



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**ORDER PAPER**

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

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY MAY 31, 2022 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 Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2022.  
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)
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. 93 to the Prime Minister**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Given the allegations leveled against Vikab Engineering Consultants Ltd. by Shanghai Construction Group (Caribbean) Ltd. which have led to the termination of a billion-dollar construction contract, can the Prime Minister state whether the Government has launched a formal inquiry into these allegations against Vikab Engineering Consultants Ltd?

**Question No. 94 to the Minister of National Security**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Can the Minister state what caused the 28-ft Coast Guard pirogue to sink at the San Fernando Yacht Club on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022?

**Question No. 95 to the Minister of Public Utilities**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of the Prime Minister's instruction that the Minister meet with the Joint Trade Union Movement (JTUM) and National Trade Union Centre (NATUC) to secure their input in treating with WASA, can the Minister indicate the specifics discussed at the meeting?

**\*Question No. 146 to the Minister of Finance**

**(By Senator Charrise Seepersad)**

Given that the minimum NIS pension was increased over time from \$1,000 to \$3,000, which caused the National Insurance Board to subsidise this shortfall by approximately \$20B as at 2022, can the Minister state how the Government will address this issue?

**Question No. 161 to the Attorney General**

**(By Senator Charrise Seepersad)**

In light of the increasing number of cyber-attacks on local businesses, can the Minister state:

- (i) whether legislation will be reintroduced in Parliament to address cybercrime offences and establish a framework for the enforcement of cybercrime penalties; and
- (ii) if the answer to (i) is in the negative, what is the Government's plan to address cybercrime offences in the short, medium and long-term?

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**

**Motions:**

- (i) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 5(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Chap. 58:01 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") that the President may by Order declare that land is required for public purposes;

**AND WHEREAS** it is provided by section 5(2) of the Act that Parliament may by resolution approve an Order made under section 5(1);

**AND WHEREAS** the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2022 was made by the President under section 5(1) of the Act as Legal Notice No. 77 dated the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022;

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient to approve the said Order;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2022 be approved.

**(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)**

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\* Question No. 146 was deferred for two weeks on 17.05.2022

## **Bills Second Reading:**

- (i) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Municipal Corporations Act, Chap. 25:04, the Burial Grounds Act, Chap. 30:50, the Cremation Act, Chap. 30:51, the Advertisements Regulation Act, Chap. 30:53, the Recreation Grounds and Pastures Act, Chap: 41:01, the Highways Act, Chap. 48:01, the Dogs Act, Chap. 675:4, the Property Taxes Act, Chap. 76:04 and the Planning and Facilitation of Development Act, No. 10 of 2014’.  
**(By the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government)**
- (ii) **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)**
- (iii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Sexual Offences Act, Chap. 11:28 and for other related 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 Wednesday May 25, 2022 will be resumed:**
- WHEREAS** all Senators have a duty to uphold the dignity, discipline and decorum of Parliament and defend it against disrespect;
- 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)**
- (v) **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)**

**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 26, 2022**

**ORDER PAPER TUESDAY MAY 31, 2022**  
**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

**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)**

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**May 26, 2022**