SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

SEVENTEENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2023/2024)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY APRIL 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 Immigration (ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup 2024) (Mutual Recognition of Visas) Regulations, 2024.
   (By the Minister of National Security)

   (ii) The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Persons With Disability Parking Permit) Regulations, 2024.
   (By the Minister of Works and Transport)

   (iii) The Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the First Citizens Investment Services Limited and its Subsidiaries for the year 2023.
   (By the Minister of Finance)

   (iv) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government to the Thirteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an Examination of the Management and Operations of the Housing Development Corporation (HDC) including the Restructuring of HDC into the Three Distinct State Enterprises.
   (By the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government)

   (v) The Delegation Report on the 148th Assembly and related meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), March 23 - 27, 2024, Geneva, Switzerland.
   (By the Vice-President)

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. 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. 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. 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?

Question No. 65 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Can the Minister advise whether the Government plans to convert this country's probable oil and gas reserves into proven reserves?

Question No. 66 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Wade Mark)
As regard the royalty tax of 12.5 per cent placed on gas producing companies in Trinidad and Tobago, can the Minister indicate:

(i) whether said royalty tax is cost recoverable; and
(ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what are the implications of said tax on the revenues generated under this arrangement?

Question No. 67 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In relation to this country's LNG prices, can the Minister advise as to the following:

(i) what is the 'basket' of market prices used by the Government to determine the prices of this country's LNG; and
(ii) can the 'basket' of market prices be published monthly?

* Questions Nos. 63, 93, 94 and 95 were deferred for one day on the 22.04.2024

Question No. 92 to the Minister of Planning and Development
(By Senator Dr. Sharda Patasar)
On May 20, 2022, the Government indicated that additional staff were recruited to assist the Central Statistical Office (CSO) to collect social statistics and other data pertaining to the United Nations SDGs, can the Minister provide a breakdown of this exercise including the following:

(i) the status of said exercise;

(ii) the timeline for the completion of the exercise;

(iii) the SDGs targeted for the exercise; and

(iv) the social statistics collected as at February 2024; and

(v) the data collected on the SDGs identified at (iii) as at February 2024?

Question No. 96 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
Can the Minister provide the number of privately-owned legal firearms reported lost/stolen/missing for each year during the period 2018 – 2023?

Question No. 97 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
Can the Minister provide the number of firearms assigned to National Security officers reported lost/stolen/missing for each year during the period 2018 – 2023?

Question No. 98 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)
Can the Minister provide the number of firearms dealers licences approved 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) **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)

(ii) **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)

(iii) **WHEREAS t**he 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)

(iv) **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)

(iv) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, Chap. 4:01 and the Criminal Procedure Act, Chap. 12:02 in relation to the place and time for sittings of a court and to provide for related matters.'
(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 22, 2024

ORDER PAPER TUESDAY APRIL 23, 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)

Senate Secretariat
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* Question No. 64 - Standing Order 27(16) invoked on 16.04.2024

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TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY APRIL 23, 2024 AT 1:30 P.M.

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)
   In light of reports of the death of another baby at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of the Port of Spain General Hospital, can the Minister state whether this latest death will form part of the PAHO investigation?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY**
   (By Senator Wade Mark)
   Given the assurance made by the Minister at yesterday's sitting of the Senate and the subsequent news release issued by UDeCOTT, can the Minister provide the reasons for the postponement of the opening of the Point Fortin Fire Station?

Keiba Jacob Mottley
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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