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 National Security to the Fourteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an examination of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Twenty-Fourth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee from the Eleventh Parliament on the Processing of the Payment of Pensions and Gratuities of Retired Public Officers and Contracted Employees. (By the Minister of National Security)

(ii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Finance to the Fourteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an examination of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Twenty-Fourth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee from the Eleventh Parliament on the Processing of the Payment of Pensions and Gratuities of Retired Public Officers and Contracted Employees. (By the Minister of Finance)

(iii) The Response of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Fourteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an examination of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Twenty-Fourth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee from the Eleventh Parliament on the Processing of the Payment of Pensions and Gratuities of Retired Public Officers and Contracted Employees. (By the Minister of Finance)

(iv) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to the Thirteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an examination of the Management and Operations of the Housing Development Corporation (HDC) including the restructuring of the HDC into three distinct State Enterprises. (By the Minister of Housing and Urban Development)

(By the Minister of Public Administration)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES


(By Senator Laurel Lezama-Lee Sing)


(By Senator Laurel Lezama Lee-Sing)

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 1 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of February 2023 reports on the prices charged by EOG Resources to the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago (NGC) for the supply of gas, can the Minister advise what are the implications of these prices on the overall operations of the NGC and the downstream energy sector?

Question No. 2 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Wade Mark)
As regard the debt portfolio of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC), can the Minister provide the following:

(i) the total amount of monies owed by T&TEC to Trinidad Generation Unlimited (TGU); and
(ii) the total amount of monies owed by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and its agencies/Ministries to T&TEC?

Question No. 3 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Wade Mark)
As regard the sales of LNG from Atlantic Trains 2, 3 and 4, can the Minister advise whether the Japan Korea Market (JKM), the National Balancing Point (NBP) or the Transfer Title Facility (TTF) natural gas benchmark prices are applicable?
Question No. 28 to the Minister of Finance
(By Senator Damian Lyder)
Given that the Central Bank’s July 2023 Economic Bulletin reported stagnant employment numbers for the Transport, Storage and Communication, and Construction Sectors, can the Minister outline the Government’s plans to encourage job creation in this subsector of the economy?

Question No. 29 to the Minister of Works and Transport
(By Senator Damian Lyder)
Given that the Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) recently indicated that it can only service 79 out of a possible 163 routes, can the Minister indicate what steps have been taken to address this shortfall in services by the PTSC?

Question No. 30 to the Minister of Works and Transport
(By Senator Damian Lyder)
Given the August 2023 fire onboard the MV Cabo Star and subsequent leasing of the MV Emprendedora, with one tenth capacity of the Cabo Star vessel, causing strain in the movement of goods and services between Trinidad and Tobago, can the Minister provide the following:
(i) the rationale behind leasing a significantly smaller capacity transport vessel to replace the MV Cabo Star;
(ii) what, if any, compensation has been rendered to citizens and business owners negatively affected by the incident; and
(iii) any plans to prevent such disruption in the movement of goods and services between Trinidad and Tobago in the future?

Question No. 42 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
Given the commencement of the Firearms (Amendment) Act, 2021, can the Minister advise as to the following:
(i) how many applications have been received for pepper spray licences since the commencement of the Act;
(ii) how many pepper spray licences have been granted, disaggregated by gender, since the commencement of the Act;
(iii) what is the average time elapsed between application and approval/denial of application for licences; and
(iv) how many agents for the distribution and retail of pepper spray devices are registered and approved?

Question No. 46 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
Can the Minister identify the average number of functional police vehicles, per Police Division, for the period September 2022 to September 2023?

Question No. 47 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
Can the Minister identify the percentage of suspects/persons arrested and charged for murder for the period September 2022-2023 compared to the murders reported in the said period?

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
MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Motions:

(i) 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)

(ii) 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)

(iii) 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)

(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.

(Senator Jayanti Lutchmedial)

(v) WHEREAS the Steelpan was inspired into creation in Trinidad and Tobago, which was recognised in the United Nations General Assembly’s proclamation of August 11th as World Steelpan Day;

AND WHEREAS through the inventiveness, dedication and intelligence of generations of citizens, the Steelpan now stands as a powerful symbol of cultural identity and a source of national pride for citizens resident within and outside of Trinidad and Tobago, and occupies a distinctive place among the musical instruments of the world;

AND WHEREAS citizens widely revere the Steelpan as the national musical instrument of Trinidad and Tobago yet the recognition of the Steelpan as the national musical instrument of Trinidad and Tobago has not been codified in law;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Steelpan be declared the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Joint Select Committee of Parliament be established to determine the best mechanism for giving meaningful effect to the declaration of the Steelpan as the national instrument of Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Sunity Maharaj)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

(i) 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)

(ii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Supplemental Police Act, Chap. 15:02’.

(By the Minister of National Security)
ORDER PAPER TUESDAY NOVEMBER 07, 2023

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 43 to the Minister of Education
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the overall performance of students who sat the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA) in each year during the period 2018 to 2023, disaggregated by gender, educational district and subject areas (Language Arts, Mathematics and Creative Writing):

(i) the number of students that scored between 100% and 50%;
(ii) the number of students that scored 50% and under;
(iii) the number of students that scored 40% and under; and
(iv) the number of students that scored 30% and under?

(Answer due by 07.11.2023)

Question No. 44 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
Can the Minister provide the monthly detection and solve rates for the following crimes during the period September 2022 to September 2023:

(i) murders;
(ii) robberies;
(iii) larceny;
(iv) house breaking;
(v) rape;
(vi) sexual assaults; and
(vii) other ‘serious crimes’?

(Answer due by 07.11.2023)

Question No. 45 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the number of offences recorded per month in each Police Division, during the period September 2022 to September 2023 in the following categories:

(i) murders;
(ii) robberies;
(iii) larceny;
(iv) house breaking;
(v) rape;
(vi) sexual assaults; and
(vii) other ‘serious crimes’?

(Answer due by 07.11.2023)
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 Minister concerned.

1. **TO THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**
   (By Senator Jearlean John)
   Given recent reports that the Prime Minister's private information has leaked due to the Cyber-attack on TSTT, can the Minister state if any other Cabinet Minister, Member of Parliament or Senator has been affected?

Keiba Jacob Mottley
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

Senate Secretariat
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PORT OF SPAIN

November 07, 2023