PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

PETITIONS

PAPERS

1. The Audited Financial Statements of the University of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year ended September 30, 2015.
   (By the Minister of Finance who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts Committee)

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

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 44 to the Minister of Finance:
(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)

With regard to the concessional loans for the Point Fortin Hospital, the Arima Hospital and the Central Block of the Port of Spain General Hospital, could the Minister state:

a) the percentage of interest for these concessional loans;
b) the governments that granted these concessional loans; and
c) whether these loans require that local workers be employed on the project?
Question No. 45 to the Minister of Public Administration:
(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)
Could the Minister indicate:

A. the number of government rentals that did not have:
   i. fire certificate approval; or
   ii. OSHA approval; or
   iii. town and country approval for the period 2005 to February 29, 2020;
B. the duration of those rentals in part (a) and a list of these properties?

Question No. 46 to the Minister of Public Administration:
(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)
Could the Minister explain the process through which a citizen can offer his/her building for rent to a government agency?

Question No. 47 to the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government:
(By the Member for Tabaquite)
Could the Minister state:

a) the unspent balances at each of the regional corporations as at the end of December 2019;
b) the process required for regional corporations to utilize unspent balances; and
c) for what purposes can unspent balances be utilized?

Question No. 48 to the Minister of National Security:
(By the Member for Naparima)
Could the Minister state the reasons why the National Crime Consultations held in January 2020 were not held earlier in the tenure of this Government?

Question No. 49 to the Minister of National Security:
(By the Member for Naparima)
Given that four out of the forty-two (42) reported homicides in January 2020 were women who were victims of domestic violence, could the Minister provide:

a) the policies that will be implemented to provide counselling, shelters and community coordinated responses to victims of domestic violence; and
b) the policies that will be implemented to rehabilitate perpetrators of domestic violence?

Question No. 50 to the Minister of National Security:
(By the Member for Naparima)
Given reports that persons were killed and wounded in an alleged gang related incident in January 2020, could the Minister state the reason why the combination of the Anti-Gang legislation and the Strategic Services Agency did not provide the intelligence and/or capacity to reduce the frequency of gang related murders?
Question No. 51 to the Minister of National Security:
(By the Member for Couva North)
Given the increased number of murders from incidents of domestic violence against women, could the Minister indicate whether he has considered the implementation of the electronic bracelets for persons who have protection orders taken out against them?

Question No. 52 to the Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister:
(By the Member for Fyzabad)
In the light of reported unsatisfactory responses to recent calls to the National Domestic Violence hotline, could the Minister provide the steps being taken to improve this service?

Question No. 53 to the Attorney General:
(By the Member for Fyzabad)
Could the Attorney General indicate whether amendments to the Domestic Violence Act, Chap. 45:56 will be introduced in the current parliamentary term?

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. A Bill entitled, “An Act to provide for the registration and regulation of real estate agents in order to promote transparency, accountability and integrity in the real estate profession, to protect and assist persons engaged in transactions with real estate agents and to assist in the detection and prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, and other related matters”.
   (By the Attorney General)

2. 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)

3. 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)

4. 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 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)

5. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Interception of Communications Act, Chap. 15:08”.
   (By the Attorney General)

   (By the Ministry of National Security)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Motions:

1. The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday March 6, 2020 will be resumed:

(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 9, 2020
FRIDAY MARCH 13, 2020 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:**
   Given the closure of the Enterprise Government Primary School due to a Prohibition Notice by the OSHA Inspectorate on March 7, 2020, could the Minister state the measures put in place for the loss of contact time for curriculum delivery?
   *(By the Member for Chaguanas East)*

2. **To the Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development:**
   Could the Minister inform this House whether any meeting(s) have been convened to discuss the possible impact of COVID-19 outbreak on productivity and industrial relations within our economy?
   *(By the Member for Couva South)*

3. **To the Minister of Works and Transport:**
   Could the Minister state the new precautionary policies being implemented to ensure that all public transport vehicles and vessels are sanitized daily to combat the risk of the spread of COVID-19?
   *(By the Member for Tabaquite)*

4. **To the Minister of Education:**
   Could the Minister indicate what are his Ministry’s safety protocols and educational outreach programme for students and teachers, in light of impending national examinations?
   *(By the Member for Caroni East)*

5. **To the Minister of Health:**
   Could the Minister inform this House as to the current status of all contact tracing analysis done in relation to the five confirmed cases of COVID-19 of persons who transited through Trinidad and Tobago over the past fourteen (14) days?
   *(By the Member for Caroni East)*

6. **To the Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development:**
   Could the Minister outline the Government’s new employment guidelines in relation to workers who are likely to be self-quarantined with symptoms of COVID-19 virus?
   *(By the Member for Oropouche East)*