



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

NINETEENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2023/2024)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY APRIL 30, 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
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. 99 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given the March 2024 murders of five (5) individuals at Harpe Place in East Port of Spain, can the Minister indicate whether there will be an increased police presence in East Port of Spain as a deterrent to reprisal shootings?

Question No. 100 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given the March 2024 termination of nine (9) employees of the Strategic Services Agency (SSA) who were allegedly linked to serious criminal conduct, can the Minister state whether any other terminations are anticipated at the organisation?

Question No. 101 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister confirm whether there is any validity to the President of the Dental Association's claim that hundreds of unregistered dentists, including migrants, are operating without qualifications and are offering cheap dental services to the detriment of public health and safety?

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)

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to make provision for the efficient and effective staging of the ICC Men’s T20 Cricket World Cup 2024 and for related purposes’.

(By the Attorney General)

- (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)

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

(By the Attorney General)

- (v) 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)

- (iii) **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)

- (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)

- (v) **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.)**

**Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
The Parliamentary Complex
The Red House
Abercromby Street
PORT OF SPAIN**

April 29, 2024

ORDER PAPER TUESDAY APRIL 30, 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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* Question No. 64 - Standing Order 27(16) invoked on 16.04.2024