SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWENTY-FIFTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2010/2011), TENTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 08, 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 Annual Audited Financial Statements of the National Helicopter Services Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2009.

   (By the Minister of Finance)

   (ii) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the National Information and Communications Technology Company Limited for the financial year ended September 20, 2010.

   (By the Minister of Finance)

   (iii) The Annual Administrative Report of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation for the financial year 2008/2009.

   (By the Minister of Local Government)

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

8. QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

[*]Question No. 13 to the Honourable Attorney General
(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

A Would the Honourable Minister indicate the total cost of the litigation incurred by the State in the recovery of compensation arising out of the 1990 coup attempt by the Jamaat-al-Muslimeen, in which state property was destroyed?

[*] Question No. 13 was deferred for one week on 01.02.11

B. Would the Honourable Minister indicate the actual sale price and receipt for each of the defendant's properties that were auctioned by the state in pursuit of such compensation?

C. Could the Honourable Minister tell this Honourable House, why was there no 'upset' or 'reserve' price, in relation to the properties in this auction, in order to guarantee higher returns?

D. Would the Honourable Minister indicate whether there was a prior valuation by the State in respect of these properties and if so, by whom and the cost of such valuation?

E. Are there any further plans with regard to (A), above and would the Honourable Minister indicate a time frame for such action?

[*]Question No. 20 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Terrence Deyalsingh)

With respect to the project to construct a tunnel from Tunapuna to Maracas as mentioned by the Minister of Finance during the 2010-2011 Budget debate, could the Minister:

a. provide a status update on this project;

b. indicate what are the expected costs associated with its construction;

c. advise whether feasibility studies have been done;

d. provide the expected start and end dates;

e. outline the anticipated impact on the existing traffic conditions as opposed to the implementation of a rapid rail system?

Question No. 24 to the Honourable Minister of Finance

(By Senator Pennelope Beckles)

Could the Minister inform the Senate:

(a) whether a valuation and/or an audit on CLICO, CL Financial, CLICO Investment Bank, Guardian Holdings Limited and any of its subsidiaries has been conducted by the Government;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what is the total value of the assets of the abovementioned companies and the name of the company which conducted the audit;

(c) whether the Government has entered into any agreements for sale of the assets of the companies at (a) above?

Question No. 25 to the Honourable Minister of Health

(By Senator Dr. Victor Wheeler)

With respect to the new Scarborough Regional Hospital being constructed at Signal Hill, Tobago, could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

(a) the expected date of completion;

(b) the estimated final cost of construction and installation of furniture, fixtures and equipment (fixed and non-fixed);

[*] Question No. 20 was deferred for one week on 01.02.11

(c) the state of completion, at present; and

(d) the status of the procurement arrangements for the furniture, fixtures and equipment?

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 the last review of these Standing Orders was undertaken in 2000;

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) A Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Statutory Authorities Act Chap: 24:01".

(By the Minister of Finance)

(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 for 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 and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction".

(By the Minister of National Security)

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
February 02, 2011

APPENDIX

ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY FEBRUARY 08, 2011
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 22 to the Honourable Minister of Tourism

(By Senator Pennelope Beckles)

Could the Minister provide the Senate with a detailed annual breakdown of visitor arrivals from the top twenty (20) countries to Tobago over the last five (5) years?

(Answer due by 14.02.2011)

Question No. 23 to the Honourable Minister of Tourism

(By Senator Pennelope Beckles)

Could the Minister provide the Senate with a detailed annual breakdown of visitor arrivals from the top twenty (20) countries to Trinidad over the last five (5) years?

(Answer due by 14.02.2011)

Senate Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN

February 02, 2011