



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TENTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2021/2022)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 07, 2021 AT 10:00 A.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 Report of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago with respect to the Progress of the Proposals to Restructure CLICO, BAT and CIB for the quarter ended September 30, 2021.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (ii) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the Power Generation Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited for the year ended December 31, 2010.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iii) The One Hundred and Eleventh Report of the Salaries Review Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Vice-President)
 - (iv) The One Hundred and Twelfth Report of the Salaries Review Commission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Vice-President)
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
 - (i) The Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure, Second Session (2021/2022), Twelfth Parliament, on an inquiry into the management of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) and related recommendations.
(By Senator Deoroop Teemal)
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 14 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to the renewal of the term of office of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) whether the Government supported said renewal;
- (ii) if the answer is no, what are the reasons;
- (iii) what role, if any, was played by the Government in delaying the renewal of the Vice-Chancellor; and
- (iv) whether there was any breach of contract and established procedures for renewal due to delays by the Government?

Question No. 15 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister indicate why the Principal of the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus was given a one year extension of contract as opposed to a two year extension as proposed by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago?

Question No. 16 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister indicate what role, if any, the Government played in halting the interviews for the appointment of a new Principal of the University of the West Indies, St Augustine?

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 November 30, 2021 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, 'An Act to provide for the designation, development, operation and management of Special Economic Zones, the establishment of the Special Economic Zones Authority, the repeal of the Free Zones Act, Chap. 81:07, the regulation of Special Economic Zones and matters related thereto'.

(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)

- (i) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to repeal the Livestock and Livestock Products Board Act, Chap. 67:05’.
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday November 23, 2021 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS all Senators have a duty to uphold the dignity, discipline and decorum of Parliament and defend it against disrespect;

AND WHEREAS failure to uphold the dignity of Parliament, by disregarding its rules, by using unparliamentary language, by disobeying and ignoring the authority of the Presiding Officer, diminishes and erodes public confidence in said institution;

AND WHEREAS conduct calculated to obstruct, intimidate or impede Members in the discharge of their duties is a breach of privilege;

AND WHEREAS all Opposition Senators who were present at the meeting of the Electoral College on October 21, 2021 made abusive and malicious assertions; imputed false and improper motives, and cast negative reflections on the character and impartiality of all Independent Senators during said proceedings of the Electoral College, and in the media;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate censure the unparliamentary conduct of said Opposition Senators who by threat or molestation have attempted to obstruct, impede, influence or interfere with said Independent Senators in the performance of their duties;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Select Committee be established to consider and report on a code of ethical conduct and behavior for Senators.

(By Senator Anthony Vieira)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chapter 19:01 provides for the establishment of Commissions to manage the conduct of enquiries into public officers, departments and matters of public welfare;

AND WHEREAS Commissions of Enquiry are recognized as an important tool for social investigation in contemporary society, an effective mechanism for delivering into and ameliorating matters of public concern;

AND WHEREAS successive Government administrations have failed to adequately address public concerns which have arisen from time to time on whether the Commissions of Enquiry in Trinidad and Tobago have been effectively and efficiently carrying out their mandate;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to review the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01 and the public inquiry process in Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Anthony Vieira)

- (iii) **WHEREAS** in 2001 the States of the Caribbean Community established by agreement (by treaty) the Caribbean Court of Justice (“the Court”), convinced that the Court would have a determinative role in the development of Caribbean jurisdiction steeped in the ethos of the region;

AND WHEREAS Trinidad and Tobago, having ratified without reservation the agreement establishing the Court, is bound under treaty to refer its appeals to the Court in lieu of continuing to have them heard by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council;

AND WHEREAS the unique and varied legal matters which arise in the Caribbean are far removed and foreign to the society, culture and habits of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, as sentiment echoed by Privy Council judges and senior British legal figures;

AND WHEREAS almost all Commonwealth States outside the Caribbean as well as four CARICOM states, have since delinked from the Privy Council, recognizing that it goes against the sovereignty of independent nations, and is therefore politically unacceptable, to have such a foreign tribunal permanently entrenched in their Constitutions as their final appellate Court;

AND WHEREAS this is an appropriate time for Trinidad and Tobago to accede to the Court in its appellate jurisdiction, so that the Country's civil, criminal and constitutional appeals can be heard by the Court, which will also serve this Country's democratic and developmental objectives regarding affordability, relevance and increased access to justice;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate agree that the Caribbean Court of Justice be recognized as the final Court of Appeal for Trinidad and Tobago and that the appropriate amendments be made to alter the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago so as to entrench the court as its final court of appeal.

(By Senator Anthony Vieira)

- (iv) **WHEREAS** availability of foreign exchange is important for investment and competitiveness in the private sector and a shortage of foreign exchange can hinder prospects for diversification and economic recovery aspired to in the Government's fiscal strategy;

AND WHEREAS energy sector revenues continue to be adversely affected by lower domestic energy production due to natural gas supply challenges, ongoing maintenance activity and temporary plant closures;

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and the wider population continue to experience the negative effects of limited access to foreign exchange, notwithstanding interventions by the Central Bank and the Government to ease tight foreign exchange market conditions;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to table in Parliament, within six (6) months, a comprehensive policy framework that will guide key stakeholders, including MSMEs, on how the Government intends to navigate the worsening foreign exchange market to overcome downside risks in the medium term.

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

- (v) **WHEREAS** on April 24, 2018 the Senate unanimously passed a resolution calling on the Government "... to introduce legislation on parliamentary autonomy during the Fourth Session of the Eleventh Parliament and have same referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament for consideration and report before the end of the Fourth Session of the Eleventh Parliament";

AND WHEREAS on February 12, 2019, in the Senate, the Attorney General committed to making best efforts to have legislation on Parliamentary Autonomy introduced in the Fourth Session of the Eleventh Parliament;

AND WHEREAS to date the Government has not presented to Parliament a legislative framework on Parliamentary Autonomy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to reaffirm its commitment to introduce a legislative framework on Parliamentary Autonomy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to introduce in Parliament, within three (3) months, a Bill on Parliamentary Autonomy and have same referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament for consideration and report.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (vi) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 1(2) of the Data Protection Act 2011 that the Act shall come into operation on such day as is fixed by the President by Proclamation;

AND WHEREAS Part 1 and sections 7 to 18, 22, 23, 25(1), 26 and 28 of the Act were operationalised on January 06, 2012 and section 42(a) and (b) were operationalised on August 20, 2021;

AND WHEREAS there are other sections of the Act that offer the necessary checks and balances in safeguarding the personal data/information of every citizen;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to immediately proclaim the remaining sections of the Data Protection Act and in the process ensure the necessary checks and balances aimed at safeguarding citizens' fundamental right to privacy.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (vii) **WHEREAS** the Senate, as a House of Parliament, ought to afford Members such freedom of debate so as to allow full, frank and meaningful discussion within the constraints of the Standing Orders and well established parliamentary practice;

AND WHEREAS the position and authority of the President of the Senate ought not to be used in a partisan manner to prevent and or stymie criticism of the Government;

AND WHEREAS the Senate President is the servant of the Senate and not of the Government and as such ought to be impartial at all times;

AND WHEREAS the President of the Senate by her rulings has demonstrated her bias in favor of the PNM Government and her lack of understanding of the nature and role of the Office of President of the Senate;

AND WHEREAS by her actions the Senate President has stifled the freedom of debate guaranteed by the Constitution and thus brought this Senate into disrepute;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate declare that it has lost confidence in the President of the Senate, Senator the Honourable Christine Kangaloo.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
The Parliamentary Complex
The Red House
Abercromby Street
PORT OF SPAIN

December 02, 2021

ORDER PAPER TUESDAY DECEMBER 07, 2021
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 45 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the provisions of the Finance (No.2) Act 2016 and the recent amendments to the Income Tax Act concerning exemptions from income tax in relation to income derived from the letting or sale of a multi-family dwelling, can the Minister provide the following information, for the period November 2016 to November 2021:

- (i) the number of applications for exemptions received from companies/owners of companies;
- (ii) the names of the companies/owners/beneficial owners accessing said exemptions; and
- (iii) the total income the taxpayers had to forego as a result of these exemptions for companies/owners/beneficial owners?

(Answer due by 30.12.2021)

Question No. 46 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By Senator Wade Mark)

As regard the provisions of the Finance (No.2) Act 2016 and the recent amendments to the Income Tax Act, regarding exemptions related to the construction of multi-family dwelling, can the Minister provide the following information for the period November 2016 to November 2021:

- (i) the names of the companies/owners/beneficial owners who have been issued with certificates by the Ministry in support of said exemptions;
- (ii) the locations of the construction of the multi-family dwelling projects related to (i); and
- (iii) the total value of exemptions enjoyed by each company/owner/ beneficial owner?

(Answer due by 30.12.2021)

**Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
The Parliamentary Complex
The Red House
Abercromby Street
PORT OF SPAIN**

December 02, 2021