



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

THIRD SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2016/2017)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FRIDAY OCTOBER 21, 2016 AT 10:30 A.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 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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) **The debate on the Second reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Thursday October 20, 2016 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled 'An Act to provide for the service of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ending on the 30th day of September 2017'.

(By the Minister of Finance)

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 20, 2016

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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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