



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
ORDER PAPER

SIXTEENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2023/2024)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

MONDAY APRIL 22, 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 Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ended September 30, 2013.
(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. 90 to the Minister of Education**

(By Senator Dr. Sharda Patasar)

With regard to the assessment of students within the Student Support Services Division, can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) whether there is a programme for the assessment of students with communication disorders;
- (ii) when assessed, does the Division provide access to speech and language therapists for treatment of these disorders; and
- (iii) who is responsible for the cost of these services?

***Question No. 91 to the Minister of Planning and Development**

(By Senator Dr. Sharda Patasar)

Can the Minister provide the proposed timeline for the transition of the Central Statistical Office to the National Statistical Institute of Trinidad and Tobago and the status of this transition?

* Question Nos. 90, 91, 93 and 94 were carried over to the next sitting on 16.04.2024 in accordance with S.O. 27(12)

***Question No. 93 to the Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)

With regard to Firearms Users Licences (FULs) approved/granted to private security companies in Trinidad and Tobago as at December 31, 2023, can the Minister provide a breakdown of the following:

- (i) the total number of active FULs granted to said companies; and
- (ii) the ten (10) private security companies with the largest total numbers of active FULs?

***Question No. 94 to the Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)

Can the Minister provide the number of active Firearms Users Licences held by the following:

- (i) business owners (excluding private security company owners); and
- (ii) other private citizens?

Question No. 61 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister provide the total dividends paid by the National Gas Company to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for each year during the period 2018 to 2023?

Question No. 62 to the Minister of Labour

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister advise whether any proceedings, in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act, have been initiated in the Industrial Court against the Paria Fuel Trading Company based on the report of the Commission of Enquiry on the February 2022 Paria diving tragedy?

Question No. 63 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of January 2024 reports of approximately 20 contract killings being ordered by prisoners, can the Minister indicate what measures are being taken to address this situation and its impact on the wider justice system?

Question No. 95 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)

With regard to Firearms Users Licences (FULs) approved/granted to private citizens for each year during the period 2018 – 2023, can the Minister provide the following:

- (i) the numbers of FUL applications made; and
- (ii) the number of FULs approved/granted 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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday March 26, 2024, will be resumed:**

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.

(By Senator Jayanti Lutchmedial-Ramdial)

- (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)

- (iv) **WHEREAS** the Central Bank’s CLICO Resolution Plan, 2015 identified the sale of the Colonial Life Insurance Company’s (“CLICO”) shareholding in Methanol Holdings (International) Limited (“MHIL”) as a means of settling the Company’s outstanding debt to the State, which totals approximately TT\$1.1B as at December 2023;

AND WHEREAS MHIL was jointly owned by CLICO and Consolidated Energy Limited (CEL), whereby CEL held the right of first refusal to purchase the MHIL shares, pursuant to the Shareholders’ Agreement;

AND WHEREAS CEL initially refused offers by CLICO to purchase said shares in 2017, 2018 and 2022, and the shares were subsequently sold to CEL in the last quarter of 2023 at approximately US\$337M;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to table, within fourteen (14) days, all relevant documents to the agreement between CLICO and CEL for the sale of the MHIL shares, including, but not limited to, any acquisition agreements, valuations and legal opinions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to commission an independent forensic audit into said sale agreement, should these documents not be provided within the above stated period.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (v) **WHEREAS** the 2018 Green Paper on the National Policy on Gender and Development provides a framework for the inclusion of gender perspectives in all activities of Government and civil society aimed at promoting the full and equal participation of men and women in the development process;

AND WHEREAS the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises the centrality of gender equality to development and as a prerequisite for progress across all its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of which SDG 5: Gender Equality, includes a specific indicator (5.c.1) that commits countries to developing systems to track and make public, budgetary allocations for gender equality;

AND WHEREAS there is a fragmented implementation of gender mainstreaming across policy areas and Government institutions resulting in a gender blind budgetary processes;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to adopt and strengthen policies and legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to table legislative proposals that provide for the elimination of gender inequalities among adults, adolescents and children in the national budgetary process.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

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 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)
- (iii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Sexual Offences Act, Chap. 11:28’.
(By the Attorney General)

**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**

April 18, 2024

ORDER PAPER MONDAY APRIL 22, 2024
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

***Question No. 64 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the oil and gas reserves audits of the upstream energy companies operating in Trinidad and Tobago, can the Minister advise:

- (i) when was the last audit conducted;
- (ii) which entity conducted the audit identified at (i);
- (iii) what were the results of the audit, including the proven, probable and possible reserves in each category of oil and gas?

(Answer due by 19.03.2024)

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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 HEALTH**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Have the parents of the babies who died at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) been given permission to have their own representative on the investigation team?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given concerns raised by the President of the Fire Service Association that the Point Fortin Fire Station scheduled to open on April 23, 2024 is without essential firefighting equipment, what contingencies are in place to treat with emergencies?

3. **TO THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

(By Senator Damien Lyder)

In light of the eviction of several Councillors of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation owing to the non-payment of rent due to the absence of timely releases, what provision has been made to ensure Councillors can continue to serve the public?

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

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