



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWELFTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2015/2016)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 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
 - (i) The Annual Report of the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago for the period October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (ii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Arima Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2005.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Arima Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2006.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iv) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Arima Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2007.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (v) The Value Added Tax (Amendment to Schedule 2) Order, 2016.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (vi) The Annual Administrative Report of the Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs for the fiscal year 2012.
(By the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries)

(vii) The Annual Report of the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) for the year 2006.

(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

(viii) The Annual Report of the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) for the year 2007.

(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

(ix) The Annual Report of the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) for the year 2008.

(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

(x) The Annual Report of the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) for the year 2009.

(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

(xi) The Annual Report of the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) for the year 2010.

(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

(xii) The Annual Report of the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) for the year 2011.

(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

(xiii) The Annual Report of the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) for the year 2012.

(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 14 to the Minister of Finance**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister say how does the Government intend to finance the budget deficit for fiscal 2015/2016 and whether it intends to raise external finance to achieve same?

* Question No. 14 was deferred for one week on 21.01.2016.

***Question No. 15 to the Minister of Finance**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister state whether the term of the Chairman of the Deposit Insurance Corporation has expired, and if so, who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Deposit Insurance Corporation?

***Question No. 16 to the Minister of Finance**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister of Finance advise the Senate whether Trinidad Generation Unlimited has repaid the Government for monies advanced for the construction of the power plant at La Brea?

***Question No. 19 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the Government's decision to lower the qualifying income ceiling in order to access HDC homes from \$45,000 to \$25,000, could the Minister indicate to the Senate whether it is the intention of this PNM Administration to revisit and /or review this policy decision?

***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;

* Questions Nos. 15 and 16 were deferred for one week on 21.01.2016.

* Question No. 19 was deferred for one week on 25.01.2016.

* Questions Nos. 21 and 23 were deferred for one week on 26.01.2016.

- 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?

Question No. 24 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Could the Minister inform the Senate with regard to the following:

- a) the names of the Chairmen of each NGC subsidiary; and
- b) the name of the NGC representative on the Board of Directors of the National Enterprises Limited (NEL)?

Question No. 25 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With regard to the recently concluded Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) meeting which was held in Tehran, Iran in November, 2015, could the Minister state:

- a) the names and offices of such persons who constituted the Trinidad and Tobago delegation at the Seventeenth Ministerial Meeting of the GECF and the Third Gas Summit meeting;
- b) the role of each member of the delegation as it relates to the Seventeenth Ministerial Meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum and the Third Gas Summit;
- c) a breakdown of the cost incurred by the Ministry of Energy and or State Companies for each member of the delegation listed at (a); and
- d) the total cost incurred as a result of attendance by a delegation from Trinidad and Tobago at the Third Gas Summit meeting and Seventeenth Ministerial Meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum?

Question No. 26 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- A. Could the Minister of Finance inform this Senate whether persons who have maintained US dollar accounts at the commercial banks are able to fully access their accounts?
- B. If the answer to (A) is in the negative, could the Minister state what steps are being taken by the Central Bank to address this?

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 January 26, 2016 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)

(iv) **WHEREAS** the limitless use of technology creates avenues for its abuse and for various types of cybercrimes, including cyberbullying, which can harm our citizens;

AND WHEREAS the laws of Trinidad and Tobago have not, to date, addressed the issue of the regulation of such “cyber-activity”;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate call upon the Government to quickly close the gaps in our legislation in relation to penalties for the abuse and negative usage of computers, mobile devices and internet technology.”

(By Senator Melissa V. Ramkissoon)

Nataki Atiba-Dilchan
Clerk of the Senate

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PORT OF SPAIN
February 17, 2016



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NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the President in accordance with Standing Order 25 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Ministers concerned.

1. TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister say when the St. James Medical facility and the Sangre Grande Hospital will be supplied with sufficient quantities of critical life-saving drugs for the treatment of cancer patients?

2. TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

(By Senator Wade Mark)

What measures are being taken to restore normalcy to Chaguanas North Secondary School after the foiled plot of violence against the lives of teachers and students?

3. TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

(By Senator Wayne Sturge)

In light of the statement by the President of the Pharmacy Board regarding the stated intention of a growing number of pharmacies to "withhold " CDAP services, can the Minister indicate what will be done in the short term to alleviate the obvious hardships to vulnerable citizens?

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

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