SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
ORDER PAPER
TWENTY-FOURTH SITTING, THIRD SESSION (2022/2023)
TWELFTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY JUNE 13, 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
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
    (By Senator Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim)
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 68 to the Attorney General
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of concerns expressed by the Trinidad and Tobago Scrap Iron Dealers Association on the proclamation of the Scrap Metal Act, 2022, can the Attorney General advise when will the Act be proclaimed?

Question No. 69 to the Attorney General
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of the January 2023 High Court decision to award approximately $20M in damages to the nine (9) persons who were charged for the kidnapping and murder of businesswoman, Vindra Naipaul-Coolman, can the Attorney General advise as to the following:
(i) the rationale for the State’s failure to file defences to the malicious prosecution claims which led to the award of damages; and

(ii) what action, if any, does the State intend to take in light of the aforementioned Court decision?

**Question No. 70 to the Minister of Trade and Industry**

*(By Senator Wade Mark)*

Given the recent increase in the price of eggs, can the Minister advise as to the following:

(i) whether Government is considering the provision of subsidies to assist egg farmers; and

(ii) what other measures, if any, are being taken to provide assistance to egg farmers and reduce the price of eggs?

**Question No. 120 to the Minister of National Security**

*(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)*

Given reports of an increase in the number of home invasions over the past four (4) months, can the Minister indicate the following:

(i) which areas/communities have experienced said increase;

(ii) what targeted measures are being taken to address the increased number of home invasions in the areas/communities identified at (i); and

(iii) has there been an increase in any other crimes over the past six (6) months?

**Question No. 121 to the Minister of Education**

*(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)*

Given that on February 08, 2022, the former Leader of Government Business in the Senate advised that the Cabinet-Appointed Committee established to further review and recommend Changes to the Conduct of the SEA and Transition to Secondary School, and the Concordat was scheduled to report to Cabinet in August 2022, can the Minister provide an update on the status of said Report, including the following:

(i) whether the Committee has completed its review;

(ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, when will the Report be made public; and

(iii) if the answer to (i) is in the negative, what are the reason(s) for the delay in completion and submission?

**Question No. 122 to the Minister of Public Administration**

*(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)*

As regard the mandate of the Modernisation and Service Improvement Division of the Ministry, can the Minister provide the following:

(i) the names of the Ministries and other Government agencies where services were improved during the period January 2022 to May 2023; and

(ii) an update on the Government’s plans to improve service delivery in the Public Service?

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 repeal and replace the Arbitration Act, Chap. 5:01, to provide a modern legal framework to facilitate domestic and international trade and commerce by encouraging the use of arbitration as a means of resolving disputes 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)

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Motions:

(i) The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday May 23, 2023 will be resumed:

   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)

(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)

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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 08, 2023
Question No. 114 to the Minister of Education
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
As regard the children referred to the Student Support Services Division, can the Minister provide the following information for each year during the period January 2018 to April 2023:
(i) how many children were diagnosed with special needs and disabilities;
(ii) what were the categories of special needs and disabilities identified;
(iii) what were the recommended courses of treatment; and
(iv) how many of these children received treatment?
(Answer due by 14.06.2023)
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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 FINANCE**
   (By Senator Wade Mark)
   In light of the US$913.5M loss suffered by the Heritage and Stabilization Fund in 2022, can the Minister indicate the specific investment portfolio areas which resulted in these losses and whether Government continues to monitor same to prevent further losses?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**
   (By Senator Wade Mark)
   In light of widespread flooding in the Barrackpore and Moruga communities causing students to miss their CSEC and CAPE exams, can the Minister advise what measures are being taken to ensure that the students are not disadvantaged?

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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