



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

THIRTY-FIFTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2009), NINTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY OCTOBER 13, 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 Ministry of the Attorney General for the fiscal year 2005 to 2006
(By the Attorney General)
7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES
8. QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Questions for Oral Answer

***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)

- A. Would the Minister indicate to the Senate any cost overruns on the Maqueripe beach upgrade?

* 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, for two (2) on 28.07.09, for one (1) week on 14.07.09 and for two (2) weeks on 28.09.09.

* Question No. 105 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 09.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 23.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 07.07.09, for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09 and for three (3) weeks on 28.09.09.

- 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. 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. 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. 126 was deferred for one (1) week on 19.05.09, for two (2) weeks on 26.05.09 and for two weeks on 09.06.09, for three (3) weeks on 14.07.09 and for two (2) weeks on 28.09.09.

* Question No. 150 deferred for two (2) weeks on 30.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 14.07.09, for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09, for one (1) day on 28.09.09 to the next sitting on Thursday 01.10.09 to the next sitting on Tuesday 06.10.09 and for one (1) week on 06.10.09.

* Question No. 151 was deferred for one (1) week on 23.06.09, for two (2) weeks on 30.06.09, for one (1) week on 14.07.09, and for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09 and for two (2) weeks on 28.09.09.

* Question No. 164 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 28.07.09 and for two (2) weeks on 28.09.09.

***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. 171 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources**

(By Senator Gail Merhair)

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate the nature of the existing relationship between the Ministry of National Food and Farmer’s Association?

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

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the President’s Emoluments Act, Chap. 2:50”.
(By the Minister of Trade and Industry and the Minister in the Ministry of Finance)
- (ii) 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).*
- (iii) 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).*
- (iv) 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

* Question No. 167 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 28.09.09

* Question No. 171 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 29.09.09

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 of Health)

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

(By the Attorney General)

- (vi) **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)

- (vii) 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)

- (viii) **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)

- (ix) 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)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday September 29, 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**

October 07, 2009

APPENDIX

ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY OCTOBER 13, 2009

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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. 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)

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