



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

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

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 09, 2024 AT 10:00 A.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 Special Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ended September 30, 2023.
(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 Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ended September 30, 2021.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statement of the Point Fortin Civic Centre for the financial year ended September 30, 2015.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iv) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statement of the Point Fortin Civic Centre for the financial year ended September 30, 2016.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (v) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statement of the Point Fortin Civic Centre for the financial year ended September 30, 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (vi) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statement of the Point Fortin Civic Centre for the financial year ended September 30, 2018.
(By the Minister of Finance)

- (vii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statement of the Point Fortin Civic Centre for the financial year ended September 30, 2019.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (viii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Regulated Industries Commission for the year ended December 31, 2019.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (ix) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Regulated Industries Commission for the year ended December 31, 2020.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (x) The First Annual Report of the Office of Procurement Regulation of Trinidad and Tobago for the period April 26, 2023 to April 25, 2024.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xi) The Annual Administrative Report of the Export-Import Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (EXIMBANK) for the year ended December 31, 2021.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xii) The Annual Administrative Report of the University of Trinidad and Tobago for the fiscal year 2020/2021.
(By the Minister of Education)
- (xiii) The Annual Administrative Report of the National Institute of Higher Education, (Research, Science and Technology) (NIHERST) for the fiscal year 2018.
(By the Minister of Education)
- (xiv) The Annual Administrative Report of the National Training Agency for the fiscal year 2019/2020.
(By the Minister of Education)
- (xv) The Annual Administrative Report of the Land Settlement Agency for the fiscal year 2019/2020.
(By the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)
- (xvi) The Annual Administrative Report of the Land Settlement Agency for the fiscal year 2020/2021.
(By the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)
- (xvii) The Annual Administrative Report of the Land Settlement Agency for the fiscal year 2021/2022.
(By the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)
- (xviii) The Annual Administrative Report of the Ministry of Trade and Industry for the fiscal year 2021/2022.
(By the Ministry of Trade and Industry)
- (xix) The Annual Administrative Report of the National Flour Mills Limited for the year ended December 31, 2022.
(By the Ministry of Trade and Industry)

- (xx) The Annual Administrative Report of the InvesTT Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2022.
(By the Ministry of Trade and Industry)
- (xxi) The Annual Administrative Report of the San Fernando City Corporation for fiscal year 2018/2019.
(By the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government)
- (xxii) The Annual Administrative Report of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts for fiscal 2022.
(By the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts)
- (xxiii) The Annual Report on the Exercise of the Functions and Powers of the Ministry of Health for the fiscal year 2015/2016.
(By the Minister of Health)
- (xxiv) The Annual Report on the Exercise of the Functions and Powers of the Ministry of Health for the fiscal year 2016/2017.
(By the Minister of Health)
- (xxv) The Annual Report on the Exercise of the Functions and Powers of the Ministry of Health for the fiscal year 2017/2018.
(By the Minister of Health)
- (xxvi) The Annual Report on the Exercise of the Functions and Powers of the Ministry of Health for the fiscal year 2018/2019.
(By the Minister of Health)
- (xxvii) The Annual Report on the Exercise of the Functions and Powers of the Ministry of Health for the fiscal year 2019/2020.
(By the Minister of Health)
- (xxviii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Finance to the Fourteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2022.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xxix) The Response of the Tobago House of Assembly to the Twenty-Fifth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an Examination into the Development Programme for fiscal year 2018/2019 and follow-up on the Ministerial Response to the Sixth Report on the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) from the Eleventh Parliament.
(By the Prime Minister)
- (xxx) The Response of the Police Complaints Authority to the Fifteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) for the fiscal years 2015 to 2021.
(By the Attorney General)
- (xxxi) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of National Security to the Tenth Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee on the examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the National Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited (MTS) for the Financial Year 2018 and follow up on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Committee's Eleventh Report from the 11th Parliament.
(By the Minister of National Security)

(xxxii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Works and Transport to the Sixteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the examination of the Reports of the Auditor General on the Financial Statements of the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (AATI) for the financial years ended December 31, 2013 to 2019, and follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Committee's Eighteenth Report from the 11th Parliament.

(By the Minister of Works and Transport)

(xxxiii) The Response of the Service Commissions Department to the Fourteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2022.

(By the Minister of Public Administration)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 131 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister provide the details and status of the sale of CLICO's fifty-six point five three percent (56.53%) shareholding in Methanol Holdings (International) Ltd. (MHIL) to the Proman Group in late December, 2023?

Question No. 132 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With regard to the efforts of the National Energy Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago to become established in Guyana, can the Minister indicate the following:

- (i) the quantum of money spent on these efforts for the period January 2017 to May 2024;
- (ii) the projects that the Corporation has participated in or made investments in as part of these efforts; and
- (iii) the achievements arising out of these efforts in the last five years?

Question No. 133 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports that twenty-nine officers within the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service were erroneously promoted due to a glitch in the process, can the Minister indicate what actions will be taken to address this issue?

Question No. 142 to the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

(By Senator Dr. Paul Richards)

Can the Attorney General advise how many inmates on simple possession marijuana charges have been released or had their records expunged, since the Dangerous Drugs Act was amended to allow for the possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use?

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) **The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Friday July 05, 2024 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; the Judicial and Legal Service Act, Chap. 6:01; the Children Act, Chap. 46:01; the Patents Act, Chap. 82:76 and the Legal Profession Act, Chap. 90:03 with respect to the administration of the Ministry of Legal Affairs and 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)

* In accordance with S.O. 77(3), the Senate agreed that the proceedings on Bills (ii), (iii) and (iv) be resumed in the Fifth Session.

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)

- (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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Office of the Parliament
The Parliamentary Complex
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September 04, 2024