09, one (1) week on 14.07.09 and for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09.

* Question No. 105 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 09.06.09 and for two (2) weeks on 23.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 07.07.09 and for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09.

- 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. 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. 137 to the Honourable Minister of Information**

(By Senator Gail Merhair)

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate whether it is the Government's intention to take steps to protect customers from the unsatisfactory service provided by Columbus Communications Trinidad Limited?

***Question No. 141 to the Honourable Minister of Information**

(By Senator Gail Merhair)

With respect to item 2.72 under Head 57-Ministry of Information at Page 110 of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2007/2008, could the Minister inform the Senate:

- (i) what is the address of the Property located in Port of Spain for which \$138,000.00 was paid in rent during the period December 18, 2007 to September 30, 2008; and
- (ii) whether the property was ever occupied during that period?

***Question No. 145 to the Honourable Minister of Social Development**

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

With respect to the hosting of the 5th Summit of the Americas and the removal of homeless persons off the street, could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (i) the number of homeless persons removed from the street;
- (ii) the cost of removing these homeless persons off the street; and
- (iii) the number of homeless persons who have since returned to the streets at the conclusion of the Summit on April 19, 2009?

* Question No. 126 was deferred for one (1) week on 19.05.09, for two (2) weeks on 26.05.09, for two (2) weeks on 09.06.09, for three (3) weeks on 23.06.09 and for three (3) weeks on 14.07.09.

* Question No. 137 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 16.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 30.06.09 and for three (3) weeks on 14.07.09.

* Question No. 141 was deferred for one (1) week on 23.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 30.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 14.07.09 and for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09.

* Question No. 145 was deferred for one (1) week on 23.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 30.06.09 and for three (3) weeks on 14.07.09.

***Question No. 146 to the Honourable Minister of Social Development**

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

Could the Minister provide the Senate with the details of funds allocated to each category of disabled persons for fiscal years 2006-2007; 2007-2008 and 2008-2009?

***Question No. 147 to the Honourable Minister of Education**

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

With respect to students who have dropped out of high school during the academic years 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

- (i) the total school population for each academic year;
- (ii) the percentage of students that have dropped out in each academic year; and
- (iii) the name of each school, total student population and number of students that have dropped out in each academic year?

***Question No. 150 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

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

- A. With respect to gang violence in Trinidad and Tobago, could the minister provide the Senate with the details of the model being used to combat the problem; and
- B. Could the Minister also provide the Senate with any evidence of the success of the model being used in other countries, particularly in the Caribbean, Britain, United States of America and Canada?

***Question No. 151 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources**

(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)

- A. Could the Minister indicate to the Senate the measures which have been put in place, implemented or proposed to stop the spread of the “red mite” disease that has plagued coconut producing areas in Trinidad, and in particular the South West Peninsula of Cedros and Icacos since 2005;
- B. Could the Minister also indicate the extent of the devastation in financial and non-financial terms of the “red mite” to coconut, bananas and ginger producers of Trinidad and Tobago?

***Question No. 152 to the Honourable Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs**

(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

* Questions Nos. 146 and 147 were deferred for one (1) week on 23.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 30.06.09 and for three (3) weeks on 14.07.09.

* Question No. 150 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 30.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 14.07.09 and for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09.

* Questions No. 151, was deferred for one (1) week on 23.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 30.06.09, one (1) week on 14.07.09 and for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09

Questions No. 152 was deferred for one (1) week on 23.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 30.06.09 and three (3) weeks on 14.07.09

- (i) the number and geographical locations of full service recreational facilities, that is, facilities containing jogging/field track, covered bleachers, washrooms, children's park, full lighting and secured perimeters which are either operational or proposed in Trinidad and Tobago since 2006;
- (ii) the number and location of such recreational facilities that currently exist in Central and South Trinidad;
- (iii) the rationale used to determine rural/urban need of full service recreational facilities in Trinidad and Tobago since 2006?

***Question No. 153 to the Honourable Minister of Health**

(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)

Could the Minister indicate to this Senate:

- (i) the current value of the Health Surcharge contribution to the National Treasury since 2006; and
- (ii) the ways in which the Health Surcharge has been used to improve health care in Trinidad and Tobago since 2006?

***Question No. 161 to the Honourable Attorney General**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Attorney General outline to the Senate for the period January 01, 2008 to May 31, 2009:

- (i) the names of the various private law firms and/or Attorneys-at-Law who have been contracted by his office to perform legal drafting duties for or on behalf of the Office of Chief Parliamentary Counsel;
- (ii) the number of contracts issued or entered into between the parties and the detailed character of these contracts; and
- (iii) a breakdown of the cost of each of these contracts?

***Question No. 162 to the Honourable Attorney General**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Attorney General provide the Senate with a detailed account of the various pieces of legislation drafted and submitted by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel as well as those drafted by private law firms or Attorneys-at-Law during the past three years that is 2007 to 2009?

***Question No. 163 to the Honourable Minister of Health**

(By Senator Gail Merhair)

Could the Minister indicate to this Senate:

*Question No. 153 was deferred for one (1) week on 23.6.09, for two(2) weeks on 30.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 14.07.09 and for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09

*Question Nos. 161, was deferred for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09.

* Question Nos. 162, and 163 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09.

- (i) the date of the last inspection of the electrical installations at the Port of Spain and San Fernando General Hospitals; and
- (ii) the date(s) of the next or future inspection of the electrical installations at the institutions mentioned at (i) above?

***Question No. 164 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs**

(By Senator Gail Merhair)

With respect to the issue of domestic violence in Trinidad and Tobago, could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

- (i) the number of cases which have been reported to the police within the last five years;
- (ii) the number of persons who have died as a result of abuse suffered through domestic violence; and
- (iii) the steps taken by the Government in the last two years to combat this scourge?

Question No. 166 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By Senator Gail Merhair)

- A. Could the Minister state whether there have been any reported cases of 'bribe taking' within the Town and Country Division of the Ministry of Planning, Housing and the Environment within the last five years?
- B. If the answer to (A) above is in the affirmative, could the Minister indicate what action has been taken?

Question No. 167 to the Honourable Minister of Public Administration

(By Senator Gail Merhair)

Could the Minister state whether the Government has contemplated the placement of "ttconnect" terminals in all forty-one (41) constituency offices throughout Trinidad and Tobago?

Question No. 168 to the Honourable Minister of Social Development

(By Senator Gail Merhair)

- A. Could the Minister state whether the Ministry of Social Development has undertaken any investigations into the effects of absentee fathers on young males in Trinidad and Tobago?
- B. If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, could the Minister provide the Senate with the details of its findings?

Question No. 178 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister provide to the following information in respect of the design, build, operate and maintain contract with respect to Trinitrain Consortium:-

- (a) the length of time or period of the contract?

* Question No. 164 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09

- (b) the exact contract price involved
- (c) the number of trains that will be delivered;
- (d) the speed of these trains;
- (e) whether these trains would be diesel driven or electric powered; and
- (f) how many segments would the train system have as well as the number of stations?

Question No. 179 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister state whether or not Phase II of the Rapid Rail Project will be put out for public tender?
- B. If the answer to (A) above is in the negative, could the Minister explain the rationale for such a decision?

Question No. 180 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister inform the Senate what procurement system was used by his Ministry in awarding Phase I of the Rapid Rail Project to Trinitrain Consortium?
- B. Could the Minister also inform the Senate of the number of bids received and the names of the Companies and /or organizations which submitted tenders?
- C. Could the Minister further inform the Senate what was the final evaluation criteria employed in the determination of the successful bidder?

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

- 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:

- (1) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 7 of the Customs Act, Chap. 78:01 that the President may by Order increase or reduce any import or export duty of Customs or impose new import or export duties of Customs and from the date of publication of the Order in the *Gazette* and until the expiry of the Order the duties specified in the Order shall be payable in lieu of the duties payable prior thereto:

AND WHEREAS it is provided by subsection (2) of the said section that every Order issued under that section shall after four days and within twenty-one days from the date of its first publication be submitted to Parliament and Parliament may by resolution confirm, amend or revoke the Order and upon publication of the resolution of Parliament in the *Gazette*, the resolution shall have effect and the Order shall then expire:

AND WHEREAS the Customs (Import Duty) (Caribbean Common Market) (Amendment) Order, 2009 was made under section 7 of the Customs Act and first published in the *Gazette* on the 07th day of September, 2009:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to confirm the said Order:

Be it Resolved:

That the Customs (Import Duty) (Caribbean Common Market) (Amendment) Order, 2009, the contents of which are set out below, be confirmed:

L. N. No.
50 of 1980

1. The Customs (Import Duty) (Caribbean Common Market) Order, 1980 is amended in the Schedule by deleting all the Tariff Heading Numbers from 2202.90.20 to 2403.10.00 and the respective Tariff Descriptions and Common Market Rates of Duty in the First, Second and Third Columns, respectively, and substituting the following:

“FIRST COLUMN <i>Tariff Heading Number</i>	SECOND COLUMN <i>Tariff Description</i>	THIRD COLUMN <i>Common Market Rate of Duty</i>
2202.90.20	Malt Beverages	\$0.26 per litre at an original gravity of 1050° and so in proportion for any difference in quantity or gravity.
2203.00.10	Beer	\$4.28 per litre at an original gravity of 1050° and so in proportion for any difference in quantity or gravity.
2203.00.20	Stout	\$4.28 per litre at an original gravity of 1050° and so in proportion for any difference in quantity or gravity.
2203.00.90	Porter and Ale	\$4.28 per litre at an original gravity of 1050° and so in proportion for any difference in quantity or gravity.
2204.10.00	Sparkling Wines	\$29.33 per litre.
2204.20.00	Other Wine; grape must with fermentation prevented or arrested by the addition of alcohol:	

2204.21.00	In containers holding 2 litres or less	\$13.69 per litre.
2208.30.00	Whiskies:	
2208.30.10	In bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol.	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.30.90	Other	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.40.00	Rum and other spirits obtained by distilling fermented sugarcane products:	
2208.40.10	In bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol.	\$66.04 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.40.90	Other	\$66.04 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.70.00	Rum Punch	\$66.04 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.50.00	Gin and Geneva:	
2208.50.10	In bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol.	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.50.90	Other	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.60.00	Vodka	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.70.00	Liqueurs and cordials	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so

		in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.90.90	Other Potable spirits	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.20.00	Spirits obtained by distilling grape wine or grape marc:	
2208.20.10	Brandy, in bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol.	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.20.90	Other	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2402.10.00	Cigars, cheroots and cigarillos, containing tobacco	\$26.23 per kilogram.
2402.20.00	Cigarettes, containing tobacco	\$3.81 per pack of 20 and so in proportion when not so packed.
2403.10.00	Smoking tobacco, whether or not containing tobacco substitutes in any proportion	\$49.78 per kilogram.”.

(By the Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance)

- (2) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 13(2) of the Excise (General Provisions) Act, Chap. 78:50 that the Minister may by Order impose any new excise duty or increase any excise duty and from the date of publication of the Order in the *Gazette* and until the expiry of the Order the duties specified in the Order shall be payable in lieu of the duties payable prior thereto:

AND WHEREAS it is provided by the said subsection that every Order issued under that subsection shall after four days and within twenty-one days from the date of its first publication be submitted to Parliament and Parliament may by resolution confirm, amend or revoke the Order and upon publication of the resolution of Parliament in the *Gazette*, the resolution shall have effect and the Order shall then expire:

AND WHEREAS the Excise Duty (Alcoholic Beverages) Order, 2009 was made under of section 13(2) of the Excise (General Provisions) Act, and first published in the *Gazette* on the 07th day of September, 2009:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to confirm the said Order:

Be it Resolved:

That the Excise Duty (Alcoholic Beverages) Order, 2009, the contents of which are set out below, be confirmed:

New excise duty on alcoholic beverages

1. The excise duty on alcoholic beverages is as follows:

Tariff Heading Number	Product	Excise Duty
2202.90.20	Malt Beverages	\$0.26 per litre at an original gravity of 1050° and so in proportion for any difference in quantity or gravity.
2203.00.10	Beer	\$4.28 per litre at an original gravity of 1050° and so in proportion for any difference in quantity or gravity.
2203.00.20	Stout	\$4.28 per litre at an original gravity of 1050° and so in proportion for any difference in quantity or gravity.
2203.00.90	Other	\$4.28 per litre at an original gravity of 1050° and so in proportion for any difference in quantity or gravity.
2208.40.00	Rum and other spirits obtained by distilling fermented sugarcane products:	
2208.40.10	In bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol.	\$66.04 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.40.90	Other	\$66.04 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.70.00	Rum Punch	\$66.04 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.50.00	Gin and Geneva:	
2208.50.10	In bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol.	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.

2208.50.90	Other	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.30.00	Whiskies:	
2208.30.10	In bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol.	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.30.90	Other	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.60.00	Vodka	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.70.00	Liqueurs and cordials	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.90.90	Other	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.20.00	Spirits obtained by distilling grape wine or grape marc:	
2208.20.10	Brandy, in bottles of a strength not exceeding 46% vol.	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2208.20.90	Other	\$140.08 per litre Alc./Vol. and so in proportion for any part of a litre or for any greater or lesser strength.
2204.10.00	Sparkling wine	\$29.33 per litre.
	Other wine; grape must with fermentation prevented or arrested by the addition of alcohol:	
2204.21.00	In containers holding 2 litres or less.	\$13.69 per litre.”.

Clause 8 of
L. N. Nos.
266 and 277
of 2006
revoked

2. Clause 8 of the Provisional Collection of Taxes Order, 2006 is revoked.

(By the Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance)

- (3) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 13(2) of the Excise (General Provisions) Act, Chap. 78:50 that the Minister may by Order impose any new excise duty or increase any excise duty and from the date of publication of the Order in the *Gazette* and until the expiry of the Order the duties specified in the Order shall be payable in lieu of the duties payable prior thereto:

AND WHEREAS it is provided by the said subsection that every Order issued under that subsection shall after four days and within twenty-one days from the date of its first publication be submitted to Parliament and Parliament may by resolution confirm, amend or revoke the Order and upon publication of the resolution of Parliament in the *Gazette*, the resolution shall have effect and the Order shall then expire:

AND WHEREAS the Excise Duty (Tobacco Products) Order, 2009 was made under section 13(2) of the Excise (General Provisions) Act, and first published in the *Gazette* on the 07th day of September, 2009:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to confirm the said Order:

Be it Resolved:

That the Excise Duty (Tobacco Products) Order, 2009, the contents of which are set out below, be confirmed:

Excise duty on
tobacco products

1. The excise duty on tobacco products is as follows:

“Tariff Heading Number	Product	Excise Duty
2402.10.00	Cigars, cheroots and cigarillos, containing tobacco	\$26.23 per kilogram
2402.20.00	Cigarettes containing tobacco	\$3.81 per pack of 20 and so in proportion when not so packed
2403.10.00	Smoking tobacco, whether or not containing tobacco substitutes in any proportion	\$49.78 per kilogram.”.

Clause 6 of
L. N. Nos.
266 and 277
of 2006 revoked

2. Clause 6 of the Provisional Collection of Taxes Order, 2006 is revoked.

(By the Minister of Trade and Industry and Minister in the Ministry of Finance)

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) **The debate on the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday July 14, 2009 will be resumed:**

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)

- (ii) 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)

- (iii) **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)

- (v) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, Chap. 4:01”.

(By the Attorney General)

- (vi) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Evidence Act, Chap 7:02”.

(By the Attorney General) (To make provision for a previous inconsistent statement to be admissible in evidence; for the admissibility of video or audio recordings of voluntary statements of prosecution and defense witnesses, including the accused and to abolish the common law rules governing the admissibility of bad evidence. This Bill requires a three-fifths majority).

- (vii) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Evidence Act, Chap. 7:02”.

(By the Attorney General) (To revive the common law doctrine of recent complaint in respect of trials for sexual offences).

- (viii) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Proceeds of Crime Act, Chap. 11:27”.

(By the Attorney General)

- (ix) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the President’s Emoluments Act, Chap. 2:50”.

(By the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)

- (x) A Bill entitled, “An Act to prevent tobacco use by children; regulate tobacco use by individuals; enhance public awareness of the hazards of tobacco use and ensure that individuals are provided with information to make more fully informed decisions about using tobacco; protect individuals from exposure to tobacco smoke; prohibit and restrict promotional practices; prevent smuggling of tobacco; provide for regulation of tobacco products to mitigate against the harmful effects of tobacco; and provide for other related matters”.

(By the Minister in the Minister of Health)

- (xi) A Bill entitled, “An Act to provide protection to investors from unfair, improper or fraudulent practices; foster fair and efficient capital markets and confidence in the capital markets in Trinidad and Tobago and to reduce systemic risk; to co-operate with other jurisdictions in the development of fair and efficient capital markets, and for other related matters”.

(By the Minister of Trade and Industry and 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 June 23, 2009 will be resumed:**

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)

- (ii) **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)

- (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)

- (viii) **WHEREAS** our national heroes have performed extraordinary tasks in the interests, promotion and development of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS the current system of National Awards does not display the true affection of a grateful nation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate appoint a Special Select Committee to examine, evaluate and prepare a new methodology for the recognition of our national heroes.

(By Senator Gail Merhair)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **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)

- (ii) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate adopt the First Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee for the 2007/2008 Session of the Ninth Parliament.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Nataki Atiba-Dilchan
Clerk of the Senate Ag.

Senate Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN

September 28, 2009

ORDER PAPER/MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 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. 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. 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. 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. 158 to the Honourable Attorney General

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Attorney General provide the Senate with the quantum of legal or consultancy fees paid to Senior Counsels appointed after January 01, 2005 by any State Enterprise, Municipal Corporation, Statutory Authority, Government Ministry or other State Agency from the period of their respective appointments to June 16, 2009?

(Answer Due by 22.07.09)

Question No. 175 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister provide the Senate with:

- (i) details of the technical study that recommended the Rapid Rail Project;
- (ii) the precise cost of the study; and
- (iii) the names of the authors of the report.

(Answer due by 05.08.09)

Question No. 177 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the Rapid Rail Project, could the Minister provide the Senate with:

- (i) details of the US\$67 Million Phase I contract with Trinitrain Consortium; and
- (ii) a copy of the contract?

(Answer due by 05.08.09)

Question No. 186 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Lyndira Oudit)

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

- (i) the number of persons who applied for firearm user licences annually since 2002;
- (ii) the number of firearm user licences issued annually, since 2002; and
- (iii) the number of persons who are not nationals of Trinidad and Tobago who were granted firearm user licences yearly, since 2002?

(Answer due by 26.09.09)

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

September 28, 2009