



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWENTY-THIRD SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2010/2011), TENTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY JANUARY 18, 2011 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 Minimum Wages Order, 2010.
(By the Minister of Labour, Small & Micro Enterprise Development)
 - (ii) The Administrative Report of the Tourism Development Company Limited for fiscal year 2009.
(By the Minister of Tourism)
 - (iii) The Annual Administrative Report of the Diego Martin Regional Corporation for the period October 2008 to September 2009.
(By the Minister of Local Government)
 - (iv) The Policy on Tertiary Education, TVET and Lifelong Learning in Trinidad and Tobago dated October, 2010.
(By the Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education)
 - (v) The Report on the Exercise of the Functions and Powers of the Ministry of Health for the period October 2004 to September 2005.
(By the Minister of Health)
 - (vi) The Report on the Exercise of the Functions and Powers of the Ministry of Health for the period October 2005 to September 2006.
(By the Minister of Health)

(vii) The Report on the Exercise of the Functions and Powers of the Ministry of Health for the period October 2008 to September 2009.

(By the Minister of Health)

(viii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended September 30, 2001.

(By the Minister of Finance)

(ix) The Second Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended September 30, 2002.

(By the Minister of Finance)

(x) A Legislative Proposal for the Amendment of the Prevention of Corruption Act, Chap. 11:11.

(By the Attorney General)

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. 4 to the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry**

(By Senator Basharat Ali)

With respect to the Metrology Act, No. 17 of 2004, which was assented to on June 25, 2004, but not yet proclaimed, could the Minister advise the Senate of:

- (i) the steps that need to be taken prior to Proclamation;
- (ii) the schedule for commencement and completion of such steps; and
- (iii) the estimated date of Proclamation?

***Question No. 5 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development**

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

With respect to the Arima Community Centre now under construction on Anglican Street, Arima, could the Minister inform the Senate:

- (i) what is the estimated cost; and
- (ii) what is the scheduled date of completion?

* Question No. 4 was deferred for two weeks on 07.12.10

* Question No. 5 was deferred to the next sitting on 14.12.10

Question No. 8 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

With respect to the Special Anti-crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago could the Honourable Minister state:

- (i) whether the Government intends to disband the Unit;
- (ii) if not, what are the government's medium to long-term plans for this organization;
- (iii) whether this organization is still engaged in anti-crime operations;
- (iv) whether the legislation to formalize this agency is to be presented to Parliament, and if so, when;
- (v) how he intends to ensure that the skills and training acquired at public expense, by the former investigative personnel of this agency, would not be lost and therefore yield no further benefit to the people of Trinidad and Tobago?

Question No. 9 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

- A. Would the Honourable Minister indicate the number and classes of serious crimes reported in Trinidad and Tobago between June 1st, 2010 and the present date?
- B. Would the Honourable Minister briefly outline the main and other approaches taken in the response to these crimes?

Question No. 11 to the Honourable Minister of Education

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

- A. Would the Honourable Minister indicate whether his ministry maintains a record of the students of the primary schools of Trinidad and Tobago, both government and denominational, who had to demit their pupilage, on account of their own pregnancy?
- B. if so, would the Honourable Minister indicate the number of such cases reported from January 01, 2005?

Question No. 14 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

Could the Minister indicate Government's policy on Local Government reform and the time frame for same?

Question No. 15 to the Honourable Minister of Health

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

Could the Minister indicate:

- (i) whether the Port of Spain General Hospital is outfitted with an MRI machine;
- (ii) if the answer to the abovementioned question is in the negative, could the Minister indicate whether Government intends to purchase an MRI machine for the Port of Spain General Hospital;
- (iii) if the answer to (ii) is in the affirmative, could the Minister indicate the proposed date of purchase of the equipment?

Question No. 16 to the Honourable Minister of the People and Social Development

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

Could the Minister inform the Senate what is the Government's policy on socially displaced persons?

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) **The debate on the following motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday July 20, 2010 will be resumed:**

BE IT RESOLVED that this House take note of the 'State of the Economy' at this time.

(By the Minister of Planning, Economic and Social Restructuring and Gender Affairs)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** Article (8) of the Trinidad and Tobago (Constitution) Order in Council, 1961 provided that "the Governor shall make and cause to be laid before the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, when they first meet such Standing Orders with respect to the matters mentioned in article 26 of the Constitution as appear to him expedient to enable the Senate and House of Representatives to commence the transaction of their business in an orderly manner, but any such Orders may be amended or revoked by the chamber to which they relate";

AND WHEREAS the Standing Orders of the Senate were made by the Governor in 1961 pursuant to the said Article and laid before the Senate on December 29, 1961;

AND WHEREAS there has never been a comprehensive review of these Standing Orders since they were enacted;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Orders of the Senate be referred to the Standing Orders Committee for consideration and report within the current session.

(By the Minister in the Ministry of National Security)

Bills Second Reading

- (i) **The debate on the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday December 14, 2010 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Firearms Act, Chap. 16:01”.

(By the Minister of National Security)

- (ii) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Bail Act, Chap. 4:60 and the Kidnapping Act, Chap. 11:26”.

(By the Attorney General)

- (iii) 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 or other related matters”.

(By the Minister of Finance)

- (iv) A Bill entitled, “An Act to give effect to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production a Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction”.

(By the Minister of National Security)

- (v) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Statutory Authorities Act Chap: 24:01”.

(By the Minister of Public Administration)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions

- (i) **WHEREAS** successive governments/administrations have alluded to the need for constitutional reform;

AND WHEREAS the previous People’s National Movement administration tabled in Parliament and circulated for public comment, a blue print for constitutional reform;

AND WHEREAS the current People’s Partnership administration had indicated during the election campaign that certain constitutional reform measures are to be pursued;

AND WHEREAS the repeal and replacement of the entire Constitution may not be the necessary, desirable or effective approach to better align the overall requirements of the nation for a more just and equitable society and enhanced governance;

BE IT RESOLVED that the process of constitutional reform be pursued through a series of amendments addressing specific areas of concerns;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rationale for, as well as the scheduling and sequencing of each series of proposed amendments to the Constitution, be effectively communicated to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago prior to debate in the Parliament.

(By Senator Subhas Ramkhelawan)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** we live in a world driven by Science and Technology; and
WHEREAS there is an established strong correlation between Science and Technology on one hand and economic development on the other; and
WHEREAS there is a need to diversify our economy and look for new directions for sustainable economic development; and
WHEREAS such new directions can be engendered by the proper application of Science and Technology.
BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago create with a sense of urgency the necessary policies and enabling environment to promote the full development of Science and Technology and facilitate its contribution to our economic development.

(By Senator Prof. Harold Ramkissoon)

- (iii) **WHEREAS** conditions conducive to free, fair and transparent elections are essential to preserving Democracy;
AND WHEREAS various resources are needed to finance and support free, fair and transparent election campaigns;
AND WHEREAS the cost of financing campaigns has increased substantially over decades and sources of campaign finance are not transparent and therefore, a matter of serious concern to citizens;
AND WHEREAS citizens need to be satisfied that there is fairness and full disclosure with respect to transactions involving the use of public resources by elected representatives in the process of governance;
BE IT RESOLVED that Parliament appoint a Joint Select Committee to propose a legislative framework to govern the financing of election campaigns and to submit its report with recommendations to both Houses of Parliament within four months of its appointment.

(By Senator Helen Drayton)

- (iv) **BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable Senate take note of the strengths and deficiencies of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and its impact and potential in the fight against crime.

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

- (v) **WHEREAS** the Cabinet of the government of Trinidad and Tobago, appointed a Task force to review our penal system and to make recommendations;
AND WHEREAS Cabinet accepted the recommendations of the said Task Force as government policy;
AND WHEREAS several of these recommendations are at varying levels of implementation;

BE IT RESOLVED that the government fully implement these recommendations for the modernization, transformation and efficiency of the penal system and the Prison Service.

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

(vi) **WHEREAS** the Interception of Communications Act, 2010 is now part of the Laws of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS there exist provisions for the management of the information gathered by the Security Intelligence Agency, prior to and after the passage of the abovementioned Act;

AND WHEREAS spokespersons for the Government, before and after the passage of this Act, issued statements at variance with each other and at variance with international best practice in management of information gathered by the state intelligence apparatus;

AND WHEREAS this state of affairs has generated deep concerns on the part of citizens of Trinidad and Tobago in relation to their safety and security;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate examine this state of affairs and record its observations and concerns on these issues, which are at the heart of our national security and good governance in Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

Neil Jaggassar
Clerk of the Senate

Senate Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN
January 11, 2011

ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY JANUARY 18, 2011
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 10 to the Honourable Minister of Education

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

With regard to the Eastern Boys Government Primary School and the Eastern Girls Government Primary School both located on George Street, Port of Spain, could the Minister:

- (i) provide the Secondary Entrance Assessment performance record for the past five (5) years for each school;
- (ii) provide the statistics as to the number of entrants;
- (iii) the amount of such entrants who scored over 60% of the total mark; and
- (iv) the secondary school placements in each case?

(Answer due by 29.12.2010)

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

January 11, 2011