



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWENTY-THIRD SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2016/2017)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

THURSDAY MAY 25, 2017 AT 2:30 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 Annual Audited Financial Statements of Trinidad Nitrogen Company Limited for the financial year ended December 31, 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

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 79 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Why have the services of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries been extended beyond the compulsory retirement age as set out in the Civil Service Regulations?

Question No. 80 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of increasing reports of rogue elements in the Police Service, what measures is the Ministry putting in place to verify this information and to removing said officers?

Question No. 81 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given the response by the President of the Police Service Social and Welfare Association against the construction of a Police Station in the Enterprise community, can the Minister advise whether the Government intends to review its decision?

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) A Bill entitled 'An act to amend the Fire Service Act, Chap. 35:50'.
(By the Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development)
- (ii) **The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday May 02, 2017 will be resumed:**
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) **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)
- (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)
- (v) A Bill entitled 'An act to establish a system of plea discussions and plea agreements and for matters incidental thereto.'
(By the Attorney General)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday May 23, 2017 will be resumed:**
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)

- (ii) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday April 25, 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)

- (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
Office of the Parliament
Level 3, Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN

May 24, 2017

ORDER PAPER – THURSDAY MAY 25, 2017

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 89 to the Minister of Public Administration and Communications

(By Senator Wayne Sturge)

Can the Minister inform the Senate of the following:

- a) the number of rental leases entered into by the State since September 2015;
- b) the names of the owners who granted such leases; and
- c) the value of each lease entered into?

(Answer due by 08.06.2017)

**Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
Level 3, Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN**

May 24, 2017