PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

PETITIONS

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   (By the Minister of Finance who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts [Enterprises] 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. 45 was deferred for two (2) weeks on Friday March 13, 2020 and Monday April 27, 2020 and Question No. 62 was deferred for two (2) weeks Monday April 27, 2020.
**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:
   1. fire certificate approval; or
   2. OSHA approval; or
   3. 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?

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**Question No. 62 to the Minister of National Security:**

*(By the Member for Tabaquite)*

Could the Minister provide:

a) a breakdown of the total naval assets available to protect our maritime borders; and
b) the list of naval assets in part (a) that are currently operational and in service?

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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** 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)

2. 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)

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 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)

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 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)

Bills Second Reading:

1. The Second Reading 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 Drophers 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)

4. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Interception of Communications Act, Chap. 15:08”.

   (By the Attorney General)

5. A Bill entitled, “An Act to establish the Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority and for related matters”.

   (By the Minister of Finance)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Motions:

1. 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)
2. 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)

**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)
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)

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- Miéguel  
Clerk of the House

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

May 11, 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 indicate whether any medical personnel and/or Minister of Health were present, when discussions were taking place on the Covid-19 pandemic, between the Venezuelan Vice President and himself, during her recent visit to Trinidad?
   (By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)

2. Could the Prime Minister explain how the decision to keep small and medium businesses and enterprises closed while allowing fast food establishments and conglomerates to open until 8pm daily, is helping to decrease the spread of the Coronavirus?
   (By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)

3. Given the statement by the Minister of Finance that the Office of the Prime Minister has spent $10 million on Covid-19 relief, would the Prime Minister please specify what this $10 million dollars was spent on?
   (By Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

4. Given the recent statements by the Minister of National Security that Paria Fuel Trading Company has a clause in its contract preventing its buyers from reselling its fuel to countries sanctioned by the United States, could the Prime Minister specifically state whether this clause was included in the contract concerning the sale of 150,000 barrels of gasoline involving ES Euro Shipping SA?
   (By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

5. Based on recent reports that the Paria Fuel Trading Company sold 150,000 barrels of fuel to ES Euro Shipping SA via a spot purchase request on March 28, 2020, could the Prime Minister state the total payment received by Paria Fuel Trading Company as well as the price per barrel which the fuel was sold at for this spot sale?
   (By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

6. Would the Prime Minister indicate how the Government is treating with nationals abroad who sought lifesaving cancer treatment and surgical procedures and are now seeking urgent national security exemptions for their return home?
   (By the Member for Caroni East)
7. Can the Prime Minister state who are the contractors providing the cloth face masks at a total cost of $5 million, and the cost of each mask?  
(By the Member for Couva North)

8. Could the Prime Minister inform this House as to the total number of applicants who have received their salary relief, self-employed and rental grants respectively as at the 14th May, 2020?  
(By the Member for Couva South)

9. Could the Prime Minister inform this House when will the approximately 300 of our citizens be granted permission to travel to Canada to work in the Seasonal Agricultural Workers' Programme?  
(By the Member for Couva South)

10. Could the Prime Minister indicate whether interest rates benefits have been passed on to customers, based on the Central Bank's decision to drop the repo rate and to decrease the reserve requirement for Banks?  
(By the Member for Caroni Central)

11. Could the Prime Minister enlighten this House as to exactly what COVID-19 issues were discussed at the meeting with Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodriguez on March 27, 2020?  
(By the Member for Couva North)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel  
Clerk of the House

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

May 15, 2020
FRIDAY MAY 15, 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 Health:**
   Is the Ministry of Health’s advice to citizens to wear masks even while doing outdoor exercise such as running?
   (By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)

2. **To the Minister of Social Development and Family Services:**
   Can the Minister state when the rental grants will be disbursed to the thousands of applicants?
   (By the Member for Couva North)

3. **To the Minister of National Security:**
   Given that the contracts of 49 Trinidad and Tobago nationals working aboard the Disney Cruise Lines will expire on May 29, 2020 of which 40 have sought permission to return to Trinidad and Tobago, can the Minister inform this House when will the said citizens be granted permission to return to their country?
   (By the Member for Couva South)

4. **To the Minister of Health:**
   In view of recent reports of protests by healthcare workers at the Siparia District Health Facility that their working conditions are uncomfortable and highly unsatisfactory, can the Minister indicate when will the air conditioning system at this facility be repaired?
   (By the Member for Fyzabad)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel  
Clerk of the House

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

May 15, 2020