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)


   (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 Committee)


   (By the Deputy Speaker)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES


   (By the Member for San Fernando West)

(By the Member for Tunapuna)

PRIME MINISTER’S QUESTIONS

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question for Oral Answer

Question No. 66 to the Minister of Education:

(By the Member for Chaguanas East)

Could the Minister provide a status update on the recruitment for the position of President, UTT?

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 38(1) of the Tobacco Control Act, Chap. 30:04 (hereinafter called “the Act”) that the Minister may make Regulations prescribing requirements and standards for tobacco product constituents, including emissions of smoked products, additives and product design and specifying methods for testing and measuring compliance with the performance prescribed and generally for carrying out the purpose of this Act;

**AND WHEREAS** it is also provided by section 38(1) of the Act that Regulations made under that section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament;

**AND WHEREAS** the Minister has on the 29th day of May, 2019 made the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (hereinafter called “the Regulations”);

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient that the Regulations now be affirmed:
BE IT RESOLVED that the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 be approved.

(By the Minister of Health)

2. 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 19th 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)

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, 2019 was made by the President under section 5(1) of the Act as Legal Notice No. 34 dated the 18th 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)

4. 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 Dr. Simon Alexis to be appointed as a member of the Police Service Commission;
AND WHEREAS the President has on the 14th day of February, 2020 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 Dr. Simon Alexis as a member of the Police Service Commission be approved.

(By the Prime Minister)

Bills Second Reading:

1. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Summary Courts Act, Chap. 4:20; the Oaths Act, Chap. 7:01; the Limitation of Certain Actions Act, Chap. 7:09; the Summary Offences Act, Chap. 11:02; the Dangerous Drugs Act, Chap. 11:25; the Mental Health Act, Chap. 28:02; the Children Act, Chap. 46:01; the Shipping Act, Chap. 50:10; the Plant Protection Act, Chap. 63:56; the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago Act, Chap. 72:01; the Income Tax Act, Chap. 75:01; the Central Bank Act, Chap. 79:02; the Financial Institutions Act, Chap. 79:09; the Companies Act, Chap 81:01; the Securities Act, Chap. 83:02; the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute Act, Chap. 85:52; and the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2017 (Act No. 9 of 2017); and to repeal the Magistrates Protection Act, Chap. 6:03”.

(By the Attorney General)

2. The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday March 13, 2020 will be resumed:

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)

3. 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)

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

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*

*April 28, 2020*
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 Prime Minister confirm whether a foundation document was prepared by Prof. Karl Theodore, Director of the Health Economics Unit at UWI, St Augustine Campus, to inform and guide the work of his “RoadMap to Recovery” Committee? (By the Member for Caroni Central)

2. Based on the sample pool of 700 persons to be tested and the resultant decision on how to proceed with the opening up of the economy, could the Prime Minister indicate source of the technical competence to determine the level of risk involved in the tension between a healthy population and the restoration of health to the economy? (By the Member for Caroni Central)

3. Could the Prime Minister inform this House as of this date, how many applicants have received the salary, self-employed and rental grants? (By the Member for Couva South)

4. Could the Prime Minister indicate what extra compensation arrangements and employment related counselling are being considered for nurses and other health care workers facing high risk on the frontline in the fight against the COVID-19 virus? (By the Member for Oropouche East)

5. Could the Prime Minister give this House an update on the total expenditure incurred thus far relative to the Novel Coronavirus pandemic? (By the Member for Oropouche East)

6. Could the Prime Minister confirm whether or not his Government intends to assist Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with their rental payments and if so, when? (By the Member for Couva North)

7. Is the Prime Minister aware of allegations that our country is involved in trading with energy interests in Venezuela in contravention of the United States sanctions imposed against that country? (By the Member for Naparima)
8. Could the Prime Minister state whether his Government has responded to the concerns expressed by Barbados’ Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade regarding allegations that his country was facilitating certain actions that worked against our closed border policy? (By the Member for Naparima)

9. Could the Prime Minister inform this House as to the specific status of the Pandemic Leave measure which was announced as a social support measure on the March 15, 2020? (By the Member for Couva South)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

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

April 29, 2020
NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-named 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 indicate what actions have been taken after receipt of a report into the sub-standard and deplorable health and safety conditions at the “step down” Sangre Grande centre, Brooklyn facility? (By the Member for Oropouche East)

2. To the Minister of National Security:
Could the Minister indicate the number of exemptions granted and reasons for permission to land in Trinidad and Tobago from March 23, 2020 to date? (By the Member for Oropouche East)

3. To the Minister of Finance:
Could the Minister state whether Religious bodies have already been identified as potential recipients of grants for distribution to the poor or whether Religious bodies can still apply to be considered? (By the Member for Caroni Central)

4. To the Minister of Education:
Could the Minister state if an agreement has been reached between the MOE/GORTT and CXC on the format for conduct of the CXC May/June Examinations? (By the Member for Chaguanas East)

5. To the Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development:
Could the Minister inform this House whether she has actively engaged workers and employers through social dialogue to implement specific initiatives to prevent COVID-19 in the workplace? (By the Member for Couva South)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

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

April 29, 2020