



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

EIGHTH SITTING, THIRD SESSION (2012/2013)
TENTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 27, 2012 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. 8 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

- (i) the number of murders committed in each magisterial district for the years 2009-2012;
- (ii) the number of murder cases that have been listed before the Magistrates' Court in each magisterial district during the period 2009-2012;
- (iii) the number of persons charged for the abovementioned period by gender and age; and
- (iv) the status of the abovementioned matters, and whether the matter was dismissed or discharged or whether still pending and before which Court and the reason for same

Question No. 9 to the Honourable Minister of Sport

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

Could the Minister indicate:

- (i) the amount of moneys allocated to various organisations and individuals for preparations for Olympics 2012 and the date of disbursement of the funds to the individuals and organisations; and
- (ii) the amount of money spent generally by the Ministry of Sport for Trinidad and Tobago's preparation for Olympics 2012?

Question No. 10 to the Honourable Minister of Sport

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

- (i) Could the Minister provide the names of all personnel approved by Cabinet to attend the Olympics 2012 from Trinidad and Tobago; and
- (ii) Moneys allocated to all the above mentioned persons?

Question No. 15 to the Honourable Minister of Public Utilities

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

With regard to the Trinidad and Tobago Gazette Volume 51 No. 142 dated 30th August, 2012 and its attachment Legal Notice No. 348, could the Minister indicate:

- (a) the number of copies sold at the Government Printery on the 30th August, 2012; and
- (b) the number of copies sold at the Government Printery or at any other authorized location on the following and respective days, that is 1st September, 2012 to 10th September, 2012?

Question No. 16 to the Honourable Attorney General

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

With regard to the actual Proclamation of Section 34 of the Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) Act, 2011, could the Attorney General indicate whether he was in the jurisdiction of Trinidad and Tobago between 5th August 2012 to 1st September, 2012 or whether another Cabinet Member acted as Attorney General during that period and if so, which Minister was it?

Question No. 20 to the Honourable Prime Minister

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

- A. Is the Honourable Prime Minister aware that the Minister of Food Production publicly admitted to having access to and use of three (3) cellular phones?
- B. Can the Prime Minister inform the Senate whether such cellular phones and the charges for using them were paid for from Government funds?
- C. Would the Prime Minister also indicate whether it is a breach of the rules for government issued cellular phones to be used by persons other than the Minister to whom it was assigned?

- D. If the answer to (C) is affirmative, would the Prime Minister indicate whether she has initiated any investigation into this matter and if so, whether there is/was found any impropriety on the part of the Minister? And if no investigation has ensued, why not?
- E. Would the Prime Minister indicate the total amount paid for mobile telephone services utilized by the said Minister, since he was appointed as a Government Minister?

Question No. 27 to the Honourable Minister of Health

(By Senator Prof. Harold Ramkissoon)

With respect to the allegations of over-radiation of patients at the Brian Lara Cancer Treatment Centre (BLCTC) and your assurance reported in Newsday May 8, 2012 that proper investigation will be done, could the Minister indicate:

- (a) whether an investigation has been or is being carried out;
- (b) if the answer is in the negative, why not;
- (c) if the answer is in the positive, who were/are the members of the investigating committee and when can we expect a report;
- (d) whether your Ministry held any meetings with officials of the BLCTC, and if so, how many and what was the outcome;
- (e) whether your Ministry met with the surviving patients;
- (f) whether the surviving patients have received follow up care, and if so, who paid for it?

Question No. 28 to the Honourable Minister of Health

(By Senator Prof. Harold Ramkissoon)

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

- (a) how many private hospitals/nursing homes/health care facilities (including those performing investigative tests such as CT scans, MRI scans and laboratory tests) are there in T&T;
- (b) for the period 2009-2010 and 2011-2012, what was the cost to taxpayers for outsourcing services to these private hospitals/nursing homes/health care facilities as of December 31st 2011;
- (c) to which private hospitals/nursing homes/health care facilities were sums paid at as December 31, 2012 and the breakdown for each;
- (d) what amounts are still outstanding, if any, to these private hospitals/nursing homes/health care facilities mentioned at (c) as at December 31, 2012; and
- (e) what measures are in place to ensure we get quality service for taxpayers' money from these private hospitals/nursing homes/ health care facilities?

Question No. 29 to the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Economy

(By Senator Dr. Victor Wheeler)

- A. Could the Minister please indicate whether there is a functioning stamp duty machine in Tobago?

- B. If the response to (A) is in the negative, could the Minister please state when it is expected that there will be a functioning stamp duty machine operating in Tobago?
- C. Could the Minister state what provisions are currently in place to have stamp duty paid on deeds of Conveyances from Tobago?

Question No. 30 to the Honourable Minister of Health

(By Senator Dr. Victor Wheeler)

With respect to the completion of the new Scarborough General Hospital being constructed at Signal Hill in Tobago, could the Minister state:

- (i) what is the expected date of completion of the hospital building;
- (ii) if the building has been handed over by NIPDEC to the Tobago House of Assembly; and
- (iii) if the building has not yet been handed over, when will it be handed over to the Tobago House of Assembly?

Question No. 31 to the Honourable Minister of Health

(By Senator Dr. Victor Wheeler)

With respect to the commissioning or startup of clinical services at the new Scarborough General Hospital, could the Minister state:

- (i) if there is a commissioning team in place to oversee the startup and transfer of the clinical services from the old Hospital to the new Hospital in Signal Hill;
- (ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, who are the members of the commissioning team; and
- (iii) when will the wards of the new hospital be receiving and treating the first set of inpatients?

- 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

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions

- (i) **The debate on the following motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday November 20, 2012 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in its preamble, its terms and spirit, recognises and promotes the observance and practice of democratic principles;

BE IT RESOLVED that the government re-affirm its commitment to these principles and the practice of democracy in Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

- (ii) **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 importance 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 six months of its appointment.

(By Senator Helen Drayton)

- (iii) **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, have issued statements with respect to the management of information gathered by the state intelligence apparatus;

AND WHEREAS questions have arisen as to whether such statements are at variance with international best practice raising concerns as to the safety and security of citizens of Trinidad and Tobago;

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)

- (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 Prof. Harold Ramkissoon)**
- (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)**

Bills Second Reading

- (i) A Bill entitled, 'An Act for the Incorporation of the University of the Southern Caribbean and matters incidental thereto'.
- (The President will put the question that the Bill be read a second time)**

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 provide for the establishment of the Beverage Containers Advisory Board and of a deposit and refund system for beverage containers and for related matters.

(By the Minister of the Environment and Water Resources)

Nataki Atiba-Dilchan
Clerk of the Senate

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November 21, 2012

APPENDIX

ORDER PAPER/TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2012 QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 4 to the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Economy

(By Senator Pennelope Beckles)

Could the Minister provide the Senate with:

- (i) a detailed listing of the names of all Chairmen and members of all Boards of Directors appointed by this government from June 2010;
- (ii) their qualifications and gender; and
- (iii) the honorarium, together with all benefits and entitlement for the abovementioned board members?

(Answer due by 03.10.2012)

Question No. 5 to the Honourable Minister of the Environment and Water Resources

(By Senator Pennelope Beckles)

With respect to the Water and Sewerage Authority, could the Minister inform the Senate of:

- (i) the total workforce of the Authority as at July 2012;
- (ii) the number of new workers employed since June 2010;
- (iii) the names, positions, addresses and qualifications of the persons at (ii) above;
- (iv) the names and number of employees terminated since June 2010 and reasons for the terminations?

(Answer due by 03.10.2012)

Question No. 6 to the Honourable Minister of Housing, Land and Marine Affairs

(By Senator Pennelope Beckles)

With regards to the Community-Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP), could the Minister provide the Senate with the following:

- (i) the names and addresses of companies/NGOs who were awarded contracts through CEPEP since June 2010;
- (ii) the dates of the award of the contracts to CEPEP Contractors;
- (iii) the amount of monies paid to each of these CEPEP contractors;
- (iv) the date of incorporation/registration of each CEPEP contractor;
- (v) the names of the Directors of each CEPEP contractor and their respective addresses;

- (vi) criteria for the selection of CEPEP contractors;
- (vii) a list of all contractors/NGO's who applied to CEPEP for contracts, the names and addresses of contractors/NGO's who were unsuccessful and the reason(s) for their rejection; and
- (viii) a list of contractors in CEPEP terminated since June 2010 and a list of employees whose contracts have been terminated by CEPEP since June 2010?

(Answer due by 03.10.2012)

Question No. 12 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

Could the Minister indicate to the Senate:

- (i) the amount of moneys allocated to each City, Borough and Corporation for Development Projects for the years 2009 – 2012
- (ii) the list of projects completed in the respective Cities, Boroughs and Corporations for the said 2009 – 2012?

(Answer due by 03.10.2012)

Question No. 13 to the Honourable Minister of Housing, Land and Marine Affairs

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

Could the Minister provide the Senate with:

- (i) the number of leases distributed to persons, NGOs or companies during the years 2009 – 2012
- (ii) the names of persons receiving the leases, the period of the leases and the conditions of same; and
- (iii) the location of the parcels of land and nature of activities approved under the leases?

(Answer due by 03.10.2012)

Question No. 18 to the Honourable Minister of Education

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

With regard to the Vacation Repair Programme (VRP), could the Minister:

- (a) provide the Senate with a copy of the work schedule for the Vacation Repair Programme (VRP) 2012, including the scope of works in each case;
- (b) provide the Senate with a list of the schools repaired under the VRP 2012; the status of the work actually done and the names of the contractor(s) and the contract price(s) in each case;
- (c) indicate whether the contractors have been paid in full, and if not, when will payments to these contractors be made;
- (d) indicate the precise source/subhead of funds from the budget of the Ministry of Education which met or is to meet the expenditure at (c) above?

(Answer due by 27.11.2012)

Question No. 22 to the Honourable Minister of Water Resources and the Environment

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

Would the Minister provide the following information:

- (i) whether the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) has concluded any collective agreements/negotiations with any Trade Union since June 2010;
- (ii) if the answer to the above mentioned question is yes, could the Minister provide the terms and conditions of this new agreement/negotiation and the value of same;
- (iii) the list of all employees who benefitted from this new agreement/negotiation, their old and new remuneration packages and arrears paid if any?

(Answer due by 27.11.2012)

Question No. 24 to the Honourable Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

Would the Minister provide:

- (i) the list of contractors who tendered for the Debe Law Campus;
- (ii) the value of tenders submitted; and
- (iii) contractors short listed and selected, the terms and conditions of the contract inclusive of the commencement and completion date?

(Answer due by 27.11.2012)

Question No. 26 to the Honourable Minister of Food Production

(By Senator Penelope Beckles)

Could the Minister provide:

- (i) A list of Agricultural Access Roads done by the Government during the period June 2010 to September 2012;
- (ii) the name of the contractors
- (iii) the value of the contracts; and
- (iv) the distance of roads done by contractors?

(Answer due by 27.11.2012)

Question No. 35 to the Honourable Minister of Sport

(By Senator Fitzgerald Hinds)

With respect to the Trinidad and Tobago Boxing Board of Control, could the Minister indicate:

- a. the name(s) and professions/occupations of the members of the Trinidad and Tobago Boxing Board of Control;
- b. the date of the appointment of each of these persons.
- c. whether any person has been appointed as an Adviser to the said Trinidad and Tobago Boxing Board of Control; and if so, could the Minister provide the name of this person and indicate the full terms and conditions of the engagement of this person relative to this appointment;

- d. whether any member of the said Board has ever been convicted for any criminal offence in Trinidad and Tobago; and if so, on what date(s) and what was (or were) the sentence(s); and
- e. whether a criminal conviction disqualifies a person from holding a Board position?

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