



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**ORDER PAPER**

EIGHTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2016/2017)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JANUARY 17, 2017 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 WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

**Question for Oral Answer**

**Question No. 13 to the Minister of Public Utilities**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

What has the Ministry done to address the problem of a rat and vermin infestation at the water purification treatment plant at Syne Village, Penal?

**Question No. 14 to the Minister of Works and Transport**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

What steps have the Ministry taken to ensure the completion of the works along the Southern Main Road in La Brea, in light of the threats by workers to abandon said project?

**Question No. 15 to the Minister of Works and Transport**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of six (6) road deaths occurring in less than four days immediately prior to September 23, 2016, can the Minister state what is being done to curb such deaths?

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**

#### **Motions:**

- (i) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 7 of the Customs Act, Chap. 78:01 (hereinafter called “the Act”) that the President may by Order increase or reduce any import or export duty of Customs or impose new import or export duties of Customs and from the date of publication of the Order in the *Trinidad and Tobago Gazette* and until the expiry of the Order the duties specified in the Order shall be payable in lieu of the duties payable prior thereto;

**AND WHEREAS** it is provided by section 7(2) of the Act that an Order issued under that section shall after four days and within twenty-one days from the date of its first publication be submitted to Parliament and Parliament may by resolution confirm, amend or revoke the Order and upon publication of the resolution of Parliament in the *Trinidad and Tobago Gazette*, the resolution shall have effect and the Order shall expire;

**AND WHEREAS** the Customs (Import Duty) (Caribbean Common Market) (Amendment) Order, 2016, was made under section 7 of the Customs Act and first published in the *Trinidad and Tobago Gazette* as Legal Notice No. 160 of 2016 on the 19th day of October, 2016;

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient to confirm the Order:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Customs (Import Duty) (Caribbean Common Market) (Amendment) Order, 2016 be confirmed.

**(By the Minister of Finance)**

- (ii) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 13(2) of the Excise (General Provisions) Act, Chap. 78:50 (hereinafter called “the Act”) that the Minister may by Order impose any new Excise duty or increase any Excise duty and from the date of publication of the Order in the *Trinidad and Tobago Gazette* and until the expiry of the Order the duties specified in the Order shall be payable in lieu of the duties payable prior thereto;

**AND WHEREAS** it is provided by the said section 13(2) of the Act 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 Parliament and Parliament may by resolution confirm, amend or revoke the Order and upon publication of the resolution of Parliament in the *Trinidad and Tobago Gazette*, the resolution shall have effect and the Order shall expire;

**AND WHEREAS** the Excise Duty (Alcoholic Beverages) Order, 2016, was made under section 13(2) of the Excise (General Provisions) Act and first published in the *Trinidad and Tobago Gazette* as Legal Notice No. 161 of 2016 on the 19th day of October, 2016;

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient to confirm the Order:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Excise Duty (Alcoholic Beverages) Order, 2016 be confirmed.

**(By the Minister of Finance)**

(iii) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 13(2) of the Excise (General Provisions) Act, Chap. 78:50 (hereinafter called “the Act”) that the Minister may by Order impose any new Excise duty or increase any Excise duty and from the date of publication of the Order in the *Trinidad and Tobago Gazette* and until the expiry of the Order the duties specified in the Order shall be payable in lieu of the duties payable prior thereto;

**AND WHEREAS** it is provided by the said section 13(2) of the Act 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 Parliament and Parliament may by resolution confirm, amend or revoke the Order and upon publication of the resolution of Parliament in the *Trinidad and Tobago Gazette*, the resolution shall have effect and the Order shall expire;

**AND WHEREAS** the Excise Duty (Tobacco Products) Order, 2016, was made under section 13(2) of the Excise (General Provisions) Act and first published in the *Trinidad and Tobago Gazette* as Legal Notice No. 162 of 2016 on the 19th day of October, 2016;

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient to confirm the Order:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Excise Duty (Tobacco Products) Order, 2016 be confirmed.

**(By the Minister of Finance)**

### **Bills Second Reading:**

(i) **The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Wednesday January 11, 2017 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled ‘An Act to amend the Marriage Act, Chap. 45:01, the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act, Chap. 45:02, the Hindu Marriage Act, Chap. 45:03, the Orisa Marriage Act, Chap. 45:04 and the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Act, Chap. 45:51.’

**(By the Attorney General)**

(ii) A Bill entitled ‘An Act to amend the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act, 2015 to reduce the term of office for the Regulator and other members of the Board appointed to govern the Office of Procurement Regulation.’

**(By the Minister of Finance)**

### **PRIVATE MEMBERS’ 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.)**

Senate Secretariat  
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PORT OF SPAIN

January 12, 2017

**ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY JANUARY 17, 2017**

**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

**Question No. 45 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Can the Minister provide the Senate with the following:-

- (a) the total number of companies/contractors and the names of said companies/contractors who were awarded contracts for work on the Brian Lara Stadium during the period September 2015 to August 2016;
- b) the amount of each of the contracts awarded and the process by which each was awarded;
- c) whether there have been any cost overruns relating to this project, and if so by how much; and
- d) when are refurbishment works expected to be completed?

**(Answer due by 04.02.2017)**

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**January 12, 2017**