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 Sector Wide Approach Programme Loan Agreement for a Modernized Transportation Infrastructure between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Corporación Andina De Fomento in the sum of US$175 million.  
   (By the Minister of Finance)

(ii) The Sector Wide Approach Programme Loan Agreement to Support the Implementation of the Digital Transformation and Digital Inclusion Strategy in Trinidad and Tobago between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Corporación Andina De Fomento in the sum of US$120 million.  
   (By the Minister of Finance)

(iii) The Trinidad Drainage and Flood Mitigation Programme Investment Loan Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Corporación Andina De Fomento in the sum of US$40 million.  
   (By the Minister of Finance)

   (By the Minister of Finance)

   (By the Minister of Finance)

   (By the Minister of Finance)
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

**Question No. 10 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the incident at the NiQuan Plant on June 15, 2023 which resulted in the death of an employee of Massy Energy Engineered Solutions Limited (MEES) and the subsequent Root Cause Analysis (RCA) report on said incident, submitted to both the Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) and the Ministry, can the Minister provide the following:

(i) when will the RCA report on said incident be laid in Parliament;
(ii) the names of the leading independent professionals from the downstream gas industry who conducted the RCA;
(iii) a list of recommendations arising out of the RCA?

**Question No. 11 to the Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

As regard the status of the automated immigration kiosks that were installed at the Piarco International Airport, can the Minister advise as to the following:

(i) which Government agency is responsible for the operation and maintenance of said kiosks;
(ii) what is the quantum of money spent on the kiosks as at August 31, 2023;
(iii) what are the reason(s) for the failure to operationalize the kiosks;
(iv) what is the timeline for the operationalization of the kiosks; and
(v) whether the Government intends to increase the number of kiosks in the short-term?
Question No. 12 to the Minister of National Security  
(By Senator Wade Mark)  
In light of the concerns expressed by the US Government over alleged “extra judicial killings” being committed by members of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service which could hinder this country’s eligibility for US national security assistance, can the Minister advise as to the steps being taken to address this situation?

Question No. 37 to the Minister of Trade and Industry  
(By Senator Damian Lyder)  
Given that the Phoenix Park Industrial Estate was initially expected to be opened in 2022, can the Minister provide the following:  
(i) the reason(s) for the delay in the project’s completion; and  
(ii) a status update on the completion and opening of the Estate?

Question No. 38 to the Minister of Trade and Industry  
(By Senator Damian Lyder)  
Given that the April 2023 update on the Phoenix Park Industrial Estate indicated significant buy-in from domestic and international stakeholders, can the Minister share how many local and international firms have made commitments to the Phoenix Park Industrial Estate once opened?

Question No. 39 to the Minister of Finance  
(By Senator Damian Lyder)  
Given the Minister’s May 2023 update on VAT refunds indicated that $7.8 billion was still outstanding to manufacturers, can the Minister provide an update on the amount still outstanding as at the end of August 2023?

*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?

*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

* Question No. 50 was deferred for two weeks on 24.11.2023  
* Question No. 51 was deferred for two weeks on 28.11.2023
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 amend the Registrar General’s Act, Chap. 19:03, the Companies Act, Chap. 18:01, the Registration of Business Names Act, Chap. 82:85, and the Non-Profit Organisations Act, No. 7 of 2019’.

(By the Attorney General)

(ii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to provide for the Country-by-Country Reporting (CBCR) by Multinational entities relative to the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Inclusive Framework and to provide for matters related thereto’.

(By the Minister of Finance)

(iii) 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)

(iv) 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 November 28, 2023 will be resumed:

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

December 07, 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)