



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

EIGHTEENTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2021/2022)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2022 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 Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries to the Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Land and Physical Infrastructure on an inquiry into the management of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) and related recommendations.
(By the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries)
 - (ii) The Annual Report of the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority for the period 2019/2020.
(By the Minister of Works and Transport)
 - (iii) The Annual Administrative Report of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries for the period 2018/2019.
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 51 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given the increasing calls by various segments of the national community for the Government to impose mandatory vaccines, can the Minister advise whether it is the intention of the Government to implement a policy of mandatory vaccination?

Question No. 55 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to the collapsed roadway at the HDC Oasis Greens Housing Development and the frustrations being experienced by residents as a result of same, can the Minister indicate when will this situation be rectified?

Question No. 56 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the request made by the Caribbean Centre for Human Rights (CCHR) for access to the nation's prisons, can the Minister indicate whether such request will be approved?

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 November 23, 2021 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS all Senators have a duty to uphold the dignity, discipline and decorum of Parliament and defend it against disrespect;

AND WHEREAS failure to uphold the dignity of Parliament, by disregarding its rules, by using unparliamentary language, by disobeying and ignoring the authority of the Presiding Officer, diminishes and erodes public confidence in said institution;

AND WHEREAS conduct calculated to obstruct, intimidate or impede Members in the discharge of their duties is a breach of privilege;

AND WHEREAS all Opposition Senators who were present at the meeting of the Electoral College on October 21, 2021 made abusive and malicious assertions; imputed false and improper motives, and cast negative reflections on the character and impartiality of all Independent Senators during said proceedings of the Electoral College, and in the media;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate censure the unparliamentary conduct of said Opposition Senators who by threat or molestation have attempted to obstruct, impede, influence or interfere with said Independent Senators in the performance of their duties;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a Select Committee be established to consider and report on a code of ethical conduct and behavior for Senators.

(By Senator Anthony Vieira)

(ii) **WHEREAS** the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chapter 19:01 provides for the establishment of Commissions to manage the conduct of enquiries into public officers, departments and matters of public welfare;

AND WHEREAS Commissions of Enquiry are recognized as an important tool for social investigation in contemporary society, an effective mechanism for delivering into and ameliorating matters of public concern;

AND WHEREAS successive Government administrations have failed to adequately address public concerns which have arisen from time to time on whether the Commissions of Enquiry in Trinidad and Tobago have been effectively and efficiently carrying out their mandate;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to review the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01 and the public inquiry process in Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Anthony Vieira)

(iii) **WHEREAS** in 2001 the States of the Caribbean Community established by agreement (by treaty) the Caribbean Court of Justice (“the Court”), convinced that the Court would have a determinative role in the development of Caribbean jurisdiction steeped in the ethos of the region;

AND WHEREAS Trinidad and Tobago, having ratified without reservation the agreement establishing the Court, is bound under treaty to refer its appeals to the Court in lieu of continuing to have them heard by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council;

AND WHEREAS the unique and varied legal matters which arise in the Caribbean are far removed and foreign to the society, culture and habits of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, as sentiment echoed by Privy Council judges and senior British legal figures;

AND WHEREAS almost all Commonwealth States outside the Caribbean as well as four CARICOM states, have since delinked from the Privy Council, recognizing that it goes against the sovereignty of independent nations, and is therefore politically unacceptable, to have such a foreign tribunal permanently entrenched in their Constitutions as their final appellate Court;

AND WHEREAS this is an appropriate time for Trinidad and Tobago to accede to the Court in its appellate jurisdiction, so that the Country’s civil, criminal and constitutional appeals can be heard by the Court, which will also serve this Country’s democratic and developmental objectives regarding affordability, relevance and increased access to justice;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate agree that the Caribbean Court of Justice be recognized as the final Court of Appeal for Trinidad and Tobago and that the appropriate amendments be made to alter the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago so as to entrench the court as its final court of appeal.

(By Senator Anthony Vieira)

(iv) **WHEREAS** availability of foreign exchange is important for investment and competitiveness in the private sector and the persistently tight foreign exchange environment can hinder prospects for diversification and economic recovery aspired to in the Government’s fiscal strategy;

AND WHEREAS there has been improved sales and purchases of foreign exchange by authorized dealers recorded thus far in 2022 due to higher energy prices;

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and the wider population continue to experience the negative effects from the difficulty in accessing foreign exchange, notwithstanding interventions by the Central Bank and the Government to ease tight foreign exchange market conditions;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to table in Parliament, within six (6) months, a comprehensive policy framework that will guide key stakeholders, including MSMEs,

the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and Commercial Banks on how the Government intends to navigate the tightness in the foreign exchange market to overcome downside risks in the medium and long-term.

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

- (v) **WHEREAS** on April 24, 2018 the Senate unanimously passed a resolution calling on the Government “... *to introduce legislation on parliamentary autonomy during the Fourth Session of the Eleventh Parliament and have same referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament for consideration and report before the end of the Fourth Session of the Eleventh Parliament*”;

AND WHEREAS on February 12, 2019, in the Senate, the Attorney General committed to making best efforts to have legislation on Parliamentary Autonomy introduced in the Fourth Session of the Eleventh Parliament;

AND WHEREAS to date the Government has not presented to Parliament a legislative framework on Parliamentary Autonomy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to reaffirm its commitment to introduce a legislative framework on Parliamentary Autonomy;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to introduce in Parliament, within three (3) months, a Bill on Parliamentary Autonomy and have same referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament for consideration and report.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (vi) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 1(2) of the Data Protection Act 2011 that the Act shall come into operation on such day as is fixed by the President by Proclamation;

AND WHEREAS Part 1 and sections 7 to 18, 22, 23, 25(1), 26 and 28 of the Act were operationalised on January 06, 2012 and section 42(a) and (b) were operationalised on August 20, 2021;

AND WHEREAS there are other sections of the Act that offer the necessary checks and balances in safeguarding the personal data/information of every citizen;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to immediately proclaim the remaining sections of the Data Protection Act and in the process ensure the necessary checks and balances aimed at safeguarding citizens’ fundamental right to privacy.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (vii) **WHEREAS** the Senate, as a House of Parliament, ought to afford Members such freedom of debate so as to allow full, frank and meaningful discussion within the constraints of the Standing Orders and well established parliamentary practice;

AND WHEREAS the position and authority of the President of the Senate ought not to be used in a partisan manner to prevent and or stymie criticism of the Government;

AND WHEREAS the Senate President is the servant of the Senate and not of the Government and as such ought to be impartial at all times;

AND WHEREAS the President of the Senate by her rulings has demonstrated her bias in favor of the PNM Government and her lack of understanding of the nature and role of the Office of President of the Senate;

AND WHEREAS by her actions the Senate President has stifled the freedom of debate guaranteed by the Constitution and thus brought this Senate into disrepute;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate declare that it has lost confidence in the President of the Senate, Senator the Honourable Christine Kangaloo.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) **The debate on the Second reading of the following Bill which was adjourned on Tuesday January 18, 2022 will be resumed:**
A Bill entitled, 'An Act to repeal the Livestock and Livestock Products Board Act, Chap. 67:05'.
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

- (ii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Immigration (Caribbean Community Skilled Nationals) Act, Chap. 18:03'.
(By the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs)

Keiba Jacob Mottley
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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PORT OF SPAIN

February 17, 2022



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TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2022 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 state what measures will be taken to ensure the local recall of several lots of baby formula imported into Trinidad and Tobago that are part of the United States Food and Drug Administration recall?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given that poor road conditions delayed first responders in the rescue of an elderly couple who perished in a fire at St. Julien Road, Princes Town, can the Minister state when access roads to the community will be improved?

**Keiba Jacob Mottley
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)**

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