



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

NINETEENTH SITTING, SECOND SESSION (2021/2022)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY MARCH 08, 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 Digital Transformation to the First Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on an inquiry into the effects of the hybrid learning system on student performance in government and government-assisted schools during the revised COVID-19 restrictions.
(By the Minister of Digital Transformation)
 - (ii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services to the Second Report of the Public Accounts Committee on an examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2020.
(By the Minister of Social Development and Family Services)
 - (iii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Education to the First Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on an inquiry into the Right to Equal Access to Education with specific focus on the Underachievement of Schools in the Port-of-Spain and Environs District with respect to Performance in Terminal Examinations.
(By the Minister of Education)
 - (iv) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of National Security to the Interim Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on the response of the Public Authorities to the COVID-19 pandemic in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of National Security)
 - (v) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Labour to the Interim Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on the Response of the Public Authorities to the COVID-19 pandemic in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of Labour)

- (vi) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Finance to the First Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Follow-up on the Implementation of the Recommendation made in the Twenty-Fifth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on an examination of the Audited Financial Statements and Internal Controls of the NLCB for the years 2008-2012.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (vii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Public Transport Service Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (viii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statement of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation Mayor's Fund for the year ended September 30, 2015.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (ix) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statement of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation Mayor's Fund for the year ended September 30, 2016.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (x) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statement of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation Mayor's Fund for the year ended September 30, 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xi) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statement of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation Mayor's Fund for the year ended September 30, 2018.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statement of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation Mayor's Fund for the year ended September 30, 2019.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xiii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statement of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation Mayor's Fund for the year ended September 30, 2020.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xiv) The Second Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended December 31, 2005.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xv) The Family Proceedings (Amendment) Rules, 2022.
(By the Attorney General)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 44 to the Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the rise in serious crimes, particularly the number of murders between November 20-22, 2021, can the Minister advise as to the measures being put in place by the Government to address this development?

Question No. 57 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister indicate whether Government will be extending the January 01, 2022 deadline for the transition from cotton to polymer notes?

Question No. 58 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to the December 2021 donation of approximately 460 laptops by UNICEF and the CAF Development Bank, can the Minister outline the distribution process for the allocation of said laptops?

Question No. 59 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister indicate whether all COVID-19 protocols were adhered to during the December 2021 “Rule the Road Caravan” sponsored by Angostura Holdings Ltd.?

Question No. 79 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Paul Richards)

Can the Minister indicate:

- (i) how many Venezuelan nationals have succumbed to COVID-19 in Trinidad and Tobago, since the start of the pandemic; and
- (ii) what percentage of the overall death count does this constitute?

Question No. 80 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Paul Richards)

How many Venezuelan nationals have been vaccinated in Trinidad and Tobago?

Question No. 81 to the Minister of Labour

(By Senator Paul Richards)

Given the uncertainty of how long this pandemic will continue and its impact on the workplace, and the Government’s previous statement on the positive aspects of a hybrid work arrangement, can the Minister give an update on the Government’s Work from Home Policy?

Question No. 88 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Charrise Seepersad)

Considering the findings of the Global Financial Integrity (GFI) Report that this country faces manifest challenges in investigating and prosecuting low-level and high-level financial crimes, can the Minister advise whether the Government intends to provide the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago with the power to investigate suspicious financial activities?

* Question No. 44 was deferred for two weeks on 08.02.2022

Question No. 89 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Charrise Seepersad)

Given reported concerns that the Financial Investigations Branch (FIB) of the TTIPS is under-resourced to adequately investigate and prosecute high-level financial crime, can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) how many cases of high-level financial crime/suspicious activity have been reported from January 2021 to January 2022;
- (ii) how many of the cases identified at (i) have been investigated and prosecuted;
- (iii) what is being done to ensure that the FIB is adequately resourced; and
- (iv) how does the FIB currently perform its duties given its lack of resources?

Question No. 98 to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

(By Senator Anil Roberts)

Can the Minister list the names of the members of the current Board of Directors of the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute as well as their respective:

- (i) portfolio responsibilities;
- (ii) qualifications; and
- (iii) dates of appointment?

Question No. 99 to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

(By Senator Anil Roberts)

Can the Minister indicate:

- (i) the name of the current Principal and/or Acting Principal of the Caribbean Fisheries Training and Development Institute;
- (ii) the complete and detailed breakdown of the compensation package of the current Principal/Acting Principal; and
- (iii) the date on which the current Principal/Acting Principal was appointed?

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

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) 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)

- (ii) **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)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **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)

- (ii) **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)

- (iii) **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)

- (iv) **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)

- (v) **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)

- (vi) **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)

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

**Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
The Parliamentary Complex
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PORT OF SPAIN**

March 03, 2022



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TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY MARCH 08, 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 NATIONAL SECURITY**
(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the recent incident involving the Coast Guard and the crew of the vessel Rainia, can the Minister provide an update on the action taken in respect of this incident?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**
(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given the recent decision of the Government to exempt members of the same family from wearing masks while in a vehicle, can the Minister explain how this decision will be enforced?

Keiba Jacob Mottley
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