



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**ORDER PAPER**

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

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

MONDAY JUNE 21, 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 Commissioner of Police and Deputy Commissioner of Police (Selection Process) Order, 2021.  
**(By the Minister of National Security)**
  - (ii) The Report of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago to the High Court Pursuant to Section 44E(7) of the Central Bank Act Chap 79:02 (As Amended) for the quarter ended March 31, 2021.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Questions for Oral Answer**

**Question No. 112 to the Minister of National Security**  
**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Given that twenty-three (23) Immigration Officers have contracted the COVID-19 virus and the implications for cluster spread among travellers, officers and airport personnel, can the Minister indicate whether an investigation has commenced to determine the source of the spread of the virus among these Officers?

**Question No. 118 to the Minister of Trade and Industry**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Given that Agostini Limited, which already owns Smith Robertson & Company Limited, is in the process of acquiring two other well established pharmaceutical companies, can the Minister indicate the following;

- (i) how is the Government ensuring that said acquisitions do not lead to a monopoly; and
- (ii) what if any measures are being put in place to safeguard against said company being able to arbitrarily increase the price of pharmaceuticals?

**Question No. 119 to the Prime Minister**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of the disappointment expressed by residents of East Port-of-Spain over the failure of the Community Recovery Committee to provide meaningful and concrete proposals, can the Prime Minister advise as to when will the Committee's final report be submitted to the Cabinet?

**Question No. 161 to the Minister of National Security**

**(By Senator Charrise Seepersad)**

Given May 2021 reports that the European Union (EU) has approved humanitarian assistance totaling US\$3.3M for the protection, education and health of Venezuelan migrants living in a group of countries, including Trinidad and Tobago, can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) whether Government has been collaborating with the EU to access this funding;
- (ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what humanitarian assistance projects will be implemented using said funding; and
- (iii) what is the timeframe for implementation of said projects identified at (ii)?

**Question No. 162 to the Minister of National Security**

**(By Senator Charrise Seepersad)**

In light of reports that the 2021 plan of the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for refugees and migrants from Venezuela, details action that will be taken, can the Minister advise whether Government has adopted any new strategies to address Venezuelan migrant issues in collaboration with the said Coordination Platform?

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) **The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Friday June 18, 2021 will be resumed:**  
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 18, 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 a recent report from the Gavi Alliance outlining Trinidad and Tobago's ineligibility to qualify for the \$500M worth of vaccines being donated by the United States to developing countries, can the Minister advise as to the Government's response to this information?

Senate Secretariat  
Office of the Parliament  
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