



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION  
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

NO. 32  
2018/2019

## ORDER PAPER

FRIDAY MAY 17, 2019: 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

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**Questions for Oral Answer**

**\*Question No. 170 to the Minister of National Security:**

**(By the Member for Oropouche West)**

With regard to reports indicating that over 8,000 illegal firearms are in circulation within Trinidad and Tobago, could the Minister indicate:

- a) whether there is a relationship between the number of firearms seized and the number of murders committed utilizing same;
- b) the current complement of staff at the Trinidad & Tobago Forensic Science Centre to conduct ballistic testing; and
- c) the countries of origin of the illegal firearms which were seized?

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**\*Question No. 170 was deferred for two (2) weeks on Wednesday May 1, 2019.**

**Question No. 183 to the Minister of Education:****(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

With regard to recent reports that there is a shortage of skilled labour, could the Minister provide the areas of skills shortage and the manpower requirements for each occupation?

**Question No. 184 to the Minister of Education:****(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

With regard to the ECCE Centres under construction in September 2015, could the Minister provide the number of ECCE Centres completed and opened as at March 31, 2019?

**Question No. 185 to the Minister of Education:****(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

Could the Minister provide the number of ECCE Centres that received salary payments from September 2015 to March 31, 2019?

**Question No. 206 to the Minister of Finance:****(By the Member for Oropouche East)**

Could the Minister state the total profits made by Caribbean Airlines Limited on the Port of Spain to Havana route since its commencement?

**Question No. 207 to the Minister of Finance:****(By the Member for Oropouche West)**

With regard to a statement issued by the Chief Fire Officer on March 18, 2019 indicating that various stations are currently without fire appliances partly due to the lag in releases from the Ministry of Finance, could the Minister indicate when funding will be released to the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service?

**Question No. 208 to the Minister of Health:****(By the Member for Oropouche West)**

With regard to a report on March 21, 2019 indicating that a seventy-two year old woman died at the Port of Spain General Hospital due to the closure of the blood bank during Carnival Weekend, could the Minister state the reasons for the closure of the blood bank?

**Question No. 209 to the Minister of National Security:****(By the Member for Oropouche West)**

With regard to a social media video posted on March 21, 2019 that depicted an inmate claiming an infringement of basic human rights due to lack of medical services, could the Minister provide the reasons why medical services are not available in a timely manner?

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

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS

### **GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

#### **Motions:**

1. **WHEREAS** section 122(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Chap. 1:01 (“the Act”) provides that the President shall, after consultation with the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition nominate persons, who are qualified and experienced in the disciplines of law, finance, sociology or management, to be appointed as members of the Police Service Commission;

**AND WHEREAS** section 122(4) of the Act provides that the President shall issue a Notification in respect of each person nominated for appointment under subsection (3) and the Notification shall be subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Representatives;

**AND WHEREAS** the President has nominated Mr. Roger Mark Kawalsingh to be appointed as a member of the Police Service Commission;

**AND WHEREAS** the President has on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019 made a Notification in respect of the nomination;

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient to approve the Notification:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Notification of the nomination of Mr. Roger Mark Kawalsingh as a member of the Police Service Commission be approved.

**(By the Prime Minister)**

2. **WHEREAS** it is provided by subsection (3) of section 4 of the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) Act (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”), that as soon as may be after the Elections and Boundaries Commission (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”) has submitted a report under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 4 of the Act, the Minister shall lay before the House of Representatives for its approval the draft of an Order by the President for giving effect, whether with or without modifications, to the recommendations contained in the report;

**AND WHEREAS** the Commission has submitted a report to the Minister in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 4;

**AND WHEREAS** the draft of an Order entitled the “Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) Order, 2019” giving

effect to the recommendations of the Commission was laid before the House of Representatives on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the draft of the “Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) Order, 2019” be approved.

**(By the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government)**

3. **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 5(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Chap. 58:01 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the President may by Order, declare that land is required for a public purpose;

**AND WHEREAS** it is provided by section 5(2) of the Act that Parliament may by resolution approve an Order made under section 5(1);

**AND WHEREAS** the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2018 was made by the President under section 5(1) of the Act as Legal Notice No. 190 dated the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018;

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient to approve the said Order:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2018 be approved.

**(By the Attorney General)**

4. **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 5(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Chap. 58:01 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the President may by Order, declare that land is required for a public purpose;

**AND WHEREAS** it is provided by section 5(2) of the Act that Parliament may by resolution approve an Order made under section 5(1);

**AND WHEREAS** the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2019 was made by the President under section 5(1) of the Act as Legal Notice No. 34 dated the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019;

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient to approve the said Order:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2019 be approved.

**(By the Attorney General)**

**Bills Second Reading:**

1. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) Act, 2011 (Act No. 20 of 2011)”.

**(By the Attorney General)**

2. A Bill entitled, “An Act to establish a Council for Urban and Regional Planners and to provide for the regulation of the urban and regional planning profession and other matters incidental thereto”.

**(By the Minister of Planning and Development)**

3. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Registrar General Act, Chap. 19:03, the Registration of Deeds Act, Chap. 19:06, the Conveyancing and Law of Property Act, Chap. 56:01, the Real Property Act, Chap. 56:02, the Stamp Duty Act, Chap. 76:01 and the Registration of Title to Land Act, 2000”.

**(By the Attorney General)**

4. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Supplemental Police Act, Chap. 15:02”.

**(By the Minister in the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs)**

5. 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 in the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs)**

6. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the National Emblems of Trinidad and Tobago (Regulation) Act, Chap. 19:04”.

**(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)**

### COMMITTEE BUSINESS

#### Motions:

1. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday November 09, 2018 will be resumed:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this House adopt the Fifth Report of the Joint Select Committee on National Security on the Final Report of the Police Manpower Audit Committee.

**(By the Member for Laventille West)**

2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House adopt the Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority Bill, 2018.

**(By the Member for Diego Martin North/East)**

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

#### Motions:

1. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday May 10, 2019 will be resumed:**

**WHEREAS** the World Economic Outlook published by the International Monetary Fund projected that the Trinidad and Tobago economy is stagnant;

**AND WHEREAS** this is at variance with the assertions of the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister and other Government spokesmen on the subjects of growth and economic performance over the past two years;

**AND WHEREAS** the economic experience of the majority of citizens is one of distress and concern, the psychological state of workers is one of anxiety and fear and many among the middle class are challenged to meet their mortgage payments;

**AND WHEREAS** oil production is at its lowest level of production in decades;

**AND WHEREAS** the renegotiation of natural gas prices with producing companies has created new problems for the National Gas Company and the downstream sector and may affect national policy choices in the immediate future;

**AND WHEREAS** the local private sector is hesitant to invest in the local economy and small and medium business are struggling to stave off closure;

**AND WHEREAS** the depletion of foreign reserves is occurring at the net rate of 1.6 billion annually;

**AND WHEREAS** after three and a half years in office, the Government seems unable to manage the economy effectively, citizens of all dimensions are under stress and live with daily uncertainty and the country as a whole seems rudderless and directionless;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this House condemn the Government for its recklessness and mismanagement of the finances and economy of Trinidad and Tobago.

**(By the Member for Caroni Central)**

2. **The debate on the following Motion which was adjourned on Friday March 22, 2019 will be resumed:**

**WHEREAS** the United Nations established seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to transform the world by 2030;

**AND WHEREAS** the second target under SDG number five (5) states, “the elimination all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation”;

**AND WHEREAS** women are increasingly becoming victims of domestic abuse, violent crime and human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Government take urgent steps to ensure the protection of our nation’s women.

**(By the Member for Fyzabad)**

3. **WHEREAS** over the recent past there have been a number of media articles alleging acts of serious misbehaviour and abuse of office by the Chief Justice, the most serious of which remain unanswered;

**AND WHEREAS** the Chief Justice has by his resolute refusal to respond adequately to these allegations, brought the office of Chief Justice and by extension, the entire Judiciary into disrepute and odium;

**AND WHEREAS** by Section 137 of the Constitution the Prime Minister has the authority and responsibility to act in the interest of the integrity of the Office of the Chief Justice and the Judiciary;

**AND WHEREAS** the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago established a Committee to investigate allegations of misconduct by the Chief Justice and the Committee Report was sent to the Prime Minister for which action is yet to be taken;

**AND WHEREAS** there have been public calls for the Prime Minister to act and trigger Section 137 thereby allowing for the course of natural justice which would allow for the rebuilding of public confidence in the administration of justice and the Judiciary;

**AND WHEREAS** the Prime Minister by his failure to act permits the perception that the Government is protecting the Chief Justice and has further eroded public confidence in the administration of justice;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this House call upon the Prime Minister to trigger Section 137 of the Constitution and forthwith advise the President that the question of removing the Chief Justice ought to be investigated.

**(By the Member for Oropouche East)**

4. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday February 22, 2019 will be resumed:**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this House consider the details of the two-part address by the Hon. Keith Rowley, MP, Prime Minister termed, "*Mind your Business: Reporting to the Nation*" that aired on January 6, 2019 and January 7, 2019.

**(By the Leader of the Opposition)**

5. **WHEREAS** the Government has taken a policy decision to construct and establish an all-inclusive tourist destination in Tobago;

**AND WHEREAS** this decision has been met with considerable public disquiet, controversy and outrage over matters of procurement of Sandals Resorts International and project planning and development;

**AND WHEREAS** it is felt that this project had been conceptualized and is being implemented without any regard to transparency, accountability and good governance;

**AND WHEREAS** this project involves the expenditure of approximately one billion Trinidad and Tobago dollars with concerns over the social and economic returns to such an investment;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this House condemn the lack of proper procurement policy, disclosure and the improper implementation of the Sandals Resorts International project.

**(By the Member for Couva North)**

6. **WHEREAS** climate change is a matter of global concern which threatens all nations;

**AND WHEREAS** small island states and coastal states are especially susceptible to the impact of climate change;

**AND WHEREAS** the Caribbean region including Trinidad and Tobago has recently experienced heavy rainfall, devastating hurricanes, and floods;

**AND WHEREAS** earthquakes and drought are anticipated and must be prepared for;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this House agree that the Government develop a holistic and sustainable national response to climate change inclusive of solutions to perennial flooding in Trinidad and Tobago and the management of drought conditions.

**(By the Member for Caroni Central)**

7. **WHEREAS** there has been a decline in the educational performance, standards and academic achievements during the current Government's administration;

**AND WHEREAS** the previous Computer Laptop Programme was abandoned, homework centres closed, provision of textbooks significantly decreased, and Student Support Services, IT, Special Needs, School Social professionals, School Feeding Programme and Scholarships have all been reduced;

**AND WHEREAS** many schools were routinely closed during several education terms because of disrepair, maintenance issues and gross incompetence of the Ministry of Education, depriving thousands of students of their education;

**AND WHEREAS** the Primary School Curriculum and the Continuous Assessment Component have been seriously compromised;

**AND WHEREAS** there has been an inadequate response to school disciplinary and security issues;

**AND WHEREAS** the construction of new schools has ceased and an estimated seventy schools at various levels of completion were abandoned with resultant disastrous educational environments;

**AND WHEREAS** the School Transport, School Feeding Programme, personnel and other vital service providers are failing to receive timely payments;

**AND WHEREAS** there has been a serious reduction in the GATE Programme, tertiary education participation, facilities and training in the various Tech-Voc programmes among others;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this House condemn this Government for its gross failure in the Education Sector and the resultant detrimental effect on generations of students.

**(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

8. **WHEREAS** over the past three years there has been a collapse of the public health sector with a significant increase in morbidity, mortality and preventable deaths in major health institutions;

**AND WHEREAS** the collapse of our primary health care system and widespread suffering from chronic, non-communicable diseases have resulted from the absence of public education programmes, reduction in the opening hours at health centres and the unavailability of many CDAP drugs;



**AND WHEREAS** at major hospitals, there exist overcrowding at Emergency Departments with patients dying on trolleys and the unavailability of beds, basic pharmaceutical supplies, reagents for lab testing, first-line chemotherapy, anti-cancer drugs and surgical medical supplies;

**AND WHEREAS** the waiting time for surgery is highly unacceptable and there is non-functional diagnostic equipment;

**AND WHEREAS** hundreds of nationals were denied employment as nurses and doctors despite severe shortages of medical personnel while hundreds of foreign doctors were employed;

**AND WHEREAS** the closure of the Central Block of the Port of Spain General Hospital, the underutilisation of the Couva Hospital and the discontinued construction of the National Oncology Centre have deprived patients of health care and have led to a major crisis in the delivery of medical care;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this House condemn the Government for its mismanagement of the health sector and call for the implementation of remedial measures, policies and programmes.

**(By the Member for Caroni East)**

*Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel*  
*Clerk of the House*

*House of Representatives' Secretariat*  
*The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre*  
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*PORT OF SPAIN*

*May 14, 2019*



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION  
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

No. 32  
2018/2019

## FRIDAY MAY 17, 2019 1:30 P.M. NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 27 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Ministers concerned.

1. **To the Minister of Education:**  
**(By the Member for for Naparima)**

Given the recent stabbing incident of a primary school teacher and the clear breach of protocol owing to poor training, could the Minister state what urgent measures are to be taken to upgrade the skills of security personnel in the nation's schools?

2. **To the Minister of National Security:**  
**(By the Member for Naparima)**

Given the recent discovery a quantity of automatic rifles by custom officers while conducting physical searches of barrels of foodstuff, could the Minister state what urgent measures are being taken including the operationalisation of scanners at the ports to deal with this burning issue?

3. **To the Minister of National Security:**  
**(By the Member for Couva South)**

Could the Minister inform this House which Government entity has been officially commissioned to investigate the recent crash landing of the National Helicopter Services Limited's at Windy Hill, Arouca and when will it complete its report?

4. **To the Minister of National Security:**  
**(By the Member for Couva South)**

Could the Minister inform this House whether he has commissioned an official inquiry into the escape of eight (8) prisoners from the Remand Section of the Golden Grove Prison, Arouca and what are the terms of the inquiry?

5. **To the Minister of National Security:**  
**(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)**

Given the reported statements by Prisons Commissioner Gerard Wilson that the prisoners who recently escaped from the Golden Grove Prison "scaled two perimeter fences and escaped", could the Minister state why the perimeter of the Prison is not being properly monitored and manned by prison guards?

6. **To the Minister of Communications:**  
**(By the Member for Couva North)**

Could the Minister confirm whether the memo and its contents circulating to social media address to National Library and Information System Authority staff are authentic?

7. **To the Minister of Education:**  
**(By the Member for Couva North)**

In light of an examination security breach during a Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate exam at a Secondary School, could the Minister state what action is being taken to avoid further examination breaches?

*Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel*  
*Clerk of the House*

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*May 17, 2019*