



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

THIRD SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2023/2024)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

MONDAY OCTOBER 23, 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
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
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) **The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Friday October 20, 2023 will be resumed:**
A Bill entitled 'An Act to provide for the service of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ending on the 30th day of September, 2024'.
(By the Minister of Finance)

- (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) **WHEREAS** the United States Government has granted a licence allowing Trinidad and Tobago to develop the Dragon Gas Field in Venezuela;
AND WHEREAS it will cost some US\$100M to build a 17-kilometre pipeline from the Dragon Gas Field in Venezuelan waters to the Hibiscus Platform in Trinidad and Tobago waters;
AND WHEREAS there are many other issues that remain outstanding in order to bring gas from the Dragon Gas Field to this country’s shores;
BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to provide a detailed account of its approach to this project involving entities such as Shell, the National Gas Company, Venezuela and the US Government;
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government provide this Senate with quarterly reports on this critically significant project.
(By Senator Wade Mark)
- (ii) **WHEREAS** the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chapter 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 recognised as an important tool for social investigation in contemporary society, an effective mechanism for delving 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 with a view to effecting comprehensive reform of the Act and thereby improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the public inquiry process.
(By Senator Anthony Vieira, SC)
- (iii) **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.

(Senator Jayanti Lutchmedial)

- (iv) **WHEREAS** by virtue of Section 7(6)(e) of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Property Act, 2015 (“the Act”), the Minister of Finance may upon his initiative with the agreement of the Office of Procurement Regulation subject to the negative resolution of Parliament, by Order, determine that the Act shall not apply to services provided to public bodies or State-controlled enterprises;

AND WHEREAS by the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property (Exemption) (Financing Services) Order, 2023 published on the 8th September 2023 by Legal Notice 270 dated 7th September 2023, provided at Clause 3 of the said Order that the Act does not apply to the procurement of financing services by the Ministry with responsibility for finance for –

- (a) central government; or
- (b) a public body, where the financing services are to be guaranteed by the Government;

AND WHEREAS the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property (Exemption) (Financing Services) Order, 2023 is contrary to the principles of good governance, namely accountability, transparency, integrity and value for money;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property (Exemption) (Financing Services) Order, 2023 be annulled.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Keiba Jacob Mottley
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
The Parliamentary Complex
The Red House
Abercromby Street
PORT OF SPAIN
October 20, 2023