



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

THIRTY-SIXTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2010/2011), TENTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY MAY 03, 2011 AT 10.30 A.M.

1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OF A NEW SENATOR
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
 - (i) The Annual Administrative Report of the Tobago House of Assembly for the year January to December 2007.
(By the Honourable Prime Minister)
 - (ii) The Annual Administrative Report of the Tobago House of Assembly for the year January to December 2008.
(By the Honourable Prime Minister)
 - (iii) The Annual Administrative Report of the Tobago House of Assembly for the year January to December 2009.
(By the Honourable Prime Minister)
7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES
8. QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS
Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 49 to the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs**
(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

With respect to persons who served as Consular General, could the Minister inform this Senate of:
 - (i) the dates on which Mr. Michael Lashley, who served as Consular General to Toronto, Canada assumed and demitted office;
 - (ii) the dates on which Dr. Harold Robinson, who served as Consular General to Miami, assumed and demitted office;

* Question No. 49 was deferred for one (1) week on 26.04.11

- (iii) whether arrangements have been made to celebrate the work of the persons named at (i) and (ii) above; and
- (iv) whether those named at (i) and (ii) above were accorded the usual courtesies and civilities practiced by the Ministry/Mission when such officers demit office?

***Question No. 52 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

Could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (i) the name of the person who recommended Ms. Reshmi Usha Ramnarine for the position of Director/Head of the Security Intelligence Agency (SIA);
- (ii) the highest level of academic qualification Ms. Ramnarine possesses;
- (iii) the procedure followed in making her appointment to the position of Director;
- (iv) whether she was interviewed;
- (v) if the answer to (iv) above is in the affirmative, who was the interviewing officer; and
- (vi) whether Ms. Ramnarine is still employed with the SIA and if so in what capacity?

Question No. 53 to the Honourable Minister of Justice

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

Could the Minister indicate to this Senate:

- (i) whether the role and functions of the Police Complaints Authority have changed in the past year;
- (ii) the number of complaints filed against Police Officers in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010;
- (iii) the number of complaints resolved in favour of the complainant in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010;
- (iv) the number of unresolved complaints; and
- (v) the date on which the previous Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Authority demitted office?

Question No. 54 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

- (a) whether contracts for the improved lighting of the runways at the Piarco and Crown Point Airports, have been executed;
- (b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, the name(s) of the contractor(s) and the contract price in each case, as well as the dates of award and/or execution of these contracts;
- (c) the procedure observed in the issuance of these contracts?

* Question No. 52 was deferred for one (1) week on 26.04.11

Question No. 55 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

With respect to the contracts for improved lighting of the runways at the Piarco and Crown Point Airports, could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (i) the action taken by the Prime Minister in this regard;
- (ii) the outcome of the resolution/consultation promised publicly by the Honourable Prime Minister, in respect to these contracts when she called for a halt to the issuance of contracts without Board approval?

- 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 April 19, 2011 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, “An Act to make provision for the maintenance of public safety and order through discouraging membership of criminal gangs and the suppression of criminal gang activity and for other related matters”.

(By the Attorney General)

- (ii) **The debate on the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday April 19, 2011 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Bail Act, Chap. 4:60”.

(By the Attorney General)

- (iii) A Bill entitled “An Act to give effect to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto”.

(By the Minister of National Security)

- (iv) **The debate on the following Bill which was adjourned on Tuesday April 05, 2011 will be resumed:**

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)

- (v) 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)

- (vi) 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)

- (vii) 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)

- (viii) 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 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

April 27, 2011