



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

EIGHTEENTH SITTING, THIRD SESSION (2022/2023)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

FRIDAY MAY 12, 2023 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 Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Planning and Development to the Third Report of the Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure on an inquiry into the Management of the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) with specific reference to the 2020 Cabinet Sub-Committee Report on WASA and related recommendations.
(By the Minister of Planning and Development)
 - (ii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Public Utilities to the Third Report of the Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure on an inquiry into the Management of the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) with specific reference to the 2020 Cabinet Sub-Committee Report on WASA and related recommendations.
(By the Minister of Public Utilities)
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 46 to the Prime Minister

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports that a technological glitch resulted in the introduction of a third bidder for the Port of Spain General Hospital - Central Block project with UDECOTT, can the Prime Minister indicate whether the Government will be directing UDECOTT to restart the bidding process for said project?

Question No. 47 to the Minister of Education
(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of June 2022 reports of the imminent arrival of approximately 7,000 laptops for distribution to students selected through the Ministry's means test, can the Minister identify the names of the fourteen (14) schools which have been earmarked for the distribution of said laptops?

Question No. 50 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister provide a list of all the official overseas trips made by the Minister during the period April 18, 2021 to October 27, 2021, inclusive of the following:

- (i) the purpose of each trip;
- (ii) the names and positions of the officers from the Ministry who accompanied the Minister on said trips; and
- (iii) the costs incurred by the Ministry for each trip?

***Question No. 91 to the Attorney General**
(By Senator Jayanti Lutchmedial)

In light of the decision by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to discontinue the prosecution of the Piarco 3 Court matter in relation to corruption in the construction of the Piarco International Airport, can the Attorney General provide the following:

- (i) the reason(s) for this decision;
- (ii) the cost to date incurred by the State in relation to the prosecution of the case; and
- (iii) what steps are being taken to prevent loss of public funds owing to protracted prosecution by the State?

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

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Jury Act, Chap. 6:53 and the Criminal Procedure Act, Chap. 12:02 and for related matters'.
(By the Attorney General)
- (ii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to establish the Private Security Service Authority and to regulate the private security industry and for other related matters'.
(By the Minister of National Security)
- (iii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Supplemental Police Act, Chap. 15:02'.
(By the Minister of National Security)

* Question No. 91 was deferred for two weeks on 25.04.2023

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday April 25, 2023 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS on April 24, 2018 the Senate unanimously approved 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)

- (ii) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday November 29, 2022 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS it is the duty of the Government to provide safe, reliable and compassionate healthcare services for all citizens during a pandemic;

AND WHEREAS during the COVID-19 pandemic the Government has failed to address the inequities in accessing healthcare services;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to meet the international standards for patient care, as is stated in the Report of the Committee Appointed to Investigate the Factors Contributing to Clinical Outcomes of COVID-19 Patients in Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to effectively manage resources to facilitate the movement of critically ill patients to and from our nation’s hospitals;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate take note of the unacceptable number of deaths from COVID-19;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to take immediate steps to initiate a Commission of Enquiry into the Government's management of the COVID-19 pandemic at our nation’s healthcare institutions.

(By Senator David Nakhid)

- (iii) **WHEREAS** Section 76(2) of the Constitution provides that the Attorney General is responsible for the administration of legal affairs in Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS the Attorney General is required to uphold the Constitution and adhere to the Code of Ethics of the Legal Profession Act, Chap. 90:03, and maintain the rule of law to engender public confidence and trust in the office of the Attorney General;

AND WHEREAS a Miami Court has disqualified the Attorney General from acting on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago, due to a conflict of interest as the Defendants in the Miami matter were his former clients;

AND WHEREAS in said matter the Attorney General swore an affidavit dated April 24, 2022, wherein, he made several patently false statements and manifestly misrepresented the facts of his involvement with his former clients;

AND WHEREAS the Attorney General's conduct has embarrassed Trinidad and Tobago and brought his office into odium and disrepute;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate declare that it has lost confidence in the Attorney General, Senator the Honourable Reginald Armour, SC.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (iv) **WHEREAS** the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Chap. 1:01 entrenches the principle of the separation of powers between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary, which ensures the protection of citizens and a system of checks and balances in the exercise of power;

AND WHEREAS the Constitution provides protection to all constitutionally enshrined offices and institutions;

AND WHEREAS the actions of the Government in its engagement with constitutionally enshrined offices and institutions have caused public unease and concerns;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate calls on the Government to reaffirm its commitment to the principles and the practice of democracy in Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Jayanti Lutchmedial)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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May 05, 2023