



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

SIXTEENTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2011/2012), TENTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2012 AT 11:00 A.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) Ministerial Response to the Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Ministries, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises (Group 2) on the National Information Communication Technology Company Limited (NICTCL)
(By the Minister of Science, Technology & Tertiary Education)
 - (ii) The Value Added Tax (Amendment to Schedule 2) Order, 2011.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iii) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited for the year ended December 31, 2010.
(By the Minister of Finance)
7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES
8. QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS
 - Questions for Oral Answer**
***Question No. 26 to the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry**
(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)
With respect to Government's new policy which will allow for the importation of used vehicles up to six (6) years old, could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

* Question No. 26 was postponed on 07.02.12 for 1 week in accordance with Standing Order 18 (3).

- (a) the number of used vehicles actually imported into Trinidad and Tobago for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010; and
- (b) his Ministry's projected estimate of the number of vehicles expected to be imported into the country within the next twenty-four (24) months.

***Question No. 27 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development**

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

With respect to the Community Development Financial Assistance (Studies) Programme, could the Minister indicate to this Senate for the period July 01st, 2010 to August 30, 2011:

- (a) the number of persons who benefitted from the Programme for the period mentioned above;
- (b) the total amount disbursed by his ministry under this programme for the same period;
- (c) the names of the recipients at (a) above and the corresponding institutions at which the programme of study is being or has been undertaken in each case?

***Question No. 28 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

- (A) Could the Minister indicate the number of persons reported missing in Trinidad and Tobago between October 01st, 2010 and July 31st, 2011?
- (B) Could the Minister also indicate what specific action, if any, has been taken to protect other citizens from this trauma-generating phenomenon?

Question No. 30 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

- (a) the number of new Police Stations and their location on which construction work started since his assumption of office;
- (b) the number of stations and their locations that have been completed during the same period; and
- (c) the number of stations and their location that have been repaired during the same period.

Question No. 31 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

- A. Could the Minister indicate the number of police vehicles that have been provided to the Police Service, since he assumed office and when the handing over was made?
- B. Could the Minister outline the arrangements in place for the maintenance and repair of the vehicles so provided?

*Question Nos. 27 and 28 were postponed on 07.02.12 for 1 week in accordance with Standing Order 18 (3).

Question No. 32 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

Could the Minister identify what specific action has been taken since he assumed office to deal with cases involving corrupt practices and unethical behavior in the Police Service and the Defence Force?

Question No. 45 to the Honourable Minister of Legal Affairs

(By Senator Dr. Victor Wheeler)

Further to budget presentation of 2011/2012, could the Minister state what is the status of the project for the regularization of land titles in Tobago?

Question No. 46 to the Honourable Attorney General

(By Senator Dr. Victor Wheeler)

- A. Could the Attorney General indicate how many Commissioners of Affidavits are currently practicing in the island of Tobago (excluding the Clerk of the Peace and the Assistant Registrar of the High Court or any other officials attached to the High Court or the Magistrates' Courts)?
- B. Could the Attorney General indicate whether any suitable applications have been made to his Ministry, within the last 3 years, by persons wishing to become Commissioners of Affidavits for districts located in Tobago?
- C. Could the Attorney General indicate why no additional Commissioners of Affidavits have been appointed to Tobago in last 5 years?

- 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 Leader of Government Business)

Bills Second Reading

- (i) 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) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday January 31, 2012, will be resumed:**

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)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** the year 2012 will mark the 50th Anniversary of this nation’s Independence;

AND WHEREAS since 1962, several Heads of State and Heads of Government have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of this republic;

AND WHEREAS there exists a Memorial Collection of the contributions of the late Dr. Eric Eustace Williams, first Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago whose centennial takes place later in 2011;

AND WHEREAS Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson who served this country both as President and Prime Minister has initiated the Castara Project of his pursuits and achievements;

AND WHEREAS one method of bestowing honour on these office holders is through the establishment and maintenance of memorials in recognition of their contributions to the development of the nation during the course of their tenure;

AND WHEREAS the Honourable Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago in tribute to the first President of Trinidad and Tobago announced the endowment of the Sir Ellis Clarke Chair in Commonwealth Parliamentary and Constitutional Studies at the University of the West Indies;

BE IT RESOLVED that there be established formal tangible memorials of the work and contributions of all the former Heads of State and Heads of Government of this country;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there be instituted a State-funded arrangement whereby the contributions of all who served in the offices of President and Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago will be recognized.

(By Senator Corinne Baptiste Mc Knight)

- (iii) **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)

- (iv) **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 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 Professor Harold Ramkissoon)

- (v) **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 (SIA), 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)

(vi) **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)

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PORT OF SPAIN

February 08, 2012