



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWENTY-FIRST SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2023/2024)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JUNE 11, 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 Finance (Supplementary Appropriation) (Financial Year 2024) Bill, 2024.
(By the Minister of Finance who will move that the next stage of the Bill be taken later in the proceedings)
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
 - (i) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Point Fortin Civic Centre for the financial year ended September 30, 2012.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (ii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Point Fortin Civic Centre for the financial year ended September 30, 2013.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the San Fernando City Corporation for the financial year ended September 30, 2010.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iv) The Administrative Report of the University of Trinidad and Tobago for the fiscal year 2021/2022.
(By the Minister of Education)
 - (v) The Annual Administrative Report of the National Carnival Commission of Trinidad and Tobago for the fiscal year 2019/2020.
(By the Minister of Sport and Community Development)
 - (vi) The Administrative Report of the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the financial year ended September 30, 2021.
(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)

- (vii) The Administrative Report of the Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Business Development Limited for the year 2019.
(By the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts)
- (viii) The Administrative Report of National Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited (MTS) for the year ended December 31, 2015.
(By the Minister of Public Utilities)
- (ix) The Administrative Report of National Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited (MTS) for the year ended December 31, 2022.
(By the Minister of Public Utilities)
- (x) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of National Security 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 National Security)
- (xi) The Ministerial Response of the Office of the Prime Minister, Gender and Child Affairs to the Eleventh Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Children’s Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (CATI) for the financial years 2014-2018.
(By the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister)
- (xii) The Response by the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs pursuant to Standing Order 41 of the Senate on the Review of the Commissions of Enquiry Act.
(By the Leader of Government Business)
- (xiii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Education to the Seventh Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on an examination of the state of the regulation and administration of public and private early childhood institutions in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of Education)
- (xiv) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Finance to the Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on National Security on an inquiry into the safety, security and protection of citizens with specific reference to the factors that contribute to the prevalence of illegal firearms and gun violence in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of Finance)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- (i) The Second Interim Report of the Special Select Committee of the Senate appointed to consider and report on the Miscellaneous Provisions (Trial by Judge Alone) Bill, 2023, Fourth Session (2023/2024), Twelfth Parliament.
(By Senator the Hon. Reginald Armour, SC)
- (ii) The Eighteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, Third Session (2022/2023), Twelfth Parliament, on the examination into the Provision of Flood Relief Grants by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services.
(By Senator the Hon. Randall Mitchell)
- (iii) The Eighth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Finance and Legal Affairs, Third Session (2022/2023), Twelfth Parliament, on an inquiry into the State’s strategy for

implementing un-proclaimed legislation passed by Parliament during the last 20 years (Part II) with specific focus on the Electronic Transactions Act, Chapter 22:05.

(By Senator Hazel Thompson-Ahye)

- (iv) The Ninth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Finance and Legal Affairs, Third Session (2022/2023), Twelfth Parliament, on an inquiry into the State's strategy for implementing un-proclaimed legislation passed by Parliament during the last 20 years (Part II) with specific focus on the Dog Control Act, Chapter 67:56.

(By Senator Hazel Thompson-Ahye)

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 105 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister provide the average net back price of natural gas realised for fiscal 2022/2023, as it relates to Government revenue from the energy sector?

Question No. 107 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister indicate when will the executive packages of the approximately two hundred (200) retrenched WASA Managers take effect, as part of the Authority's restructuring exercise to form the new Water Management Company?

Question No. 108 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the unhealthy air quality levels being recorded across Trinidad and Tobago, can the Minister advise what heightened measures, if any, will be implemented at the regional healthcare facilities to ensure vulnerable groups can easily access urgent care?

Question No. 110 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)

With regard to the vessel that ran aground off the coast of Tobago in February 2024, causing significant environmental damage, can the Minister provide the following:

- (i) a comprehensive update on the search for the owner(s) of the vessel; and
- (ii) the owner(s) and origin of the vessel that was reported to be towing the barge?

Question No. 111 to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

(By Senator Dr. Sharda Patasar)

Given reports that on April 01, 2024, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services instituted a 250 per cent visa fee increase for global musicians, can the Minister advise:

- (i) whether the Government intends to enter talks with US authorities to bring relief to Trinidad and Tobago musicians hoping to work in the US; and
- (ii) if the answer is in the negative, what alternative measures are being taken to open markets for Trinidad and Tobago musicians to work internationally?

Question No. 117 to the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government

(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)

Given public concerns about the rising number of stray dogs in Trinidad and Tobago and the lack of facilities to care for them, can the Minister provide the following:

- (i) the reasons for the inefficient execution of duties by regional bodies in collecting and caring for stray dogs across the country; and
- (ii) what measures are being taken to address said inefficiencies and the care of stray dogs?

Question No. 123 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Hazel Thompson-Ahje)

Given the rights granted to children under articles 5, 7, 8, 9, 14 and 16 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which relate generally to their rights of access to parents and family life, can the Minister outline the policies and practices governing children's visits to incarcerated parents in Trinidad and Tobago?

Question No. 124 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)

With regard to surveillance and scanning operations at the Port of Port of Spain, can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) whether the scanners at the Container Examination Station (CES) are operational;
- (ii) whether the CCTV cameras at the CES are operational; and
- (iii) what are the significant challenges in relation to the equipment used for the surveillance and scanning of containers and goods imported into this country?

Question No. 127 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Sunity Maharaj)

Can the Minister provide an update on the progress made towards implementing legislative and regulatory protection of children against the health risks associated with vaping?

Question No. 128 to the Minister of Trade and Industry

(By Senator Sunity Maharaj)

In relation to the Steelpan Manufacturing Grant Fund Facility for the period September 2023 to present, can the Minister provide the following:

- (i) the number of steelpan manufacturers that have received grants;
- (ii) the names of said grant recipients;
- (iii) the quantum of funds received by each recipient;
- (iv) the dates of approval of each grant; and
- (v) the conditions, including local content requirements, attached to the grants?

Question No. 129 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Prof. Gerard Hutchinson)

In light of the mass shooting incidents which occurred at Harpe Place and Cocorite, can the Minister outline the systems used to provide financial, social and psychological support to relatives, police officers and other affected persons, in the aftermath of such events?

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 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)

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)

Chantal La Roche
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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PORT OF SPAIN

June 07, 2024

ORDER PAPER TUESDAY JUNE 11, 2024
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

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. 115 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Deeroop 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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