



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

THIRTY-FIRST SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2010/2011), TENTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY MARCH 29, 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
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. 35 to the Honourable Minister of Justice**

(By Senator Pennelope Beckles)

Could the Minister indicate how many drug related offences are presently before the Courts in Trinidad and Tobago?

***Question No. 36 to the Honourable Minister of Justice**

(By Senator Pennelope Beckles)

Could the Minister indicate how many firearm related offences are presently before the Courts in Trinidad and Tobago?

***Question No. 40 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Economic and Social Restructuring and Gender Affairs**

(By Senator Dr. James Armstrong)

*Question Nos. 35, 36 and 40 were deferred to the next sitting on 22.03.11 in accordance with S.O. 18 (7)

With reference to the requirement under the Town and Country Planning act (Chap. 35:01) that a fresh survey of approved development plans is to be undertaken every five (5) years, and given that the last National Physical Development Plan (NPDP) was approved in 1984, could the Minister indicate:

- (a) what arrangements are in place for the preparation of an updated NPDP;
- (b) when will a final document be submitted to the Parliament for its consideration; and
- (c) whether any consideration is being given to updating the legislation and institutional arrangements governing land use in the country?

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) **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)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 9 of the Privileges and Immunities (Diplomatic, Consular and International Organisations) Act, Chap. 17:01 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the President may by Order declare that any international or regional

organization or agency named or described in such Order shall, to such extent as specified in the Order, be accorded certain privileges and immunities:

AND WHEREAS it is also provided by section 9 of the Act that every Order made under that section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament:

AND WHEREAS the President has on the 15th day of February, 2011 made the Privileges and Immunities [CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)] Order, 2011:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Order now be affirmed:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Privileges and Immunities [CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)] Order, 2011 be approved.

(By the Minister of Foreign Affairs)

- (iii) **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)

Bills Second Reading

- (i) **The debate on the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday March 15, 2011 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, “An Act to give legal effect to electronic documents, electronic records, electronic signatures and electronic transactions”.

(By the Minister of Public Administration)

- (ii) A Bill entitled, “An Act to provide for the protection of personal privacy and information”.

(By the Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister)

- (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)

- (v) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend certain enactments to provide for the vesting of functions and powers in the Minister of Justice”.

(By the Minister of Justice)

- (vi) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Municipal Corporations (Pensions) Act, Chap. 25:05”.

(By the Minister of Finance)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions

- (i) **The debate on the following motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday March 22, 2011 will be resumed:**

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 SubhasRamkhelawan)

- (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)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House adopt the Report of the Joint Select Committee established to consider and report on the Anti-Gang Bill, 2010 and the Bail (Amendment) Bill, 2010.

(By the Attorney General)

- (ii) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate adopt the First Report of the House Committee of the Senate, (2010/2011 Session).

(By the Leader of Government Business in the Senate)

**Neil Jaggassar
Clerk of the Senate**

**Senate Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN
March 23, 2011**

APPENDIX

ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY MARCH 29, 2011
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 37 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

Could the Minister indicate by Magisterial Districts:

- i. the number of Court exhibits related to firearm offences that have been forwarded to the Forensic Science Centre for testing for the years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010; and
- ii. the average timeframe for the return of these results?

(Answer due by 08.03.2011)

Question No. 38 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

Could the Minister indicate by Magisterial Districts:

- i. the number of Court exhibits related to drug offences that have been forwarded to the Forensic Centre for testing for the years 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010; and
- ii. the average timeframe for the return of these results?

(Answer due by 08.03.2011)

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

March 23, 2011