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 Financial Statements of the Children’s Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ended September 30, 2020.
   (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 Trinidad and Tobago Racing Authority for the year ended July 31, 2015.
    (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 Trinidad and Tobago Racing Authority for the year ended July 31, 2016.
     (By the Minister of Finance)

     (By the Minister of Finance)

    (By the Minister of Finance)

     (By the Minister of Finance)

      (By the Minister of Finance)
   (By the Minister of Finance)

    (By the Minister of Finance)

(x) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Finance to the Fifteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on a Follow-up inquiry on the maintenance of community swimming pools by the Ministry of Sport and Community Development.
    (By the Minister of Finance)

(xi) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Finance to the Twelfth Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee on a the Examination of the National Infrastructure Development Company Limited (NIDCO) Audited Financial Statements for the financial years ended September 30, 2015 to 2017, including a follow-up examination on the implementation of the recommendations in the Committee’s Omnibus Report, First Session, 11th Parliament and Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on State Enterprises on an inquiry into the operations of NIDCO including its compulsory land acquisition in relation to major projects.
    (By the Minister of Finance)

(xii) The Response of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Eleventh Report of the Public Accounts Committee 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 the Minister of Finance)

     (By the Minister of Finance)

     (By the Vice-President)

    (By the Vice-President)

     (By the Vice-President)

      (By the Vice-President)

        (By the Vice-President)

     (By the Minister of Trade and Industry)
(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)

(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)

(By the Minister of Works and Transport)

(By the Minister of Works and Transport)

(By the Minister of Works and Transport)

(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

(By the Minister of Public Administration)

(By the Minister of Health)

(By the Minister of Public Utilities)

(By the Minister of Public Utilities)
(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

(xxxi) The Ministerial Response of the Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs) to the Sixteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an examination of Food Security in Trinidad and Tobago in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger.
(By the Prime Minister)

(By the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government)

(By the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government)

(xxxiv) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Sport and Community Development to the Fifteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on the Examination of a Follow-up inquiry on the maintenance of community swimming pools by the Ministry of Sport and Community Development.
(By the Minister of Sport and Community Development)

(By the Minister of Education)

(By the Minister of Labour)

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. 16 to the Minister of Education
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Given public concerns over a young child who has been unable to gain admission to a public school since being repatriated with his mother to this country approximately seven (7) years ago, can the Minister indicate when will this matter be addressed?
Question No. 17 to the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of reports of overfishing disputes between Tobago and Barbados fishermen, can the Minister indicate whether talks are being held between both Governments to address this issue?

Question No. 18 to the Minister of Works and Transport
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Given reports on three tragic highway deaths in 2023 thus far resulting from vehicular “crossovers” owing to deficiencies in highway barriers and cable infrastructure, can the Minister indicate the following:
(i) when will the installation of new highway barriers and cables commence; and
(ii) what is the timeline for completion of these projects?

Question No. 57 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
Can the Minister indicate the following:
(i) the number of persons currently on remand; and
(ii) the number of new remandees for each year during the period 2018 - 2023?

Question No. 59 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
Can the Minister provide the number of persons on gun related charges who obtained bail for each year during the period 2018 - 2023?

Question No. 60 to the Attorney General
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
Can the Attorney General provide the number of matters awaiting filing of indictment by the Director of Public Prosecutions for each year during the period 2018 – 2023?

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

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)

(ii) WHEREAS it is provided by section 3(1) of the Development Loans Act that the Government is authorised, for the purpose of —

(a) financing general development in Trinidad and Tobago;

(b) repayment of borrowings effected for such general development; or

(c) repayment of borrowings effected for general development —

(i) by a statutory authority within the meaning of the Statutory Authorities Act;

(ii) by an enterprise that is controlled by or on behalf of the State; or

(iii) by the University of the West Indies,

from time to time to borrow money externally or internally in a sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate sixty-five thousand million dollars in the currency of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS it is also provided in the said section 3(1), that thereafter such sum in such currency may from time to time be specified by resolution passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary for the Government to borrow further sums of money for the purposes stated in the said section;

BE IT RESOLVED that for the purposes stated in the said section, the Government is hereby authorised to borrow money externally or internally in a further sum or in further sums not exceeding in the aggregate ten thousand million dollars in the currency of Trinidad and Tobago.

(By the Minister of Finance)

**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)
PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Motions:

(i) **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)

(ii) **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)

(iii) **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

February 08, 2024
*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. 58 to the Minister of National Security*
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
Can the Minister provide the number of persons on bail for each year during the period 2018 – 2023, disaggregated by the categories of serious crimes?

(Answer due by 13.02.2024)
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 Ministers concerned.

1. **TO THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY**  
   (By Senator Wade Mark)  
   Given the recent discovery of tactical gear, police uniforms and a “white powdery substance” near the overturned oil tanker in Tobago, can the Minister advise whether the origin and ownership of the items have been determined?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**  
   (By Senator Wade Mark)  
   In light of the shooting outside a school in the Belmont/Gonzales community this morning, can the Minister indicate what immediate measures are being taken to ensure the safety and well-being of the children and teachers of the school?

Keiba Jacob Mottley  
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

Senate Secretariat  
Office of the Parliament  
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PORT OF SPAIN  

February 20, 2024