



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**ORDER PAPER**

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

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JUNE 25, 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 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, 2014.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
  - (ii) The Audited Unconsolidated Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission for the year ended December 31, 2022.  
**(By the Minister of Public Utilities)**
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Questions for Oral Answer**

**\*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. 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?

**Question No. 118 to the Minister of Education**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Given April 2024 reports that two (2) students from a school in Barrackpore were hospitalised, after ingesting tablets containing illegal stimulant and hallucinogenic drugs, can the Minister indicate what measures are being taken to address this matter and prevent any recurrence?

**Question No. 119 to the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of the reported shortage of spaces at public cemeteries in addition to a rising death rate in this country, can the Minister advise what steps are being taken to rectify said shortage?

**Question No. 120 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Given the report by New Lands Village residents that the Land Settlement Agency gave developed residential lots, initially promised to them, to former Petrotrin workers, can the Minister advise what arrangement, if any, will now be made for said residents?

**Question No. 125 to the Minister of National Security**

**(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)**

In relation to the illegal importation of weapons and ammunition into this country for each year during the period January 2018 to April 2024, can the Minister provide the following:

- (i) the number of illegal weapons and ammunition discovered at each legal port of entry;
- (ii) the number of persons arrested for the offence; and
- (iii) the number of persons charged for the offence?

**Question No. 126 to the Minister of National Security**

**(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)**

In relation to the detection of illegal firearms and ammunition by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) for each year during the period January 2018 to April 2024, can the Minister provide the following:

- (i) the number of illegal firearms and ammunition discovered by the TTPS;
- (ii) the number of persons arrested for the possession of illegal firearms and ammunition; and
- (iii) the number of persons charged for the offence?

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\* Questions Nos. 128 and 129 were postponed on 11.06.2024 in accordance with S.O. 27(12)

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) **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 11<sup>th</sup> 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)**

## **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 24<sup>th</sup> 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)**

**Chantal La Roche**  
**Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)**

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

**June 20, 2024**



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**TUESDAY JUNE 25, 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)**

Can the Minister indicate when the Government intends to publish the investigative report, submitted by the Pan American Health Organization on the death of several newborns during the period April 02 to 09, 2024 at the NICU, Port of Spain General Hospital?

**Chantal La Roche  
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)**

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**June 25, 2024**