ORDER PAPER
FRIDAY MARCH 06, 2020: 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

PETITIONS

PAPERS

   (By the Minister of Finance who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts Committee)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PRIME MINISTER’S QUESTIONS

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question for Oral Answer

Question No. 36 to the Minister of Communications:
(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

With regard to the stated efforts to ensure that the Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT) Limited Channel remains viable, could the Minister state whether there are plans to reduce the number of staff this year?

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

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 3(1) of the Development Loans Act that the Government is authorized, for the purpose of –

   (a) financing general development in Trinidad and Tobago;
   (b) repayment of borrowings effected for such general development; or
   (c) repayment of borrowings effected for general development—
      i. by a statutory authority within the meaning of the Statutory Authorities Act;
      ii. by an enterprise that is controlled by or on behalf of the State; or
      iii. by the University of the West Indies,

to borrow from time to time money externally or internally in a sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate forty five thousand million dollars in the currency of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND **WHEREAS** it is also provided in the said section 3(1), that thereafter such sum in such currency may from time to time be specified by Resolution passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives;

AND **WHEREAS** it is necessary for the Government to borrow further sums of money for the purposes stated in the said section;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that for the purposes stated in the said section, the Government is hereby authorized to borrow money externally or internally in a further sum or in further sums not exceeding in the aggregate ten thousand million dollars in the currency of Trinidad and Tobago.

(By the Minister of Finance)

Bills Second Reading:

1. The Second Reading stage of the following Bill which was in progress on Wednesday November 27, 2019 will be completed:

   A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Bail Act, Chap. 4:60”.

   (By the Attorney General)

2. 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)

3. 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, to amend
the Port Authority Act, Chap. 51:01 and the Coroners Act, Chap. 6:04 to provide for the 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 Works and Transport)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Motions:


(By the Member for Laventille West)

2. The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday February 7, 2020 will be resumed:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House adopt the Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control Bill, 2016 in the Fifth Session, Eleventh Parliament.

(By the Member for Diego Martin North/East)

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Motions:

1. The debate on the following Motion which was adjourned on Friday February 28, 2020 will be resumed:

WHEREAS since 2015 this Government has been unable to provide for the safety and security of citizens resulting in increases in serious crimes particularly murder;

AND WHEREAS in 2019 Trinidad and Tobago has experienced two consecutive years with over 516 murders and witnessed in 2019 the second highest annual murder rate in its history;

AND WHEREAS the Government has been unwilling or unable to articulate specific, measurable, timely, and outputs-oriented crime-reduction targets;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to realize that an ‘Whole of Government Approach’ to solving crime is necessary;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemns this Government for its failure to deal with rampant crime.

(By the Member for Naparima)

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

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 has, from time to time, experienced cycles of drought, heavy rainfall, hurricanes and floods;

AND WHEREAS earthquakes and other natural disasters must be anticipated and 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 the perennial flooding in Trinidad and Tobago and the effective management of drought conditions and the impact of such disasters on the quality of human life.

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

3. WHEREAS the prices of oil and natural gas on which the 2020 Budget was premised were too high and production of natural gas is likely to be lower than estimated yielding shortfalls in revenue targets;

AND WHEREAS business and consumer confidence in the economy continues to deteriorate characterised by business closures, lack of investment and job losses;

AND WHEREAS the official debt is upward of one hundred billion indebtedness is much higher and our foreign reserves, unsupported by export gains have been dwindling;

AND WHEREAS there has been little action with regard to diversification;

AND WHEREAS Government policy is yet to yield recovery, prompt a structural shift or transform the economy;

AND WHEREAS the fiscal, monetary and economic policies of the Government have been a collection of contradictions and a total failure;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House call on the Prime Minister to immediately dissolve Parliament and call for a General Election to facilitate the change needed to execute coherent and inclusive policies that will promote the recovery and renewal of confidence of the economy.

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

4. WHEREAS the public health sector of Trinidad and Tobago over the past four (4) years has deteriorated, with significantly increased morbidity and preventable deaths;

AND WHEREAS the collapse of the primary health care system has resulted in widespread suffering from chronic, non-communicable diseases;

AND WHEREAS there is overcrowding of Accident and Emergency Departments at public hospitals, with unacceptable waiting times for surgeries as a result of insufficient medical resources and non-functioning diagnostic equipment among other things;
AND WHEREAS numerous nationals were denied employment as doctors, nurses and technicians, despite the shortage of these professionals;

AND WHEREAS the closure of the Central Block of Port of Spain General Hospital has led to patients of North and West Trinidad being deprived of health care;

AND WHEREAS the Government has refused to put the modern Couva Hospital into optimum use and has terminated construction of the National Oncology Centre;

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

(By the Member for Caroni East)

5. WHEREAS Trinidad and Tobago’s energy sector has been a significant contributor to our nation’s revenue, generating employment and promoting economic stability and infrastructural and national development;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed on its commitment to create an environment in which producer companies in the energy sector and aggressively seek new discoveries in oil and gas;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to deliver its promise of ensuring that we have an attractive, competitive and responsive fiscal and regulatory environment that will maximise recovery of our hydrocarbon resources;

AND WHEREAS over the last four years we have seen a reduction in oil and gas production and numerous closures of key operators, service providers and companies within the energy sector;

AND WHEREAS the state of our energy sector presents detrimental consequences for our economy;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemn this Government’s failure to stimulate, secure and sustainably grow our energy sector in a timely manner.

(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

6. WHEREAS there has been a decline in the student participation rate in the tertiary education from 2016 to 2019;

AND WHEREAS the misguided GATE policies of the Ministry of Education have resulted in cuts in the allocations or late payments to tertiary level institutions creating financial cash flow challenges and job losses;

AND WHEREAS the introduction of the means test has affected the career aspirations of graduates;

AND WHEREAS significant numbers of graduates continue to be unemployed without any immediate hope for temporary or sustainable jobs;
AND WHEREAS a number of training providers have either been closed and/or their programmes discontinued;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemn this Government for its incompetence and inability to properly manage the Tertiary Education Sector.

(By the Member for Chaguanas East)

Bills Second Reading:

1. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Kabir Association of Trinidad (Incorporation) Ordinance, 1932”.

(The Speaker will propose the question that the Bill be read a Second time)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

House of Representatives’ Secretariat
Red House
Abercromby Street
PORT OF SPAIN

March 5, 2020
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FIFTH SESSION

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

SITTING NO. 20

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

2019/2020

WEDNESDAY MARCH 6, 2020 1:30 P.M.
NOTICE OF PRIME MINISTER’S QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 26 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Prime Minister.

1. Could the Acting Prime Minister state whether the Government is taking any special measures to monitor cargo as well as ships including fishing vessels and their crew arriving from China, Japan and Korea?
   (By the Member for Tabaquite)

2. Given there is a shortage of N95 masks, could the Acting Prime Minister indicate why the Government sent 35,000 N95 masks to China?
   (By the Member for Couva North)

3. Could the Acting Prime Minister state what specific checks for the corona virus are being done and by whom on persons arriving at Cedros as well as Chaguaramas and Brighton?
   (By the Member for Tabaquite)

4. Could the Acting Prime Minister indicate whether the cabinet has considered establishing an inter-ministerial committee to address specific plans related to treating with the Corona Virus should it reach our shores?
   (By the Member for Princes Town)

5. Can the Acting Prime Minister state the purpose of the Prime Minister’s current trip to Ghana, as well as the persons comprising the delegation?
   (By the Member for Couva South)

6. Having regard to the recently concluded elections in Guyana, can the Acting Prime Minister confirm whether or not this Government has recognized the Granger administration as the new government of Guyana?
   (By the Member for Oropouche East)

7. Could the Acting Prime Minister indicate a definitive date when the first tranche of VAT bonds would be made available since he publicly stated that it would be done in the first quarter of 2020?
   (By the Member for Princes Town)
8. With respect to the purchase of three (3) reciprocating gas compressor trains by the National Gas Company (NGC) sometime between 2016 and 2018, could the Acting Prime Minister state what was the total cost of this purchase, known as the Beachfield Project?
(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

House of Representatives’ Secretariat
The Red House
Abercromby Street
PORT OF SPAIN

March 6, 2020
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 Health:**
   Could the Minister confirm or deny reports that a female national has tested positive for the Corona virus at a private medical institution on March 05, 2020 and is currently in quarantine at the Caura Hospital?
   *(By the Member for Couva South)*

2. **To the Minister of Health:**
   Could the Minister indicate what training programs have been instituted for when health workers in hospitals have to deal with corona virus cases?
   *(By the Member for Tabaquite)*

3. **To the Minister of Finance:**
   Given the public outcry by the business sector regarding the inability of Customs and Excise to properly manage the "bonding" of all packages in the Express Logistics sector, could the Minister state whether he will reconsider this instruction until the Customs and Excise Division is properly resourced to do so?
   *(By the Member for Mayaro)*

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

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*March 06, 2020*