



## SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THIRTY-SECOND SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2013/2014)

TENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2014 AT 10:30 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) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago for fifteen and a half months ended September 30, 2005.

**(By the Minister of Finance and the Economy)**

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. 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?

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\*Question No. 69 was deferred for two weeks on 15.04.2014, two weeks on 06.05.2014, one week on 20.05. 2014, two weeks on 27.05.2014, two weeks on 10.06.2014 and a further two weeks on 24.06.2014.

- 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. 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. 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;

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\*Question No. 78 was deferred for one week on 20.05.2014, two weeks on 27.05.2014, two weeks on 10.06.2014 and a further two weeks on 24.06.2014.

\*Questions No. 87 was deferred for two weeks on 11.03.2014, two weeks on 02.04.2014, two weeks on 06.05.2014, one week on 20.05.2014 two weeks on 27.05.2014, two weeks on 10.06.2014 and a further two weeks on 24.06.2014.

\*Questions No. 91 was deferred for two weeks on 11.03.2014, two weeks on 02.04.2014, two weeks on 06.05.2014, one week on 20.05.2014, two weeks on 27.05.2014, two weeks on 10.06.2014, one week on 24.06.2014 and in accordance with S.O. 18(3).

- 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. 102 to the Honourable Minister of Arts and Multiculturalism**

**(By Senator Anthony Vieira)**

In relation to the National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA), could the Minister inform the Senate:

- (a) which Ministry/Department has oversight responsibility for health, safety and maintenance of the 3 functional areas at the National Academy for the Performing Arts (NAPA), specifically: (i) the Auditorium; (ii) the Academy; and (iii) the Hotel;
- (b) which Ministry/entity is responsible for handling maintenance of the complex as a whole or, if such responsibility falls separately, then who is responsible for handling maintenance in respect of each of the 3 functional areas;
- (c) are formal inspections carried out and, if so, by whom and how often;
- (d) is there a maintenance operations guide or any controlling policy in respect of maintenance and support designed to maximize the performance of the complex; in particular as regards routine repair or maintenance; and as regards preventative maintenance routines;
- (e) is there a help-line support facility available to occupiers or users of the buildings for the purposes of reporting equipment malfunctions and failures or as regards areas or aspects of the building in need of maintenance, repair or adjustment;
- (f) who is required to respond and what is the typical response time; and if third party maintenance is used, how is the provider selected and is there a standard maintenance and support agreement?
- (g) if third party maintenance is used, how is the provider selected and is there a standard maintenance and support agreement?

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

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\*Question No. 100 was deferred for two weeks on 11.03.2014, two weeks on 02.04.2014, two weeks on 06.05.2014, one week on 20.05.2014, two weeks on 27.05.2014, two weeks on 10.06.2014 and a further two weeks on 24.06.2014.

\*Question No. 102 was deferred for two weeks on 27.05.2014, two weeks on 10.06.2014. and a further two weeks on 24.06.2014

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 13<sup>th</sup> 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) **The debate on the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on June 24, 2014 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Judges Salaries and Pensions Act, Chap. 6:02”.

**(By the Leader of Government Business)**

- (ii) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Retiring Allowances (Legislative Service) Act, Chap. 2:03”.

**(By the Leader of Government Business)**

- (iii) A Bill entitled, “An Act relating to committal proceedings in respect of indictable offences by Magistrates and for ancillary matters”.

**(By the Attorney General)**

- (iv) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, 2012, the Jury Act, Chap. 6:53, the Criminal Offences Act, Chap. 11:01, the Dangerous Drugs Act, Chap.

11:25, the Indictable Offences (Preliminary Enquiry) Act, Chap. 12:01, the Young Offenders Detention Act, Chap. 13:05 and the Police Service Act, Chap. 15:01.”

**(By the Attorney General)**

- (v) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Prisons Act, Chap. 13:01, the Criminal Offences Act, Chap 11:01 and the Mental Health Act, Chap. 28:02.”

**(By the Minister of Justice)**

- (vi) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chap. 48:50.”

**(By the Minister of Transport)**

- (vii) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Land Tenants (Security of Tenure) Act, Chap. 59:54.”

**(By the Minister of Housing and Urban Development)**

- (viii) 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)**

## **PRIVATE BUSINESS**

### **Motions**

- (i) **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)**

**Nataki Atiba-Dilchan**  
Clerk of the Senate

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July 03, 2014



**ORDER PAPER - TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 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 01<sup>st</sup> January, 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> 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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