

**THE  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES  
OFFICIAL REPORT**

IN THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTH PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD  
AND TOBAGO WHICH OPENED ON NOVEMBER 27, 1995

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**SESSION 1998—1999**

**VOLUME 13**

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**SENATE**

*Monday, October 05, 1998*

*10.30 a.m.*

*The Senate having assembled, and it being the first meeting of the Fourth Session of the Fifth Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Clerk of the Senate read the following Proclamation:*

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

No. 9

By His Excellency Arthur Napoleon Raymond  
Robinson, T.C., O.C.C., S.C., President and  
Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of Trinidad  
and Tobago.

**ARTHUR N. R. ROBINSON**

*President*

A PROCLAMATION

Whereas it is provided by subsection (1) of section 67 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago that each session of Parliament shall be held at such place within Trinidad and Tobago and shall commence at such time as the President may by Proclamation appoint:

Now, therefore, I, ARTHUR NAPOLEON RAYMOND ROBINSON, President as aforesaid, do hereby appoint the Red House, Port of Spain, Trinidad as the place at which the Fourth Session of the Fifth Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago shall be held, and 10.30 a.m. on Monday the 5th day of October, 1998 as the time at which the said Session shall commence.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the President  
of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, at  
the Office of the President, St. Ann's, this  
25th day of September, 1998.

*Leave of Absence*

*Monday, October 05, 1998*

**PRAYERS**

[MR. PRESIDENT *in the Chair*]

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

**Mr. President:** Hon. Senators, leave of absence has been granted to the following Senators: Sen. Martin Daly from September 25, 1998 to October 10, 1998; Sen. Vimala Tota-Maharaj from September 29, 1998 to October 5, 1998; Sen. Nafeesa Mohammed from September 29, 1998 to October 6, 1998.

**SENATORS' APPOINTMENT**

**Mr. President:** Hon. Senators, I have received the following communication from His Excellency, the President of Trinidad and Tobago:

"THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By His Excellency Ganace Ramdial, Acting  
President and Commander-in-Chief of the  
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

\s\ Ganace Ramdial

Acting President.

TO: MR. VINCENT CABRERA

WHEREAS Senator Vimala Tota-Maharaj is incapable of performing her functions as a Senator by reason of her absence from Trinidad and Tobago:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GANACE RAMDIAL, Acting President as aforesaid, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, VINCENT CABRERA, to be temporarily a member of the Senate, with effect from 5th October, 1998 and continuing during the absence from Trinidad and Tobago of the said Senator Vimala Tota-Maharaj.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the President of  
the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago at the Office of  
the President, St. Ann's, this 2nd day of October,  
1998.

*Senators' Appointment*

*Monday, October 05, 1998*

"THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

By His Excellency Ganace Ramdial, Acting President and  
Commander-in-Chief of the Republic of Trinidad  
and Tobago.

\s\ Ganace Ramdial  
Acting President.

TO: MR. KENNETH AYOUNG-CHEE

WHEREAS Senator Martin G. Daly is incapable of performing his functions as a Senator by reason of his absence from Trinidad and Tobago:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GANACE RAMDIAL, Acting President as aforesaid, in exercise of the power vested in me by section 40(2)(c) and section 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, do hereby appoint you, KENNETH AYOUNG-CHEE, to be temporarily a member of the Senate, with effect from 5th October, 1998 and continuing during the absence from Trinidad and Tobago of the said Senator Martin G. Daly.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the  
President of the Republic of Trinidad and  
Tobago at the Office of the President, St.  
Ann's, this 2nd day of October, 1998."

**OATH OF ALLEGIANCE**

*Sen. Vincent Cabrera and Sen. Kenneth Ayoung-Chee took and subscribed the Oath of Allegiance as required by law.*

**PAPERS LAID**

1. Report of the Auditor General on the accounts of the Government Employees Provident Fund for the year ended December 31, 1997. [*The Minister of Finance (Sen. The Hon. Brian Kuei Tung)*]
2. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the accounts and Financial Statements of the Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation Programme for the year ended December 31, 1997 as required by Loan Contract No. 857/SF-TT between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Inter-American Development Bank. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]

3. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the accounts and Financial Statements of the Project Execution Unit of the Ministry of Housing and Settlements Programme as required by Loan Contract No. 584/OC-TT between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Inter-American Development Bank. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
4. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the accounts of the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended December 31, 1995. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
5. Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the accounts and Financial Statements of the Restructuring Support Unit (RSU), Ministry of Planning and Development (The Executing Agency) in respect of the Business Expansion and Industrial Restructuring Loan (BEIRL) Project for the year ended December 31, 1997 as required by Section 4.01(b)(i) of Loan Contract No. 3432 TR between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
6. Financial Statements of Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended September 30, 1997. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
7. Annual Audited Financial Statements of First Citizens Bank Limited and its subsidiaries for the year ended September 30, 1997. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
8. Annual Audited Financial Statements of First Citizens Merchant Bank Limited for the year ended September 30, 1997. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
9. Annual Audited Financial Statements of First Citizens Bank Mortgage and Trust Company Limited for the year ended September 30, 1997. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
10. Annual Audited Financial Statements of First Citizens Holding Limited for the year ended September 30, 1996. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
11. Draft Estimates of Expenditure for the year 1998/1999. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
12. Draft estimates - Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the year 1998/1999. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]

*Papers Laid*

*Monday, October 05, 1998*

13. Draft estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies and of the Tobago House of Assembly for the year 1998/1999. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
14. Draft Estimates of Development Programme 1998/1999. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
15. Draft Estimates of Revenue for the year 1998/1999. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
16. Public Sector Investment Programme - 1998/1999. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
17. The Medium Term Policy Framework: 1999-2001. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]
18. Review of the Economy - January to September 1998. [*Hon. B. Kuei Tung*]

**FORESTS (AMDT.) BILL**

Bill to amend the Forests Act, Chap. 66:01. [*The Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources*]; read the first time.

**SAWMILLS (AMDT.) BILL**

Bill to amend the Sawmills Act, Chap. 66:02. [*The Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources*]; read the first time.

**PATENTS (VALIDATION OF INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS FILED UNDER THE PATENT CO-OPERATION TREATY) BILL**

Bill to validate the effect of certain international applications under the Patent Co-operation Treaty designating Trinidad and Tobago. [*The Minister of Legal Affairs*]; read the first time.

*Motion made*, That the next stage be taken at the next sitting. [*Hon. W. Mark*]

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Motion made and question proposed*, That this Senate do now adjourn to a date to be fixed. [*Hon. W. Mark*]

*Question put and agreed to.*

*Senate adjourned accordingly.*

*Adjourned at 10.45 a.m.*