



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWENTY-FOURTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2013/2014)

TENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY 20TH MAY, 2014 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
 - (i) The Fourteenth Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to inquire into and report on Municipal Corporations and Service Commissions on a Review of the Administration of the San Fernando City Corporation.

(by Senator Anthony Vieira)

8. QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 62 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Camille Robinson-Regis)

With regard to the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, would the Minister indicate:

- (a) what is the authorised/established strength of the Trinidad & Tobago Police Service;
- (b) the actual strength; and
- (c) whether there are any vacancies for Constables, Corporals and Sergeants; and if so how many vacancies exist?

Question No. 63 to the Honourable Minister of National Security

(By Senator Camille Robinson-Regis)

* Questions 62 and 63 were deferred for two weeks on 02.04.2014 and a further two weeks on 06.05.2014

With regard to the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, would the Minister indicate:

- (i) the length of the training period for both the regular and Special Reserve Police Officers and what are the core elements of the training in respect of the SRPs;
- (ii) how many regular police officers are operational and engaged in the exercise of police duties who are not trained in the use of firearms as at 30th June, 2013;
- (iii) how many SRPs are in active service within the TTPS without having had training in the use and handling of firearms? and
- (iv) whether the Government intends to arrange such training and if so, could the Minister state how and when this will occur?

***Question No. 64 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Camille Robinson-Regis)

- A. Would the Minister indicate the period of the service provided by the four (4) Senior Counsels, who were engaged by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), to consult and advise the TTPS regarding the arrest of certain persons under the “Anti-Gang” legislation and the gathering and preparation of evidence against these persons, during the period of the State of Public Emergency which was declared in Trinidad and Tobago on August 21st, 2011?
- B. In addition, would the Minister indicate the total sum (the global figure) paid to these four (4) Senior Counsel, for the provision of their legal services, for the purposes as outlined at (A) above?

***Question No. 69 to the Honourable Minister of the Environment and Water Resources**

(By Senator Camille Robinson-Regis)

- A. Would the Minister indicate whether an investigation has been launched into allegations of bid-rigging, in respect of Contract WTC 197/2011 issued by WASA, in the sum of approximately \$70m dollars?
- B. Would the Minister indicate the status of this investigation, if indeed, one is on-going?
- C. Would the Minister confirm whether this allegation of bid-rigging, or any related conduct, was reported to either the Auditor General, the Integrity Commission or to the Police?
- D. If the answer to (C) is affirmative, would the Minister indicate when was/were this/these report(s) made and what is the status of this/these report(s)?
- E. If the answer to (C) is negative, would that Minister say why no report was made and further indicate whether there is any plan or intention to do so? If so, when?
- F. Would the Minister also indicate whether the person or persons who was/were suspected to be involved in this matter is/are still in office or whether such person or persons has/have been suspended, pending the outcome of this investigation?
- G. Would the Minister further indicate what interim measures, if any, have been taken to protect the authority and the tax-payers of Trinidad and Tobago, from the type of conduct that brought about these allegations and investigation?
- H. Would the Minister provide the names of the companies which bid for the said contract and which company actually emerged as the awardee, in the process now under investigation?
- I. Would the Minister say whether this contract award is the subject of any court proceedings?

* Question No. 64 was deferred for two weeks on 02.04.2014 and a further two weeks on 06.05.2014

* Question No. 69 was deferred for two weeks on 15.04.2014 and a further two weeks on 06.05.2014

***Question No. 71 to the Honourable Minister of Trade, Industry, Investment and Communications**

(By Senator Camille Robinson-Regis)

- A. Would the Minister indicate whether any entity within the purview of his Ministry, placed any advertisements or expended any money on advertisements in any Indian publication, during or in advance of the official visit by the Prime Minister to India in 2012?
- B. If so, would the Minister indicate which entity, the cost of this/these advertisement(s) and whether this cost was included in the figure previously disclosed by the Minister in any answer to Parliamentary questions put to him in the House of Representatives?

***Question No. 74 to the Honourable Minister of Education**

(By Senator Camille Robinson-Regis)

With respect to the "Laptop Programme" for Secondary School entrants, could the Minister indicate to this Senate:

- (a) the actual expenditure to date on the Programme;
- (b) the cost of repairs to date and the name(s) of persons or firms contracted to effect the said repairs of these laptops; and
- (c) the name(s) of the manufacturer(s) of the laptops and the supplier(s) of same, if different?

***Question No. 75 to the Honourable Minister of Justice**

(By Senator Camille Robinson-Regis)

- A. Would the Minister kindly indicate the name and general location of the Unit/Department that stores DNA samples for future identification purposes?
- B. Would the Minister further indicate which State official has responsibility for this unit?
- C. Would the Minister advise as to whether such samples are held at only one agency and whether there is any other repository of such material?

***Question No. 76 to the Honourable Attorney General**

(By Senator Camille Robinson-Regis)

- A. Would the Attorney General indicate the status of the police investigation, into the alleged conspiracy to pervert the course of Public Justice, arising out of revelations, by one Dhansam Dhansook, that the said Dhansam Dhansook made false allegations against two (2) former ministers of government and following which, the Director of Public Prosecution referred the said matter to the police for its attention and investigation;
- B. Is/are any other agency(ies) of the State conducting this/these investigation(s);
- C. When are these investigations expected to be concluded;
- D. Based on the current status of these investigations, are criminal charges a probable result?

* Question No. 71 was deferred for two weeks on 06.05.2014

* Questions Nos. 74 and 76 were deferred for one week on 13.05.2014

* Question No. 75 was deferred for one week in accordance with S.O. 18(7) on 13.05.2014

Question No. 77 to the Honourable Attorney General

(By Senator Camille Robinson-Regis)

With respect to the response of the Honourable Attorney General to Senate Question No. 47, which was delivered by the Attorney General on Tuesday 14th May, 2013, in respect of legal fees paid to the “A-Team” to investigate corruption of the State sector:

- (a) Would the Attorney General indicate whether the figures revealed are the final figures or is money still due and owing to the members of the “A-Team” for work done in respect of their assignment?
- (b) Would the Attorney General indicate precisely when did the team complete its work?
- (c) Given that the Attorney General included the names of the two-named attorneys hereunder; and given that the Attorney General failed in his response, to mention among the payees, the following attorneys, one Ackbar Ali and one Fenton Ramsahoye QC, in respect of the composition and work of the “A-Team”, would the Attorney General indicate why he did not?
- (d) Would the Attorney General indicate precisely what sum was paid to each of the two lawyers?
- (e) Since no mention was made of the firms Afa Law (which received \$6,099,348.09) and Alix and Partners (which received \$20,903,070.98) when the Attorney General announced the “A-Team”, would the Attorney General explain why not; and when and how did these two entities get involved in the provision of the services contracted for with the “A-Team”?
- (f) Would the Attorney General indicate whether his office or the “A-Team” reported any matter(s) regarding the investigations of the “A-Team” to the Police? And if so, what is the status of this/these investigations?

Question No. 78 to the Honourable Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By Senator Camille Robinson-Regis)

- A. Would the Minister indicate what amounts of the Government’s figure of \$73,568,637.50 expended on the now defunct “Colour Me Orange” Programme was specifically spent on (i) Equipment, (ii) Materials (iii) Security; and (iv) Salaries and Emoluments in both actual and percentage terms?
- B. Would the Minister indicate what plans are in place to generate further employment in the communities from which the “Colour Me Orange” programme was withdrawn and discontinued?
- C. Would the Minister explain why the government’s targets of this programme of a \$300 million expenditure and the creation of 20,000 jobs, as outlined by the Prime Minister were not achieved?

Question No. 79 to the Honourable Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development

(By Senator Camille Robinson-Regis)

- A. Would the Minister indicate the number of persons employed by NEDCO as at December 2013; and the total cost of salaries and emoluments per month in each case?
- B. Would the Minister indicate the number and locations of offices/sub-offices in operation by NEDCO in Trinidad and Tobago; the monthly rental in each case?
- C. Would the Minister further indicate the number of loans granted since January 1st, 2011 to December 2013 by NEDCO between \$1,000 and \$15,000; and between \$100,000 and \$250,000?

***Question No. 86 to the Honourable Minister of the Environment and Water Resources**

(By Senator Dr. Lester Henry)

Could the Minister say what is the total number of contract and full time employees at the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) for the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013?

***Question No. 87 to the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Economy**

(By Senator Dr. Lester Henry)

With regard to Atrius, could the Minister inform the Senate:

- (i) what is the status of Atrius;
- (ii) what are the impediments to the transferring of the assets from CLICO to this new entity; and
- (iii) what activities has the Board of Directors of Atrius been engaged in and are they being paid?

***Question No. 91 to the Honourable Minister of Transport**

(By Senator Avinash Singh)

With respect to the Vehicle Management Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago, could the Minister please inform this Senate as to:

- a) whether the CEO contract at VMCOTT was terminated by the new Chairman of the Board;
- b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, on what basis was it done;
- c) whether the Chief Operating Officer position at VMCOTT was an existing position prior to 2010;
- d) whether the Chairman of VMCOTT is an Executive Chairman; and
- e) have the Managers at VMCOTT met the minimum qualifications for their positions?

***Question No. 100 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Diane Baldeo-Chadeesingh)

Could the Minister inform this Senate on:

- (a) the number of surveillance bays currently installed on the Solomon Hochoy Highway and their exact locations;
- (b) whether a maintenance contract exists for routine upkeep and, if so, the name of the contractor to whom such was awarded; and
- (c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative the cost per month of the contract?

***Question No. 101 to the Honourable Minister of Transport**

(By Senator Diane Baldeo-Chadeesingh)

* Questions Nos. 86 and 87 were deferred for two weeks on 11.03.2014, two weeks on 02.04.2014 and for a further two weeks on 06.05.2014

*Questions Nos. 91, 100, and 101 were deferred for two weeks on 11.03.2014, for two weeks on 02.04.2014 and a further two weeks on 06.05.2014

Could the Minister inform the Senate of the status of the introduction of speed monitoring devices, in particular radar speed guns, to address the carnage on the nation's roads?

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** it is provided by section 14(5) of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chap. 48:50 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") that the President may by Order amend the Fourth Schedule of the Act to exempt the University of the West Indies from the payment of Motor Vehicles Tax in respect of motor vehicles (including agricultural tractors) purchased by the University for its own use and the Order shall have effect from the date of publication in the *Gazette*.

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 14(6), that every Order issued under that subsection shall, after four days and within twenty-one days from the date of its first publication, be submitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives and the Senate and the House of Representatives may by Resolution confirm, amend or revoke such Order, and upon publication of the Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives in the *Gazette*, the Resolution shall have effect:

AND WHEREAS the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Order, 2014, was made under section 14(5) of the Act, and first published in the *Gazette* on the 13th day of February, 2014:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to confirm the said Order:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Order, 2014 be confirmed.

(By the Minister of Finance and the Economy)

Bills Second Reading

- (i) A Bill entitled "An Act to provide for public procurement, and for the retention and disposal of public property, in accordance with the principles of good governance, namely accountability, transparency, integrity and value for money, the establishment of the Office of Procurement Regulation, the repeal of the Central Tenders Board Act, Chap. 71:91 and related matters".

(By the Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development)

- (ii) A Bill entitled, “An Act to establish a Council for Urban and Regional Planners and to provide for the regulation of the urban and regional planning profession and other matters incidental thereto”.

(By the Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development)

Committee Stage

- (i) **The Committee Stage of the following Bill which was adjourned on Tuesday May 13, 2014 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Nurses and Midwives Registration Act, Chap. 29:53”

(By the Minister of Health)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions

- (i) **The debate on the following motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday May 06, 2014 will be resumed:**

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)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** prior to the introduction of the Regional Health Authorities it was recognized that the centralized approach to the management of the public health sector had resulted in allocative inefficiencies, limited managerial capacity and limited authority at the local level;

AND WHEREAS in 1994, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago introduced a comprehensive health sector reform program to address the institutional constraints that have frustrated many of the previous efforts at improving the delivery of public health care;

AND WHEREAS these reforms resulted in administrative decentralization of the health sector through the establishment of autonomous Regional Health Authorities governed by statutory non-executive boards supported by executive management teams.

AND WHEREAS in spite of significant increases in annual expenditure in the health sector, there still remains numerous problems with the delivery of health care;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to take immediate steps to conduct a comprehensive review of the Regional Health Authority system in the delivery of health care in Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Dr. Victor Wheeler)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate adopt the Report of the Special Select Committee appointed to consider and report on a Bill entitled, “An Act relating to the Planning and Development of Land and to repeal and replace the Town and County Planning Act, Chap. 35:01”.

(By the Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development)

Nataki Atiba-Dilchan
Clerk of the Senate

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PORT OF SPAIN

May 14, 2014

ORDER PAPER - TUESDAY 20th MAY, 2014
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 54 to the Honourable Minister of Transport

(By Senator Camille Robinson-Regis)

- A. Would the Minister indicate whether any tenant was ejected from occupation of any unit in any of the Terminal Malls under the purview of the Public Transport Service Corporation, since May 2010?
- B. If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, would the Minister indicate:
- (i) how many such occupants were ejected;
 - (ii) from which mall and which unit(s);
 - (iii) when was/were this/these tenant(s) ejected;
 - (iv) by what legal means this was achieved; and
 - (v) whether any legal proceedings were instituted in the High Court or the Magistrates Courts to achieve this objective and if so, the names of the Attorney(s) used for this purpose and the respective fees(s) paid in each case?

(Answer due by 08.03.14)

Question No. 55 to the Honourable Minister of Transport

(By Senator Camille Robinson-Regis)

Would the Minister provide this Senate with a list of all contracts entered into, for the provision of goods and/or services to the Public Transport Service Corporation for the period 01st January, 2011 to 31st December, 2013, giving details as to the names of the individual/entity; the scope of works or service; and the contract sum in each case?

(Answer due by 08.03.14)

Question No. 95 to the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Economy

(By Senator David Small)

With regard to Petroleum Pricing, could the Minister please inform the Senate as to:

- a) the status of the operations of the Permanent Petroleum Pricing Committee and the number of meetings held in the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013;
- b) what measures are being utilised by the Ministry to establish and confirm the “correctness” of sale prices for petroleum and other petrochemical products; and
- c) the mechanisms which are used to determine whether the true market value of these transactions are adequate?

(Answer due by 14.03.14)

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