SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

SEVENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2023/2024)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2023 AT 1:30 P.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 Beekeeping and Bee Products (Amendment) Regulations, 2023. (By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)
   (ii) The Trinidad and Tobago Special Economic Zones Regulations, 2023. (By the Minister of Trade and Industry)
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
   (i) The Fifteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, Third Session (2022/2023), Twelfth Parliament, on the Examination of a Follow-up inquiry on the maintenance of community swimming pools by the Ministry of Sport and Community Development. (By Senator the Hon. Randall Mitchell)
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer
**Question No. 7 to the Minister of National Security**  
(By Senator Wade Mark)  
Can the Minister provide the costs incurred to taxpayers for the use of the Regional Security System (RSS) aircraft that transported four (4) officers of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service to Barbados to detain and transport Mr. Brent Thomas to Trinidad and Tobago?

**Question No. 8 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**  
(By Senator Wade Mark)  
In light of the May 2023 announcement of a $1.1Bn net profit by Heritage Petroleum Company Limited, can the Minister provide the net foreign exchange earnings for each year during the period 2019 to 2022 in relation to the export of crude oil by the Company?

**Question No. 9 to the Energy and Energy Industries**  
(By Senator Wade Mark)  
Can the Minister provide the amount of foreign exchange spent by Paria Fuel Trading Company Limited to import refined products for each year during the period 2019 to 2022?

**Question No. 34 to the Minister of Trade and Industry**  
(By Senator Damian Lyder)  
Given that the Ministry has undertaken a study on developing regional value chains for the manufacturing sector aimed at enhancing production sustainability and integration which was announced to be completed by August 2023, can the Minister provide a status report on this programme/initiative?

**Question No. 35 to the Minister of Trade and Industry**  
(By Senator Damian Lyder)  
As regard the Ministry’s Grant Fund Facility for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, can the Minister indicate the following:  
(i) how many proposals have been received and considered as part of this programme; and  
(ii) how many applicants have been successful in receiving funds?

**Question No. 36 to the Minister of Finance**  
(By Senator Damian Lyder)  
Given that the International Monetary Fund’s assessment of Trinidad and Tobago’s existing lack of regulatory framework for cryptocurrencies may be limiting the country’s ability to develop alternate-currency business models, can the Minister indicate what policy measures, if any, are being taken to address this issue?

**Question No. 51 to the Prime Minister**  
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)  
Can the Minister provide an update on the work of the Cabinet-appointed Committee to address the repatriation of nationals from refugee camps in Syria?

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
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)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

(i) WHERE AS it is provided by section 9 of the Beekeeping and Bee Products Act, Chap. 67:53 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the Minister may make Regulations, inter alia, restricting and regulating the importation or exportation of bees, bee products and bee supplies into or out of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS it is also provided by section 9 of the Act that Regulations made under that section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries has on the 24th day of November, 2023 made the Beekeeping and Bee Products (Amendment) Regulations, 2023;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Beekeeping and Bee Products (Amendment) Regulations, 2023 now be affirmed;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Beekeeping and Bee Products (Amendment) Regulations, 2023 be approved.  
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

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)

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 24, 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)
SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
SEVENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2023/2024)
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TUESDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2023 AT 1:30 P.M.

NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Question which has been accepted by the President in accordance with Standing Order 25 is hereby forwarded for the attention of the Minister concerned.

1. **TO THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT**
   (By Senator Wade Mark)
   In light of the early morning arson attack at the Licensing Office in Caroni, which destroyed 14 vehicles, can the Minister state what immediate action has been taken to improve security at the Office to prevent the recurrence of such attacks?

Keiba Jacob Mottley
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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November 28, 2023