



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

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

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

FRIDAY JUNE 18, 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 Annual Report of First Citizens Depository Services Limited for the year end September 30, 2020.
(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, 2013.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Environmental Management Authority - Environmental Trust Fund for the year ended September 30, 2020.
(By the Minister of Finance)
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 109 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to the levy in the sum of one million dollars on the Education Facilities Company Limited (EFCL), can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) what is the Company's current financial status; and
- (ii) does the Company have the requisite resources to complete any outstanding works prior to the return of examination students to schools next term?

Question No. 110 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Wade Mark)

As regard the levy in the sum of one million dollars on the Education Facilities Company Limited (EFCL) by a contractor, can the Minister indicate the following:

- (i) how many contractors are still owed monies by the EFCL for works completed prior to December 31, 2020; and
- (ii) what is the sum of said monies owed?

Question No. 111 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the February 2021 reports of a teacher at the Diego Martin North Secondary School contracting the COVID-19 virus, can the Minister indicate what measures have been taken to safeguard the other teachers and students at the said school?

- 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 provide for the regulation and control of gaming and betting and matters related thereto'.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (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 15, 2021



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NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Question which has been accepted by the President in accordance with Standing Order 25 is hereby forwarded for the attention of the Minister concerned.

1. **TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**
(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given the mandate by the Ministry of Health to frequently wash and sanitize hands, can the Minister indicate how has WASA's recent disconnection drive been impacting said mandate?

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