



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWENTIETH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2023/2024)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

FRIDAY MAY 17, 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
 - (i) The Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) (Amendment) Bill, 2024.
(By the Attorney General who will move that the next stage of the Bill be taken later in the proceedings)
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
 - (i) The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Windscreen and Window Tint) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024.
(By the Minister of Works and Transport)
 - (ii) The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment to the Ninth Schedule) Order, 2024.
(By the Minister of Works and Transport)
 - (iii) The Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority (Extension of Period) (No. 3) Order, 2024.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iv) The Annual Report of the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission for the financial year ended September 30, 2023.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (v) The Annual Administrative Report of the Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Business Development Limited for the year 2020.
(By the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts)
 - (vi) The Annual Administrative Report of the Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Business Development Limited for the year 2021.
(By the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts)
 - (vii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of National Security to the Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on National Security on an examination into the factors that contribute to the prevalence of illegal firearms and gun violence in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of National Security)

(viii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Labour to the Sixth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on a follow-up inquiry into the implementation of the recommendations of the 18th Report, 11th Parliament, on an inquiry into the treatment of migrants with specific focus on the rights to education, employment and protection from sexual exploitation.

(By the Minister of Labour)

(ix) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Education to the Sixth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on a follow-up inquiry into the implementation of the recommendations of the 18th Report, 11th Parliament, on an inquiry into the treatment of migrants with specific focus on the rights to education, employment and protection from sexual exploitation.

(By the Minister of Education)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(i) The Fourteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Fourth Session (2023/2024), Twelfth Parliament, on an examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for financial year 2022.

(By Senator Jearlean John)

(ii) The Fifteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Fourth Session (2023/2024), Twelfth Parliament, on an examination of the Reports of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) for fiscal years 2015 to 2021.

(By Senator Jearlean John)

(iii) The Sixteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Fourth Session (2023/2024), Twelfth Parliament, on an examination of the Reports of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (AATI) for financial years ended December 31, 2013 to 2019, and follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee from the Eleventh Parliament.

(By Senator Jearlean John)

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 102 to the Minister of Social Development and Family Services

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister indicate what measures are being taken to assist persons who have been displaced as a result of an April 2024 fire which destroyed three (3) family homes in Freeport?

Question No. 103 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of April 2024 reports that the US will not renew a license that eases sanctions on Venezuela's oil and gas sector from April 18, 2024, can the Minister advise as to what impact this decision will have on the Dragon Gas Project?

Question No. 104 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given WASA's identification of multiple million-dollar water trucking scams nationwide, can the Minister advise whether the \$750 fine associated with the illegal extraction, distribution and sale of WASA's water will be increased to dissuade potential perpetrators of such crimes?

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 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)
- (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)

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)

Chantal La Roche
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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PORT OF SPAIN

May 14, 2024

ORDER PAPER FRIDAY MAY 17, 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); and
- (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)

Question No. 112 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Deeroop Teemal)

With regard to the authorised blood collection centres/institutions in Trinidad and Tobago during the period 2018 – 2023, can the Minister provide a list containing the following:

- (i) the names of each centre/institution;
- (ii) whether each centre/institution is stationary or mobile; and
- (iii) whether each centre/institution is public or privately-owned?

(Answer due by 27.05.2024)

Question No. 113 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Deeroop Teemal)

With regard to blood collected at centres/institutions authorised to do so in Trinidad and Tobago, can the Minister provide the following for the period 2018 – 2023:

- (i) the units of blood collected annually by each of the authorised blood collection centres/institutions;
- (ii) the total units of blood which were rejected annually after testing;
- (iii) the total units of blood and blood products which expired annually;
- (iv) the total units of blood and blood products annually discarded after dispatch from the Blood Bank and/or returned to the National Blood Transfusion Services from all institutions; and
- (v) the number of Volunteer Non-remunerated Blood Donations collected monthly?

(Answer due by 27.05.2024)

Question No. 114 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Deeroop Teemal)

With regard to statistics on the operations and administration of centres/institutions authorised to collect blood in Trinidad and Tobago, can the Minister provide the following for the period 2018 – 2023:

- (i) the average cost of collection per unit of blood borne;
- (ii) the annual operating costs for each of the authorised blood collection centres/institutions; and
- (iii) the annual labour costs for each of the authorised blood collection centres/institutions?

(Answer due by 27.05.2024)

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

Question No. 115 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Deoroop Teemal)

Can the Minister advise whether the Government intends to remove and replace the 'chit system' utilised at authorised blood collection centres/institutions in Trinidad and Tobago and provide the following:

- (i) the strategic action plan, including timelines, for the removal and replacement of the chit system at said institutions; and
- (ii) what steps, if any, have been completed toward said objective?

(Answer due by 27.05.2024)

Question No. 116 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Deoroop Teemal)

Can the Minister provide the findings and recommendations of the study which stated that the estimated national requirement for blood stands at 40,000 units per year, as reported in the Trinidad and Tobago Society for Haematology and Blood Transfusion National Symposium on October 30, 2022?

(Answer due by 27.05.2024)

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