



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

SIXTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2023/2024)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24, 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 Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Statement of Recovery of Expenses of the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries for the year ended December 31, 2022.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (ii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Mayaro-Rio Claro Regional Corporation Chairman's Fund for the financial year ended September 30, 2020.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Office of Procurement Regulation for the financial year ended September 30, 2021.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iv) The Third Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Point Fortin Borough Corporation for the financial year ended September 30, 2003.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (v) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the San Fernando City Corporation Mayor's Project Fund Account for the financial year ended September 30, 2018.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (vi) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ended September 30, 2020.
(By the Minister of Finance)

- (vii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Public Administration to the Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on the implementation of the 2021 budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.
(By the Minister of Public Administration)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- (i) The Tenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Third Session (2022/2023), Twelfth Parliament, on an Examination of the concerns raised in the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2021 with specific reference to the administering of government grants.
(By Senator Jearlean John)
- (ii) The Eleventh Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Third Session (2022/2023), Twelfth Parliament, on an Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Children’s Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial years 2014 to 2018.
(By Senator Jearlean John)
- (iii) The Twelfth Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Third Session (2022/2023), Twelfth Parliament, on a Follow-Up on the implementation of the recommendations made in the Thirtieth Report of the PAC on the concerns raised in Reports of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago with specific reference to the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries.
(By Senator Jearlean John)
- (iv) The Thirteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Third Session (2022/2023), Twelfth Parliament, on an Examination of the Reports of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Public Transport Service Corporation for the financial years 2014 to 2018 and follow up on the implementation of the recommendations made in the Eighth PAC Report, 11th Parliament, on an Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on a Special Audit of the PTSC.
(By Senator Jearlean John)
- (v) The Tenth Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Third Session (2022/2023), Twelfth Parliament, on an Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the National Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited for the financial year 2018 and follow up on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Committee’s Eleventh Report from the 11th Parliament.
(By Senator Wade Mark)
- (vi) The Thirteenth Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Third Session (2022/2023), Twelfth Parliament, on a Follow-up Examination on the Implementation of the Recommendations in the Fourth Report of the Committee on the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheet and other Financial Statements of the Community-Based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme for the financial years 2009 to 2014.
(By Senator Wade Mark)
- (vii) The Fourteenth Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Third Session (2022/2023), Twelfth Parliament, on the Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheet and Financial Statements of the Estate Management and Business Development Company Limited for financial year 2015 and follow-up on the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Committee’s Seventh Report from the 11th Parliament.
(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (viii) The Fifteenth Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Third Session (2022/2023), Twelfth Parliament, on the Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheet and other Financial Statements of Tourism Trinidad Limited for the financial years 2018 to 2020.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 4 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In relation to LNG exported from Trinidad and Tobago, can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) what was the total volume of LNG exported in 2022;
- (ii) what percentage of this volume went to Asian Markets; and
- (iii) what percentage of this volume went to European markets?

Question No. 5 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given the December 2022 announcement on the restructuring of Atlantic LNG, can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) what is the National Gas Company's shareholding in the restructured Atlantic LNG; and
- (ii) when did the new structure of Atlantic LNG take effect?

Question No. 6 to the Prime Minister

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports of the arrest in Barbados of a Trinidad and Tobago national and the individual's subsequent repatriation by Trinidad and Tobago police, can the Prime Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) was said arrest treated with via an extradition order;
- (ii) who, if any, were the key Government representatives involved in this extradition process;
- (iii) what was the role of the Office of the Attorney General, if any, in this extradition process;
- (iv) who authorized police officers to use a Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force aircraft for this mission; and
- (v) whether an independent investigation has been launched into this matter?

Question No. 31 to the Minister of Trade and Industry

(By Senator Damian Lyder)

Given that the Central Bank's Economic Bulletin for July 2023 reported this country's largest unemployment rates in the sectors of wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels and manufacturing (including mining and quarrying), can the Minister indicate what steps have been taken by the Government in the second quarter of 2023 to encourage job creation in these sectors?

Question No. 32 to the Minister of Trade and Industry

(By Senator Damian Lyder)

Given that the Ministry has entered into a contract with the company SOGET at a value of USD \$9.8 million for the development of a Port Community System, can the Minister indicate what is the scope of works for this contract?

Question No. 33 to the Minister of Trade and Industry
(By Senator Damian Lyder)

With five appointments of Commercial Officers who will operate in Trinidad and Tobago's diplomatic and economic interests, and another two said to be appointed later in 2023, can the Minister indicate what selection process was employed in arriving at the final list of successful candidates for the posts identified above?

Question No. 48 to the Minister of Digital Transformation
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)

Can the Minister provide a status update on the digital transformation of Ministries, Departments, and State agencies, including the following:

- (i) the percentage completion of the digital transformation process;
- (ii) details on the main areas of completion in various Ministries, Departments, and State agencies;
- (iii) the major phases of digital transformation that remain incomplete; and
- (iv) projected timelines for completion of the phases identified at (iii)?

Question No. 49 to the Minister of Public Administration
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)

Can the Minister provide a status update on the Government's plans to restructure the Public Service, including but not limited to the following:

- (i) the major elements of the revised structure;
- (ii) an estimated timeline for the restructuring of the Public Service;
- (iii) whether the Government intends to absorb long-standing contract employees into the new version of the Public Service establishment;
- (iv) if the answer to (iii) is in the affirmative, when will said absorption process occur; and
- (v) if the answer to (iii) is in the negative, provide the rationale for the Government's decision?

Question No. 50 to the Minister of Public Administration
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)

With respect to the Government's plans to restructure the Public Service, does the Government intend to introduce legislation within the next six (6) to twelve (12) months to restructure the Service Commissions?

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

- (i) The Miscellaneous Provisions (Trustees, Exchequer and Audit Act, the Minister of Finance (Incorporation) Act, Proceeds of Crime, Income Tax, Companies, Partnerships, Securities, Tax Information Exchange Agreements, the Non-Profit Organisations and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters) Bill, 2023.

(By the Minister of Finance who will move that the next stage of the Bill be taken later in the proceedings)

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 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)

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** 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)

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

November 20, 2023

ORDER PAPER FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24, 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)**Question No. 52 to the Minister of Public Administration****(By Senator Wade Mark)**

With respect to the buildings and office spaces rented/leased by the State as at September 30, 2023, can the Minister provide the following:

- (i) the addresses and locations of the buildings and office spaces that were/are being rented/leased;
- (ii) the names and addresses of the owners of the buildings or office spaces;

- (iii) the purpose for which the buildings or office spaces were/are being rented;
- (iv) the cost per month to rent/lease each building or office space;
- (v) the date on which each rental/lease agreement was entered into;
- (vi) the period of each rental/lease agreement;
- (vii) whether said properties are vacant, fully-occupied, partially-occupied or unoccupied; and
- (viii) what are Government's plans to reduce its property rental costs in the immediate future?

(Answer due by 02.12.2023)

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SIXTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2023/2024)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2023 AT 10:00 A.M.

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 EDUCATION**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given reports that the late payment of salaries to staff of the UWI Global Campus for the months of October and November has imposed severe hardships on these employees, can the Minister indicate the measures being pursued to rectify this situation?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister inform the Senate when will the mandatory policy for bad behavior of expelled students commence?

3. **TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

(By Senator Hazel Thompson-Ahye)

Can the Minister state the legal authority under which children expelled from the school system will be transitioned into the MILAT programme?

**Keiba Jacob Mottley
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)**

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