



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

NINTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2016/2017)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 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
 - (i) The Finance (Variation of Appropriation) (Financial Year 2016) Bill, 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance who will move that the next stage of the Bill be taken later in the proceedings)
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
 - (i) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Public Administration and Communications to the First Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an Examination into the Current Expenditure of Ministries and Departments under three (3) Sub-Heads: Current Transfers and Subsidies, Development Programme – Consolidated Fund and Infrastructure Development Fund.
(By the Minister of Public Administration and Communications)
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. 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?

* Question No. 15 was deferred for one week on 17.01.2017.

Question No. 16 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By Senator Wade Mark)

What steps are being taken by the Ministry to address the issue of brown water flowing through the taps at the St. James Hospital?

Question No. 17 to the Attorney General

(By Senator Wade Mark)

What measures has the Attorney General taken to address the Judiciary's inability to purchase basic items for jurors, which has impacted the commencement of criminal trials?

Question No. 18 to the Prime Minister

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Has the Office of the Prime Minister taken a decision to terminate the services of officers in the Special Security Unit? If yes;

- a) can the Prime Minister inform the Senate of the basis for the decision; and
- b) what assistance and benefits will be provided to the officers so affected?

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) 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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Level 3, Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN

January 19, 2017

ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 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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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 NATIONAL SECURITY

(By Senator Wayne Sturge)

Given the death threat made to the Head of State, what immediate precautionary measures are being put in place to ensure the safety of the Head of State, the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice and the Leader of the Opposition?

2. TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

(By Senator Wade Mark)

What measures are in place at the La Brea Health Centre to ensure that immediate medical attention is received by residents affected by the January 22, 2017 oil spill?

3. TO THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

(By Senator Wade Mark)

What urgent measures are being implemented by the Environmental Management Authority to reduce the negative environmental effects of Sunday's oil spill in La Brea?

4. TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION

(By Senator Wade Mark)

What steps are being taken to deal with the concerns of parents about security at the San Fernando SDA Primary School, after the recent attack on several female students?

**Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)**

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