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 Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ended September 30, 2023.
   (By the Minister of Finance)

(ii) The Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2023.
    (By the Minister of Finance)

     (By the Minister of Finance)

(iv) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of National Security to the First Report of the Joint Select Committee on National Security on an inquiry into the Criminal Justice System of Trinidad and Tobago to determine the strategies to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness.
     (By the Minister of National Security)

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. 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?

Question No. 68 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Wade Mark)
With regard to the licences issued by the Ministry to oil and gas producers, suppliers and contractors during the period 2018 to January 2024, can the Minister advise:
(i) whether a Public Register containing said licences, in accordance with the Petroleum Act, Chap. 62:01, is available for public viewing at the Ministry’s offices; and
(ii) does the Government intend to publish the issuance of said licences in the Gazette?

Question No. 69 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of the Government’s decision to extend the licence granted to Atlantic LNG for a further twenty-five (25) years, can the Minister cause to be laid in both Houses of Parliament the current and previous licences granted?

Question No. 70 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Given that the Petroleum Act, Chap. 62:01 provides that the Minister is required to issue an Order ensuring that all agents and contractors must be licenced, maintain offices and pay taxes in this country, can the Minister advise whether such Order is in effect?

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

* Questions Nos. 92, 96, 97, 98 were postponed on 23.04.2024 in accordance with S.O. 27(12)
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 24 of the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chap. 69:01 (“the Act”) that within a period of four months after 30th September in each year, the Treasury shall cause to be transmitted to the Auditor General accounts (hereinafter referred to as “financial accounts”) showing fully the financial position of Trinidad and Tobago on the said 31st December;

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 25(1) of the Act, that on receipt of the financial accounts prescribed by section 24, the Auditor General shall cause them to be examined and audited and shall, within a period of seven months after 30th September in each year;

AND WHEREAS the said section 24(1) provides that the period provided for the transmission of the financial accounts by the Treasury to the Auditor General may be extended to such longer period thereafter as Parliament may by resolution appoint;

AND WHEREAS the said section 25(1) also provides that the period provided for the examination and auditing of the accounts may be extended to such longer period thereafter as Parliament may by resolution appoint;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary that in respect of the financial accounts for 2023 that the period of time specified under section 24(1) of the Act and the period of time specified in section 25(1) of the Act be extended for the purposes stated in the said section:

BE IT RESOLVED that for the purpose of the financial accounts for 2023 that the period of time under section 24(1) of the Exchequer and Audit Act be extended from the period of four months after the 30th September 2023 to a period of eight months after the 30th September, 2023:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for the purpose of the financial accounts for 2023 that the period of time under section 25(1) of the Exchequer and Audit Act be extended from the period of seven months after the 30th September 2023 to a period of eleven months after the 30th September, 2023.

(By the Minister of Finance)

(ii) 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)

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Motions:

(i) The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday April 23, 2024 will be resumed:

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)
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)

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)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property (Simplified Procurement) Regulations, 2024 be negatived.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Keiba Jacob Mottley
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)
*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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*Question No. 64 - Standing Order 27(16) invoked on 16.04.2024*
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 EDUCATION**  
(By Senator Wade Mark)  
Given the decision by parents to remove their children from classes at the Curepe Presbyterian Primary School due to health and safety concerns over leaking toilets, can the Minister indicate the steps taken to have these children returned to classes?

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 29, 2024