1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OR AFFIRMATION
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
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. 90 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of the call from the President of Venezuela for an “exhaustive” investigation into all the circumstances surrounding the death of a Venezuelan baby boy on the high seas on 6th February, 2022, can the Minister indicate when will this investigation be completed?

Question No. 91 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Given the tragic circumstances involving the death of a baby boy on the high seas as well as the injuries sustained by the child’s mother on 6th February 2022, can the Minister outline:

(i) the use of force policy used by the Coast Guard when engaging migrants in high sea chases; and

(ii) the measures, if any, to be taken by local authorities to avoid such incidents in the future?

Question No. 92 to the Minister of Health
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Given the operation conducted by a team of NWRHA Doctors involving lye which resulted in the patient requiring reconstructive surgery at a cost of USD$116,000.00, can the Minister indicate whether action will be taken against the said team for medical negligence?
**Question No. 159 to the Minister of Trade and Industry**  
(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

In light of a statement made by the Minister on April 27, 2022 which confirmed that the Ministry of Trade and Industry is in the process of reviewing this country’s legislative and policy framework to understand the possibilities for a cryptocurrency sector in Trinidad and Tobago, can the Minister state the following:

(i) a timeline for the development of a policy framework on the matter;
(ii) a timeline for the introduction of legislation in Parliament; and
(iii) whether said legislative and policy frameworks will be prepared to facilitate the establishment of a bitcoin-mining farm proposed by companies at the Tamana InTech Park, at a total investment of US$0.5 billion?

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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

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**PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS**

**Motions:**

(i) **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)

(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 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)

(iv) 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)
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)

Bills Second Reading:

(i) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Soroptimist Club of Port-of-Spain (Incorporation) Act, 1972 (Act No. 26 of 1972)’.

(The President of the Senate will propose the question that the Bill be read a Second Time)

(ii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Trinidad and Tobago Association for Retarded Children Ordinance, 1961 (Ordinance No. 15 of 1961)’.

(The President of the Senate will propose the question that the Bill be read a Second Time)

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)

(ii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Sexual Offences Act, Chap. 11:28 and for other related matters’.

(By the Attorney General)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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

May 20, 2022
Question No. 160 to the Minister of Public Utilities
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Can the Minister provide the names of the contractors engaged by the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) to prune vegetation, particularly trees, along the Commission’s various transmission right of way corridors for the period January 1, 2020 to April 30, 2022?

(Answer due by 07.06.2022)
SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

WEDNESDAY MAY 25, 2022 AT 1:30 P.M.

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 WORKS AND TRANSPORT**
   (By Senator Wade Mark)
   Can the Minister indicate what measures are being taken to ensure that the elevators on the Buccoo Reef Ferry are functioning?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**
   (By Senator Wade Mark)
   In light of the recall of Jif peanut butter by its producer JM Smucker, can the Minister indicate what measures are being taken to ensure the health and safety of consumers of said product in Trinidad and Tobago?

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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Office of the Parliament
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PORT OF SPAIN

May 25, 2022