SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
ORDER PAPER
TWENTY-THIRD SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2023/2024)
TWELFTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY JULY 02, 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
      (By the Minister of Education)
        (By the Minister of Trade and Industry)
        (By the Minister of Finance)
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?

* By agreement on 25.06.2024, the response to Question No. 124 was postponed to 02.07.2024
Question No. 121 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Can the Minister provide the circumstances surrounding the sudden evictions of HDC tenants in April 2024?

Question No. 122 to the Minister of Finance
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Will financial assistance be provided to those incurring losses due to the April 2024 closure of beaches in Tobago?

Question No. 130 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In relation to the Dragon Gas Field development project and the High Court decision of May 29, 2024, which recognised the 2018 ICC arbitration award to US-based energy company ConocoPhillips against the Venezuelan state-owned company Petroleos e Venezuela (PDVSA), can the Minister advise:
(i) who is the licensor for the license entered into by Shell and the National Gas Company for the development project;
(ii) what are the risks to the development project as a result of the recognition of the arbitration award to ConocoPhillips;
(iii) when did the Ministry become aware of the application to the High Court for the recognition of the arbitration award; and
(iv) which other Government Ministries, if any, were involved in this matter?

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 combat corruption and other wrongdoings by encouraging and facilitating disclosures of improper conduct in the public and private sector, to protect persons making those disclosures from detrimental action, to regulate the receiving, investigating or otherwise dealing with disclosures of improper conduct and to provide for other matters connected therewith.’
(By the Attorney General)

(ii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Judicial and Legal Service Act, Chap. 6:01, the Prison Service Act, Chap. 13:02, the Defence Act, Chap. 14:01, the Police Service Act, Chap. 15:01, the Civil Service Act, Chap. 23:01, the Fire Service Act, Chap. 35:50 and the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago Act, Chap. 72:01 to provide a regulatory framework for polygraph and drug testing and biometric identification for members of the Protective Services and certain offices in the Judicial and Legal Service and the Civil Service and for other related matters.’
(By the Minister of National Security)

(iii) 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)

(iv) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Supplemental Police Act, Chap. 15:02.’
(By the Minister of National Security)

(v) 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 June 25, 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)
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)

Chantal La Roche
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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PORT OF SPAIN

June 27, 2024
SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TWENTY-THIRD SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2023/2024)
TWELFTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY JULY 02, 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 PUBLIC UTILITIES**  
(By Senator Wade Mark)  
Can the Minister indicate what actions are being taken by WASA and T&TEC to expedite the restoration of services to the various communities affected by the passage of Hurricane Beryl?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC UTILITIES**  
(By Senator Wade Mark)  
Can the Minister indicate whether additional water-trucking services will be provided to those areas left without a water supply owing to non-operational water treatment plants caused by the flooded river conditions and clogged streams following Hurricane Beryl’s passage?

Chantal La Roche  
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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July 02, 2024