



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

SECOND SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2016/2017)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

THURSDAY OCTOBER 20, 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 Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the financial year 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (ii) The Draft Estimates – Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the financial year 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iii) The Draft Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly for the financial year 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iv) The Draft Estimates of the Development Programme for the financial year 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (v) The Draft Estimates of the Revenue for the financial year 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (vi) The Public Sector Investment Programme - Trinidad 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (vii) The Public Sector Investment Programme - Tobago 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (viii) The Social Sector Investment Programme 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)

(ix) The State Enterprises Investment Programme 2017.

(By the Minister of Finance)

(x) The Review of the Economy 2016.

(By the Minister of Finance)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

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 BUSINESS

Motions:

(i) **WHEREAS** Trinidad and Tobago is a signatory since 1970 to the 1958 ILO Convention C111, on discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation;

AND WHEREAS the principle of the elimination of all forms of discrimination in the workplace is an established policy position of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS Senators without portfolio in the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, perform all the functions of legislators in discharging their Parliamentary obligations;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Retirement Allowances Act Chapter 2:03, be amended to include all Senators within the definition of legislators;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate call upon the Government to present the required legislative amendment to the Parliament before the end of the Second Session (2016-2017).

(By Senator Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir)

(ii) **WHEREAS** financial and administrative autonomy of Parliament is an undisputed benchmark of a true democracy;

AND WHEREAS a Joint Select Committee established during the Tenth Parliament to consider proposals for the autonomy of Parliament reported to both Houses that parliamentary autonomy

should be viewed as a recalibration of the existing relationship between the Executive and the Legislature;

AND WHEREAS the Government, in adopting the 2015 Manifesto of the People's National Movement as its official policy framework, confirmed its commitment to the principles of parliamentary autonomy;

BE IT RESOLVED that a Joint Select Committee of Parliament be established to consider and report within three (3) months on a legislative formula for parliamentary autonomy in Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (iii) **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)

- (iv) **WHEREAS** Section 48 of the Tobago House of Assembly Act, Chap 25:03 provides for the unspent balance at the end of the financial year to be retained in the Fund and utilized for the purposes of capital investment;

AND WHEREAS the 2006 Auditor General Report of the Assembly revealed that the relevant documents and records necessary to verify and support its Fund Account balance of \$225 million could not be produced for audit examination and funds totaling \$10 million could not be accounted for;

AND WHEREAS the Assembly Financial Rule No. 34 stipulates that *"moneys shall not be withdrawn from the Contingencies Account other than for the purposes of meeting urgent or unforeseen expenditure"*;

AND WHEREAS the Auditor General has reported that sums in excess of one million dollars were transferred from the Fund Account to the Contingencies Account between 2001 and 2006, in breach of Financial Rule No. 34;

AND WHEREAS the Auditor General has not submitted financial reports on the audited accounts of the THA for the period 2007 to 2015;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate do call on the Government to conduct an immediate forensic audit of the Fund Account and Contingencies Account of the THA;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the forensic audit include all the financial reports related to the Assembly for the period 2002 to 2012 which were laid in the THA.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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PORT OF SPAIN

October 14, 2016

ORDER PAPER- THURSDAY OCTOBER 20, 2016

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 7 to the Attorney General

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the retaining of private legal services for the period September 7, 2015 to September 19, 2016, by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, could the Attorney General please indicate:

- a) the names of the attorneys-at-law or legal firms retained;
- b) the total amounts paid and/or owed to said attorneys or legal firms; and
- c) the details of each engagement including the nature of each brief?

(Answer due by 29.10.16)

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