



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWENTY-SIXTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2020/2021)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JUNE 15, 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
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. 104 to the Minister of Sport and Community Development**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister indicate the reason(s) why the application of the FIFA-appointed normalisation committee to host the Guyana versus Trinidad and Tobago World Cup qualifier game was rejected?

***Question No. 105 to the Minister of Public Utilities**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister indicate whether a decision has been taken to privatise the Water and Sewerage Authority?

***Question No. 107 to the Minister of Education**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister advise as to how the decline in new student admissions and a reduction in courses at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus is expected to impact this country's professional labour force?

* Questions Nos. 104, 105 and 107 were deferred to the next sitting on 11.06.2021

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:

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 a public purpose;

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, 2020 was made by the President under section 5(1) of the Act as Legal Notice No. 399 dated the 15th day of December, 2020;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the said Order;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2020 be approved.

(By the Attorney General)

Bills Second Reading:

(i) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Sexual Offences Act, Chap. 11:28’.
(By the Attorney General)

(ii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Special Reserve Police Act, Chap. 15:03 and the Police Complaints Authority Act, Chap. 15:05’.
(By the Attorney General)

(iii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, Chap. 11:24’.
(By the Attorney General)

(iv) 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)

(v) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to repeal the Foreign Labour Contracts Act, Chap. 88:11’.
(By the Minister of Labour)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday April 27, 2021 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS the statistics on violent crimes against women and girls have been widely reported by the TTPS from late 2020 to present;

AND WHEREAS said reports have garnered nationwide focus and given rise to several accounts of similar experiences by women, whose cases have not been followed-up and solved by Police;

AND WHEREAS the public has consistently called for the passage of legislation and improvements to the service delivery of public agencies in relation to, *inter alia*, non-lethal weapons, transportation and judicial process, to support the protection of women and girls against violent crimes;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to critically assess the deficiencies in the current systems to deal with the incidence of violent crimes against women and girls;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government present to the Parliament, within three (3) months, a legislative agenda and policy implementation plan to more effectively address the rising incidence of violence against women and girls.

(By Senator Paul Richards)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 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 truth, justice and social or organizational reform, and a device for inquiring 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** availability of foreign exchange is important for investment and competitiveness in the private sector and a shortage of foreign exchange can hamper prospects for diversification and economic recovery aspired to in the fiscal strategy outlined in Budget 2020/2021;

AND WHEREAS the revenue received from foreign energy companies has been on the decline since 2015 and is now exacerbated by the negative socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS it is recognised that micro, small and medium-sized businesses and the wider population continue to experience the negative effects of decreasing levels of foreign exchange in Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to table, within three (3) months, a comprehensive strategy to address the negative socio-economic impacts being experienced by

micro, small and medium sized businesses and the wider public owing to ongoing shortages in foreign exchange in this country.

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

- (iv) **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 and unbiased 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)

- (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 re-establish its commitment to introduce a legislative framework on Parliamentary Autonomy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to table, within three (3) months, an implementation road map geared towards introducing legislation on Parliamentary Autonomy and have same referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament for consideration and report.

(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

June 11, 2021

ORDER PAPER TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

***Question No. 146 to the Minister of Education**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to the thirteen (13) month disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic to traditional schooling of students at the Early Childhood Care, Primary and Secondary School levels, can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) the breakdown of the number of students, who have not been able to access online classes because they do not have the appropriate device or internet connectivity;
- (ii) the total breakdown of said students who are still without access to electronic devices; and
- (iii) the immediate, short, medium and long-term impacts on the psychological well-being of these students?

(Answer due by 27.05.2021)

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* Questions No. 146 was deferred for two weeks on 11.06.2021



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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 HEALTH**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister explain why the donated 80 vials of Pfizer vaccines arrived in this country without the necessary and proper documentation?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister indicate who will be vaccinated with the 80 vials of Pfizer vaccines which were recently donated to this country?

3. **TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the recent arbitration award amounting to approximately \$1B in favor of A&V Oil and Gas Limited, will the State be filing application to the High Court to seek to have this arbitration award set aside?

4. **TO THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVICES**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given reports of the financial burdens being experienced by the homes for the elderly, can the Minister indicate what measures, if any, are being taken to assist said homes?

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