



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWENTY-SECOND SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2021/2022)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

WEDNESDAY APRIL 20, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M.

1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OR AFFIRMATION
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 - (i) The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2022.
(By the Attorney General who will move that the next stage of the Bill be taken later in the proceedings)
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
 - (i) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Public Transport Service Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2018.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (ii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended September 30, 2014.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iii) The Response of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Thirtieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the examination of the concerns raised in the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Years 2016, 2017 and 2018 with specific reference to the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI) and follow up on the implementation of the recommendations in the Fourth, Fourteenth and Twentieth Reports of the Public Accounts Committee.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iv) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Finance to the Second Report of the Public Accounts Committee on an examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2020.
(By the Minister of Finance)

- (v) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Health to the Interim Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on the response of the Public Authorities to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of Health)
- (vi) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Health to the Third Report of the Joint Select Committee on Local Authorities, Service Commissions and Statutory Authorities (including the THA) on an inquiry into the Administration of the Children's Life Fund Authority.
(By the Minister of Health)
- (vii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Education to the Fourth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Local Authorities, Service Commissions and Statutory Authorities (including the THA) on an inquiry into the role of NIHERST as it pertains to the development of the STEM in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of Education)
- (viii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Public Administration to the First Report of the Joint Select Committee on Finance and Legal Affairs on an inquiry into the Ease of Doing Business in Trinidad and Tobago, First Session (2020/2021), Twelfth Parliament.
(By the Minister of Public Administration)
- (ix) The Family Proceedings (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules, 2022
(By the Attorney General)
- (x) The Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Rules, 2022
(By the Attorney General)
- (xi) The Civil Proceedings (Amendment) (No. 2) Rules, 2022
(By the Attorney General)
- (xii) The Children Court (Amendment) Rules, 2022
(By the Attorney General)
- (xiii) The Annual Report on the Freedom of Information Act, Chap. 22:02 for the year 2009.
(By the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister)
- (xiv) The Annual Report on the Freedom of Information Act, Chap. 22:02 for the year 2010.
(By the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister)
- (xv) The Annual Report on the Freedom of Information Act, Chap. 22:02 for the year 2016.
(By the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister)
- (xvi) The Annual Report on the Freedom of Information Act, Chap. 22:02 for the year 2017.
(By the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister)
- (xvii) The Annual Report on the Freedom of Information Act, Chap. 22:02 for the year 2018.
(By the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- (i) The Fifth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Local Authorities, Service Commissions and Statutory Authorities (including the THA) on an inquiry into the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.
(By Senator Dr. Varma Deyalsingh)

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 69 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to reported concerns of grieving families claiming delays in the release of the bodies of their loved ones suspected of having died from COVID-19, does the Government intend to approve the use of private laboratories to administer PCR tests in cases where COVID-19 is the suspected cause of death?

Question No. 70 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the rising cost of food and the negative effect on vulnerable families, can the Minister indicate when will the Government be resuming the School Feeding Programme?

Question No. 71 to the Minister of Digital Transformation

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the proposed introduction of a digital vaccination card system, can the Minister provide the following:

- (i) the “*unexpected issues*” that have caused a delay in the introduction of a digital vaccination card system;
- (ii) the tendering process for the procurement of the system; and
- (iii) the name of the company which was awarded the contract to develop same?

Question No. 110 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Charrise Seepersad)

Given the NIB’s continued advocacy for reform of the National Insurance System (NIS), can the Minister advise as to:

- (i) what are the Government’s plans, if any, to assist in the reformation of the NIS;
- (ii) whether said reformation would require legislative amendments; and
- (iii) how soon will such legislation be brought to the Parliament?

Question No. 111 to the Minister of Trade and Industry

(By Senator Charrise Seepersad)

In light of a decline in the number of employers that contribute to the NIS and a 3.74% decrease in contribution income per the 2021 NIB Report, can the Minister indicate what measures are being put in place to encourage the growth of local businesses in the short to medium-term?

Question No. 128 to the Attorney General

(By Senator Charrise Seepersad)

Can the Attorney General advise when the Government’s Legislative Agenda for the Twelfth Parliament (2020-2025) will be presented to the Parliament?

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 adjourned on Tuesday January 18, 2022 will be resumed:**
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:

- (ii) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday March 22, 2022 will be resumed:**
WHEREAS availability of foreign exchange is important for investment and competitiveness in the private sector and the persistently tight foreign exchange environment can hinder prospects for diversification and economic recovery aspired to in the Government's fiscal strategy;
AND WHEREAS there has been improved sales and purchases of foreign exchange by authorized dealers recorded thus far in 2022 due to higher energy prices;
AND WHEREAS it is recognized that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and the wider population continue to experience the negative effects from the difficulty in accessing 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, the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and Commercial Banks on how the Government intends to navigate the tightness in the foreign exchange market to overcome downside risks in the medium and long-term.
(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)
- (iii) **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)

- (iv) **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)

- (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)

Keiba Jacob Mottley
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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

April 13, 2022

ORDER PAPER WEDNESDAY APRIL 20, 2022
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 117 to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

(By Senator Paul Richards)

Regarding the National Carnival Commission's "A Taste of Carnival 2022" events, can the Minister provide:

- (i) the final breakdown of how the \$15 million allocation for these events was spent;
- (ii) the number of persons who logged onto the online portals to the various shows;
- (iii) the number of tickets sold for the events; and
- (iv) the amount of revenue derived from these events?

(Answer due by 08.04.2022)

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WEDNESDAY APRIL 20, 2022 AT 10:00 A.M.

NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the Vice-President in accordance with Standing Order 25 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Ministers concerned.

1. **TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister indicate when will public healthcare institutions procure the essential chemotherapy drug Xeloda?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister state the reasons for the recent suspension of the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Water and Sewerage Authority by the Board?

3. **TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given the impasse brewing between the Association of Maxi Taxi School Transport Concessionaires (AMTSTC) and the Ministry of Education on the resumption of the school transport service, can the Minister state what actions are being taken to rectify this situation?

**Keiba Jacob Mottley
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)**

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