



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2023/2024)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JANUARY 23, 2024 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 Minimum Wages (Amendment) Order, 2023.
(By the Minister of Labour)
 - (ii) The Criminal Procedure Rules, 2023.
(By the Attorney General)
 - (iii) The Annual Report of the Anti-Terrorism Unit, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs for the period 2022 to 2023.
(By the Attorney General)
 - (iv) The Ministerial Response of the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs to the Seventh Report of the Joint Select Committee on Finance and Legal Affairs on a follow-up inquiry into the accessibility and quality of legal representation provided by the State with specific focus on the Legal Aid and Advisory Authority and the Public Defenders' Office.
(By the Attorney General)
 - (v) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Non-Receipt of Financial Statements of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended December 31, 2012.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (vi) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Non-Receipt of Financial Statements of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended December 31, 2013.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (vii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Non-Receipt of Financial Statements of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended December 31, 2014.
(By the Minister of Finance)

- (viii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ended September 30, 2019.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (ix) The Annual Report on the Exercise of the Functions and Powers of the Ministry of Health for the period October 2010 to September 2011.
(By the Minister of Health)
- (x) The Annual Report on the Exercise of the Functions and Powers of the Ministry of Health for the period October 2011 to September 2012.
(By the Minister of Health)
- (xi) The Annual Report on the Exercise of the Functions and Powers of the Ministry of Health for period October 2012 to September 2013.
(By the Minister of Health)
- (xii) The Annual Report on the Exercise of Functions and Powers of the Ministry of Health for the period October 2013 to September 2014.
(By the Minister of Health)
- (xiii) The Annual Report on the Exercise of the Functions and Powers of the Ministry of Health for the period October 2014 to September 2015.
(By the Minister of Health)
- (xiv) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Labour to the Sixth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on an examination of the state of technical or vocational programmes and their contribution to achieving the development goals of Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of Labour)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- (i) The First Report of the Joint Select Committee on National Security, Fourth Session (2023/2024) of the Twelfth Parliament on an inquiry into the Criminal Justice System in Trinidad and Tobago to determine strategies to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness.
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

***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;

* Question No. 11 was deferred for two weeks on 19.12.2023.

- (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. 13 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given the financial difficulties facing the UWI Open Campus, can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) what are the reason(s) for the financial challenges being faced; and
- (ii) what steps, if any, are being taken to assist the UWI Open Campus?

Question No. 14 to the Minister of Youth Development and National Service

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister advise whether Government has taken a decision to discontinue the operations of the Breeding Unit of the Persto Praesto Youth Development and Apprenticeship Centre?

Question No. 15 to the Attorney General

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Attorney General indicate when will talks resume and conclude with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) on issues surrounding the provision of resources to the Office of the DPP?

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

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)

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) A Bill entitled, 'An Act for incorporation of the St. Dominic's Children's Home and other incidental matters'.

(The President will put the question that the Bill be read a Second Time)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **WHEREAS** 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 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)

- (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)

**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

January 17, 2024

ORDER PAPER TUESDAY JANUARY 23, 2024
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

***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)

Question No. 54 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)?

(Answer due by 04.01.2024)

Question No. 56 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With reference to the \$TT 17B in additional energy revenue stemming from negotiations referenced by the Minister at a sitting of the Senate on November 24th 2023, can the Minister provide the following information:

- (i) when was this \$TT 17B received and under which head is this information listed in the Estimates of Revenue;
- (ii) what Companies paid this \$TT 17B;
- (iii) what contracts were re-negotiated by the Government to effect this additional income;

* Question No. 52 was deferred for two weeks on 12.12.2023

- (iv) with reference to (c) when were these contracts renegotiated and what companies were involved in these negotiations; and
- (v) the names of persons who represented the Government of Trinidad and Tobago or its agencies in these negotiations?

(Answer due by 04.01.2024)

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