



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

ELEVENTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2015/2016)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JANUARY 26, 2016 AT 1:30 P.M.

1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OR AFFIRMATION
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 20 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister say whether Dr. Kris Rampersad, Chairman of the Education Commission and a member of the Executive Board of UNESCO was denied participation at a high level meeting in Paris held recently, and if so, why?

Question No. 21 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the recent decision of the Board of the National Gas Company (NGC) to implement a salary, benefits and bonus freeze for 2015 and 2016, could the Minister state:

- (i) whether the consent of the Minister was obtained;
- (ii) whether direction was sought and received from the Chief Personnel Officer in arriving at its decision;
- (iii) whether there had been any prior consultation with the employees of the NGC Group; and

- (iv) whether the payment of bonuses for staff was budgeted by NGC in its budget for 2015 and 2016?

Question No. 23 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister state whether a white powdery substance was deposited on the properties of citizens in Marabella in mid-November 2015?
- B. If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, could the Minister state the cause, and say whether this was related to the Petrotrin Refinery Cat Cracker?
- C. If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, could the Minister say whether the powdery substance has been sent for testing at an independent and certified laboratory, and if so, whether the results will be made public;
- D. If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, could the Minister state whether any threat assessment has been made to determine the risk to the health and safety of the residents of Marabella; and
- E. If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, could the Minister state if any plans have been put in place to guarantee the health and safety of the affected residents of Marabella?
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
15. PUBLIC BUSINESS

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday November 24, 2015 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS Agenda 2030 and attendant Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations on 25 September 2015 will drive global efforts to end poverty and place the planet on a sustainable course over the next fifteen years;

AND WHEREAS the SDGs constitute an interlinked framework fusing together economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, including provisions to mobilize the resources required to support implementation;

AND WHEREAS the government of Trinidad and Tobago as a member of the United Nations has committed to this new global agenda on behalf of our people;

AND WHEREAS the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago will need to translate the global SDGs into a national plan for sustainable development with its own country-specific goals and time bound targets;

AND WHEREAS the Declaration of the 4th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament adopted on 2 September 2015 provides further guidance to parliaments on the implementation of the new global agenda;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago:

1. Take stock of Agenda 2030 and attendant Sustainable Development Goals as well as the Declaration of the World Speakers Conference as the main reference point on all policies for sustainable development;
2. Commit to help implement this new framework through all acts of legislation, including the budget; and
3. Request that the Government table a report on the implementation of the national strategy for the SDGs for a thorough review by Parliament.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (ii) **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House take note of the escalating levels of job losses in the country since September 2015 and condemn the Government for its failure to present a clear and cogent economic policy to guide Trinidad and Tobago through these challenging economic circumstances.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (iii) **WHEREAS** the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago is established under Chap 79:02 of the laws of Trinidad and Tobago as a body corporate with the purpose to promote monetary credit and exchange conditions that are most favourable to the development of the economy;

AND WHEREAS as the institution that manages monetary credit, exchange conditions and interest rates, Central Banks worldwide are expected to be independent of political interference;

AND WHEREAS the Bank is managed by a Board of Directors and the day to day management of the Bank is entrusted to the Governor who shall be appointed by the President for a period of five (5) years;

AND WHEREAS section 10(1) of the Central Bank Act stipulates that the Governor shall be answerable to the Board for his acts or decisions:

AND WHEREAS there has been no public disclosure by the Board of Directors or otherwise with regard to apparent reasons for the dismissal of the Governor owing to his actions or decisions

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate condemn the actions of the Government in its dismissal of the Governor of the Central Bank on December 24, 2015.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

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PORT OF SPAIN
January 25, 2016