

SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

FIFTEENTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2026/2027)

THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2026 AT 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PETITIONS

PAPERS

1. The Forty-Eighth Annual Report of the Ombudsman for the period January 2025 to December 2025.
   (By the Vice-President)

2. The Annual Report of the Public Service Commission for the year 2022.
   (By the Vice-President)

3. The Annual Report of the Public Service Commission for the year 2023.
   (By the Vice-President)

4. The Financial (Prescribed Forms) Regulations, 2026.
   (By the Minister of Finance)

5. The Unconsolidated Financial Statements of Lake Asphalt of Trinidad and Tobago (1978) Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2017.
   (By the Minister of Finance)

6. The Annual Administrative Report of exporTT Limited for the fiscal year 2019/2020.
   (By the Minister of Trade, Investment and Tourism)

7. The Annual Administrative Report of exporTT Limited for the fiscal year 2020/2021.
   (By the Minister of Trade, Investment and Tourism)

8. The Annual Administrative Report of exporTT Limited for the fiscal year 2022/2023.
   (By the Minister of Trade, Investment and Tourism)

9. The Annual Administrative Report of exporTT Limited for the fiscal year 2023/2024.
   (By the Minister of Trade, Investment and Tourism)

10. The Annual Administrative Report of InvesTT Limited for the fiscal year 2024.
(By the Minister of Trade, Investment and Tourism)

11. The Administrative Report of YTEPP Limited for the fiscal year 2019/2020.
(By the Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training)

12. The Administrative Report of YTEPP Limited for the fiscal year 2020/2021.
(By the Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training)

13. The Administrative Report of YTEPP Limited for the fiscal year 2023/2024.
(By the Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training)

14. The Administrative Report of YTEPP Limited for the fiscal year 2024/2025.
(By the Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training)

15. The Administrative Report of the National Energy Skills Centre for the fiscal year 2019/2020.
(By the Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training)

16. The Administrative Report of the National Energy Skills Centre for the fiscal year 2020/2021.
(By the Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills Training)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 25 to the Minister of Finance**
(By Senator Vishnu Dhanpaul)
With respect to VAT refund claims made by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as at September 01, 2026, can the Minister provide:

(i) the total number of SMEs that have submitted claims which remain unprocessed beyond the statutory period;
(ii) the total dollar value of the overdue claims identified at (i); and
(iii) what specific remedial measures are being taken by the Ministry to reduce the backlog?

***Question No. 26 to the Minister of Finance**
(By Senator Vishnu Dhanpaul)
With respect to foreign exchange requests submitted by commercial banks to the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago during the last twelve (12) months, can the Minister state:

(i) the total dollar value of requests that were not fulfilled; and
(ii) what measures, if any, are being implemented to address foreign exchange supply and demand?

***Question No. 27 to the Minister of Finance**
(By Senator Vishnu Dhanpaul)
With regard to the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund as at September 01, 2026, can the Minister state:

(i) the balance of the Fund; and
(ii) the amount, if any, withdrawn from the Fund during the current fiscal year?

* Question Nos. 25, 26 and 27 were deferred for 1 week on 17.11.2026

Question No. 28 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Vishnu Dhanpaul)

With respect to the Government's current fiscal position, can the Minister state:

(i) the level of domestic and external public debt, expressed in absolute terms and as a percentage of GDP;

(ii) the projected fiscal deficit for the current fiscal year; and

(iii) the measures being implemented to address the projected deficit?

Question No. 29 to the Minister of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development

(By Senator Vishnu Dhanpaul)

Can the Minister indicate:

(i) the latest official unemployment rate as measured by the Central Statistical Office; and

(ii) the unemployment rate for each of the preceding four (4) quarters?

Question No. 30 to the Minister of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development

(By Senator Vishnu Dhanpaul)

With respect to the current Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) across Ministries and State Enterprises, can the Minister state:

(i) the percentage of allocated funds disbursed to date;

(ii) the number of projects that are behind schedule or over budget; and

(iii) what measures are being implemented to improve the execution of PSIP-funded projects?

Question No. 34 to the Minister of the People, Social Development and Family Services

(By Senator Foster Cummings)

With respect to the development of the National Child Well Being and Poverty Reduction Strategy, can the Minister state:

(i) the current status of the Strategy;

(ii) the date by which the Strategy is expected to be completed and implemented;

(iii) the specific targets established for reducing child poverty; and

(iv) how the Ministry intends to measure and publicly report progress towards achieving those targets?

Question No. 35 to the Minister of Defence

(By Senator Foster Cummings)

With respect to the temporary suspension and proposed restructuring of the Military Led Academic Training Programme, can the Minister state:

(i) the current status of the restructuring of the Programme;

(ii) the number of cadets affected by the suspension, including the number preparing for CSEC examinations;

(iii) what arrangements have been made to ensure that affected cadets can continue their academic preparation and sit their scheduled examinations; and

(iv) the date by which the Government expects the Programme to resume operations?

Question No. 36 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Foster Cummings)

With respect to preparedness for periods of excessive heat at Government and Government-assisted schools in light of forecasts for elevated temperatures in Trinidad and Tobago, can the Minister state:

(i) whether the Ministry has assessed schools to identify classrooms with inadequate ventilation or cooling;

(ii) if so, the number of schools identified as requiring improvements;

(iii) what improvements are being implemented at the schools identified; and

(iv) what protocols are in place to protect students and staff during periods of excessive heat?

Question No. 39 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By Senator Melanie Roberts-Radgman)

In light of weather forecasts that the El Niño climate pattern is expected to persist until February 2027 and public reports of extended water shortages, can the Minister indicate:

(i) the current water storage levels at the country's major reservoirs and their projected capacity to meet demand during this period;
(ii) whether any water rationing or scheduled supply interruptions are anticipated; and
(iii) the proposed criteria, if any, for determining the affected communities and the frequency and duration of such interruptions?

Question No. 40 to the Minister of Homeland Security

(By Senator Melanie Roberts-Radgman)

In light of increased reports of home invasions and burglaries in Tobago, can the Minister state:

(i) what measures are being implemented to improve police response times to these incidents, particularly in communities with limited police resources; and
(ii) what specific measures are being taken to address the incidence of home invasions and burglaries in Tobago, given it's relatively small population and geographic size?

Question No. 41 to the Prime Minister

(By Senator Melanie Roberts-Radgman)

With respect to the Prime Minister's stated intention in December 2025 to consider giving the Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly a permanent seat on the National Security Council, can the Prime Minister state:

(i) whether the Cabinet has considered this proposal;
(ii) what decision, if any, has been taken; and
(iii) if the proposal has not been considered, the reasons for the delay?

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

1. The Maxi-Taxi (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
   (By the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation)

2. The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2026.
   (By the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation)

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

PUBLIC BUSINESS

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday September 22, 2026, will be resumed:**

WHEREAS section 4 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Chap. 1:01, affirms the principle of social justice including equality of opportunity and access to decent work;

AND WHEREAS the economic transformation and sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago require coordinated and forward-looking national workforce planning;

AND WHEREAS persistent labour market mismatches, including skills gaps, youth unemployment, underemployment and misalignment between education and national economic priorities, continue to constrain productivity and economic participation;

AND WHEREAS international best practice among advanced economies demonstrates the value of integrated workforce development frameworks grounded in labour market intelligence and strong collaboration among government, industry, education and training institutions;

AND WHEREAS a National Workforce and Manpower Strategic Plan for Trinidad and Tobago should provide for coordinated labour market forecasting; alignment of education and technical and vocational training systems with national development priorities; strengthened industry-education partnerships and work-integrated learning opportunities; development of digital, critical-thinking, green economy and entrepreneurial skills; measures to address youth unemployment and participation disparities; and mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation, including periodic reporting to Parliament;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate calls upon the Government to prepare and table in Parliament, within twelve (12) months, a comprehensive National Workforce and Manpower Strategic Plan for Trinidad and Tobago, inclusive of a legislative and institutional framework.

(By Senator Dr. Marlene Attzs)

2. **WHEREAS** Trinidad and Tobago's healthcare system relies predominantly on paper-based records;

AND WHEREAS the fragmentation of patient health information across public and private medical institutions owing to the absence of a unified, interoperable Electronic Medical Records system contributes to duplication of diagnostic procedures, delays in treatment and inefficient use of limited health resources, even more so in emergency cases;

AND WHEREAS digital transformation of health services is a stated priority of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate calls upon the Government to develop a comprehensive policy and legislative framework for the development of a National Electronic Medical Records system to manage medical records and health data governance, including standards for the recording, processing, storage, protection and secure sharing of health information, including appropriate cybersecurity and data protection safeguards, interoperability standards, and phased implementation across public and private healthcare institutions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government introduce into Parliament, within twelve (12) months, comprehensive legislation to give effect to a national framework for medical records and health data governance.

(By Senator Dr. Desirée Murray)

3. **WHEREAS** forests constitute a critical national asset that supports the environmental, economic and social development of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS Trinidad and Tobago has established a legislative and policy framework for the protection and management of forests, wildlife, protected areas, watersheds and the environment, including the Forest Act, Chap. 66:01, the Conservation of Wildlife Act, Chap. 67:01, the State Lands Act, Chap. 57:01, and the Environmental Management Act, Chap. 35:05 and multiple policies aimed at forest and wildlife protection, biodiversity and most recently climate change;

AND WHEREAS evidence presented at Parliamentary Committee inquiries, and other public consultations, has highlighted ongoing concerns regarding deforestation, , biodiversity loss, habitat fragmentation, and the increasing impact of climate change on the natural environment and communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable Senate calls upon the Government to develop and table in Parliament, within twelve (12) months, an integrated, comprehensive National Forest Conservation and Reforestation Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago, including an implementation plan for the review and strengthening of existing legislation, policies and institutional arrangements relating to forests, protected areas, biodiversity conservation and watershed management.

(By Senator Alicia Lalite-Ettienne)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

1. A Bill entitled 'An Act to amend the Maternity Protection Act, Chap. 45:57.'
   (By the Minister of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development)

2. A Bill entitled 'An Act to repeal and replace the Shipping Act, Chap. 50:10, the Harbours Act, Chap. 50:06, the Droghers Act, Chap. 50:07, the Motor Launches Act, Chap. 50:08, the Marking of Ships Act, Chap. 50:09, to amend the Port Authority Act, Chap. 51:01, the Pilotage Act, Chap. 51:02, the Customs Act, Chap. 78:01 and the Coroners Act, Chap. 6:04 to provide for the certification and registration of seafarers and the certification and registration of vessels and offshore installations, matters relating to crew safety and security of life at sea and matters incidental thereto.'
   (By the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation)

Nataki Atiba-Dilchan
Clerk of the Senate

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

November 20, 2026