



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

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

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JUNE 20, 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) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Finance to the First Report of the Public Accounts Committee, First Session (2015/2016), Eleventh Parliament, on the Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial years 2014 and 2015 with specific reference to the Auditor General's Department.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (ii) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of Point Lisas Industrial Port Development Corporation Limited, for the financial year ended December 31, 2016.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iii) The Response of the Auditor General's Department to the Fourth Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Second Session (2016/2017), Eleventh Parliament, on the Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheet and other Financial Statements of the Community Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme for the financial years 2009 to 2014.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iv) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of EXIMBANK for the financial year ended December 31, 2016.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (v) The Trinidad and Tobago Gas Master Plan – Final Report.
(By the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries)
 - (vi) The Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation (Vesting) (Amendment to the First Schedule) Order, 2017.
(By the Minister of Housing and Urban Development)

- (vii) The Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation (Vesting) (Amendment to the First Schedule) (No. 2) Order, 2017.

(By the Minister of Housing and Urban Development)

- (viii) The Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation (Vesting) (Amendment to the First Schedule) (No. 3) Order, 2017.

(By the Minister of Housing and Urban Development)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- (i) The Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure, Second Session (2016/2017), Eleventh Parliament, on an inquiry into the allocation and utilisation of State lands for food production.

(By Senator Stephen Creese)

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 82 to the Prime Minister**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of photographs of two children posing with high-powered weapons at Camp Cumuto, can the Prime Minister advise the Senate whether an investigation by the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago will be launched into this matter?

Question No. 90 to the Minister of Public Administration and Communications

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the decision to allow Permanent Secretaries to recruit independently, what measures and criteria will be implemented to ensure transparency in the recruitment process at the five (5) Ministries identified?

Question No. 91 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to the disclosure by the Chairman of the Massy Group on extensive losses suffered by Massy Communications prior to exiting the telecommunications sector, can the Minister advise whether the Government intends to disclose all of the details of the TSTT/Massy Communications transaction?

Question No. 92 to the Minister of Tourism

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports that Sandals Resorts International is exploring strategic alternatives including the possible sale of the company, can the Minister indicate the status of the negotiations between Sandals and the T&T Government on the Sandals Hotel Project in Tobago?

Question No. 93 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Khadijah Ameen)

Can the Minister state whether there is a shortage of pharmaceuticals and medical paraphernalia at the nation's hospitals and, if so, what measures are being taken to correct same?

* Question No. 82 was deferred for two weeks on 01.06.2017.

Question No. 94 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Rodger Samuel)

Can the Minister state the following:

- a. what are the financial arrangements between the Government and the owners of the nine (9) drill ships anchored in the territorial waters of Trinidad and Tobago for the storage and presence of said drill ships in our waters;
- b. what is the total sum collected by the Government for these ships to date;
- c. how long are these ships expected to remain in our waters?

Question No. 97 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Paul Richards)

In light of the adverse health effects resulting from the use of energy drinks, can the Minister indicate whether the Government intends to place a ban on the importation of said drinks?

Question No. 98 to the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government

(By Senator Paul Richards)

Can the Minister advise on the level of preparedness of the Regional Corporations to respond to reports of flooding that may arise in their respective regions during this rainy season?

Question No. 99 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Paul Richards)

With regard to reports that pornographic photographs of minors are being posted on a local website, can the Minister inform the Senate:

- a) whether the TTPS has conducted an investigation into these reports, and if so;
- b) is the investigation completed; and
- c) has anyone been charged as a result of the investigation?

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 Tuesday June 13, 2017 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled ‘An act to establish a system of plea discussions and plea agreements and for matters incidental thereto.’

(By the Attorney General)

(ii) A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Bail Act, Chap. 4:60”

(By the Attorney General)

(iii) 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)

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.)

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PORT OF SPAIN

June 16, 2017



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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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 RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Can the Minister state what action is being taken to bring relief to persons adversely affected by Tropical Storm Bret?
2. **TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of the technical problems affecting the computerized tomography (CT) machines at the San Fernando General Hospital, how is the Ministry addressing the delays being experienced by patients?
3. **TO THE PRIME MINISTER**
(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)
What steps are being taken by the Children's Authority to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death, by hanging, of a fourteen (14) year old child who was in the custody of the Children's Authority?

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Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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