



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

SIXTEENTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2016/2017)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY MARCH 28, 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
 - (i) A Green Paper on the Draft National Parenting Policy of Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of Social Development and Family Services)
 - (ii) The Annual Report of the Public Service Commission for the year 2015.
(By the Vice-President)
 - (iii) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the Vehicle Management Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (VMCOTT) for the financial year ended September 30, 2013.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iv) The Second Report of the Committee to Review the levels of Health Care Delivery by the Regional Health Authorities and to rationalize the system of Public Sector Doctors in Private Practice.
(By the Minister of Health)
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 34 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the current state of the global oil and gas markets, can the Minister state the reasons for pursuing the Alutrint Smelter?

Question No. 35 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

What is the status of the US \$66.6 million dollar credit facility obtained through the China Exim Bank to finance the Aluminium Smelter project?

Question No. 36 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having recorded an economic contraction of -8% in the second quarter of 2016, what specific measures are being taken by the Government to improve the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and economic situation?

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 February 14, 2017 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS the responsibility of a Government is to ensure public safety and security through the maintenance of law and order;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to address the extraordinary increase in the level of crime in Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate take note of the increasing and unacceptable levels of violent crimes in Trinidad and Tobago;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to take all immediate and necessary steps in the shortest possible time to deal with the unacceptable crime level facing the citizenry of Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Wayne Sturge)

- (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)

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 Tuesday March 21, 2017 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled 'An Act to amend the Offences Against the Person Act, Chap. 11:08 and the Criminal Procedure Act, Chap. 12:02 and for related matters.'

(By the Attorney General)

- (ii) A Bill entitled 'An Act to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chap. 48:50 to introduce a system of traffic violations for certain breaches of the Act, to provide for the

implementation of a red-light camera system, a demerit points system and the reform of the fixed penalty system and related legal proceedings and other related matters.’

(By the Attorney General)

- (iii) A Bill entitled ‘An Act to provide for the membership of Trinidad and Tobago in the Corporación Andina de Fomento (also known as “the Andean Development Corporation”) and for the raising of loans from the Corporación Andina de Fomento (Andean Development Corporation) by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the purposes of financing development projects in Trinidad and Tobago and for matters incidental thereto.’

(By the Minister of Finance)

- (iv) A Bill entitled ‘An Act to abolish preliminary enquiries and to provide for the pre-trial procedure in respect of indictable offences and for ancillary matters.’

(By the Attorney General)

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

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March 23, 2017

ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY MARCH 28, 2017

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 60 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister indicate the terms of the contract between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the US Lobbyist 'The Group DC LLC' including the cost of the contract in TT currency, and the metrics being used to measure what benefits, if any, are being derived from the engagement with said US Lobbyist?

(Answer due By 20.04.2017)

Question No. 62 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

What are the names and compensation packages of persons hired as advisers in the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries since September 2015 to present?

(Answer due By 20.04.2017)

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