



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

SEVENTEENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY MARCH 12, 2019 AT 1:30 P.M.

1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OR AFFIRMATION
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
 - (i) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Education to the Fifteenth Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on the Examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheets and Other Financial Statements of the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme for the financial years 2008 to 2014.
(By the Minister of Education)
 - (ii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government to the Twelfth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriation Committee, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on an Examination into the Administration of Disaster Relief in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government)
 - (iii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government to the Nineteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on the Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation (CBC) for the Financial years 2008-2011.
(By the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government)
 - (iv) The Annual Administrative Report of the Arima Borough Corporation for the year 2016/2017.
(By the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government)
 - (v) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of National Security to the Twelfth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriation Committee, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on an Examination into the Administration of Disaster Relief in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of National Security)

- (vi) The Response of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service to the Sixteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on an Examination into the implementation of the Public Sector Investment Programme.
(By the Minister of National Security)
- (vii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries to the Twelfth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on an Examination of Disaster Relief in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)
- (viii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries to the Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on an inquiry into Regional Integration and the Strengthening of the CARICOM Institution.
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)
- (ix) The Report of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (CBTT) with respect to the Progress of the Proposals to Restructure CLICO, BAT and CIB for the quarter ended September 30, 2018.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (x) The Report of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (CBTT) with respect to the Progress of the Proposals to Restructure CLICO, BAT and CIB for the quarter ended December 31, 2018.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xi) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the National Infrastructure Development Company Limited (NIDCO) for the financial year ended September 30, 2016.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xii) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the National Infrastructure Development Company Limited (NIDCO) for the financial year ended September 30, 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xiii) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (SPORTT) for the financial year ended September 30, 2018.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xiv) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the Tourism Trinidad Destination Management Company Limited (TTDMCL) for the financial year ended September 30, 2018.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xv) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Finance to the Twenty-First Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on the Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Chaguaramas Development Authority (CDA) for the financial years 2008 to 2014.
(By the Minister of Finance)

- (xvi) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Planning and Development to the Twenty-First Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on the Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Chaguaramas Development Authority (CDA) for the financial years 2008 to 2014.

(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

- (xvii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs to the Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on an inquiry into Regional Integration and the Strengthening of the CARICOM Institution.

(By the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 77 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of statements made in this Senate on July 02, 2018 whereby the Minister of National Security indicated that legislation is currently being drafted to deal with the issues surrounding refugees and asylum seekers, can the Minister indicate when will such legislation be introduced?

Question No. 78 to the Minister of Social Development and Family Services

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister inform the Senate of the measures implemented to avoid the perpetrating of fraud in the granting/obtaining of state assistance arising from flooding and natural disasters?

Question No. 79 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister inform the Senate of the number of workers at the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Limited whose employment is earmarked for termination during the company's restructuring exercise?

Question No. 122 to the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs

(By Senator Paul Richards)

Having regard to damage caused in previous years to the various national stadia/sporting facilities due to the hosting of Carnival events, can the Minister indicate the following:

- (i) whether the Government has reviewed and updated the policy governing the rental of stadia to private event promoters;
- (ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what are the measures identified to prevent damage to the stadia; and
- (iii) how has the Ministry rolled out this updated policy to the relevant stakeholders?

Question No. 123 to the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs

(By Senator Paul Richards)

With respect to the hosting of non-sporting events at the various national stadia/sporting facilities during the Carnival season, can the Minister indicate the following:

- (i) whether the hosting of such events will displace any sporting events or training sessions scheduled at the stadia/sporting facilities during the Carnival season; and
- (ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what alternative measures are in place to ensure minimal disruption to said sporting events and training sessions?

Question No. 124 to the Minister of Planning and Development

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

In light of the 2018 announcement that the Cabinet approved ban on Styrofoam products will take effect in 2019, can the Minister indicate the commencement date of such ban?

Question No. 125 to the Minister of Planning and Development

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

Can the Minister provide an update on the work of the team that has been set up to work with local polystyrene manufacturers to facilitate their transition to manufacturing more environmentally sustainable products and mitigate any possible negative financial fallout from the Cabinet approved ban on Styrofoam products which will take effect in 2019?

Question No. 126 to the Minister of Planning and Development

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

In light of the Government's stated commitment to environmental sustainability and the need for the establishment of an industrial composting facility to treat compostable packaging, can the Minister advise:

- (i) whether the Government plans to establish such industrial composting facilities for the treatment of biodegradable waste;
- (ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what is the status of the implementation of this initiative; and
- (iii) if the answer to (i) is in the negative, how does the Government plan to manage and process large volumes of waste?

Question No. 128 to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Given the impact of the December oil spill on the fishing community in Icacos, can the Minister indicate whether any remedies or compensation have been offered to the affected fishermen?

Question No. 129 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Can the Minister state the annual revenue realized by the National Gas Company from business dealings in Tanzania for each year during the period 2015 to 2018?

Question No. 130 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Can the Minister inform the Senate as to the status of the Dragon gas deal with Venezuela?

Question No. 154 to the Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

(By Senator Paul Richards)

Can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) when will the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Calypsonian Organisation (TUCO) pay judges outstanding monies for the period 2016 to 2018; and
- (ii) the reason(s) why said monies have not been paid?

Question No. 166 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

With regard to the Children's Life Fund, can the Minister indicate the following:

- (i) the total number of applications that have been made to access the Fund during the period September 30, 2015 to January 31, 2019; and
- (ii) how many of those applications have been denied?

10. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
11. STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES
12. PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS
13. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS
 - (i) The Livestock and Livestock Products Board (Repeal) Bill, 2019.
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)
14. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER
15. PUBLIC BUSINESS

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **WHEREAS** section 6(2) of the Education Act Chap. 39:01 provides that the Ministry of Education should provide special schools suitable to the requirements of students with physical and learning disabilities;
AND WHEREAS the Ministry has not provided students with disabilities, additional learning needs and/or challenging behaviours with the requisite support networks, and equal opportunities needed to achieve their full potential;
AND WHEREAS the lack of adequate funding, policies and specialist staff is reflected in the poor performance of students;
BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to commit to the allocation of adequate funding, reform of the appropriate legislation and revision of policies designed to ensure that all children with special needs are provided with equal educational opportunities to other students;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministry of Education immediately initiate and implement a comprehensive strategy to assist all children with disabilities, additional learning needs and/or challenging behaviours.

(By Senator Paul Richards)

- (ii) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday January 22, 2019 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS the Board of Petrotrin announced on the August 28, 2018 that the company's refinery will cease its crude oil refining operations;

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister on the September 02, 2018 confirmed that the Cabinet had accepted a recommendation of the Petrotrin Board to close its refinery;

AND WHEREAS it is evident that the decision of the Government was without stakeholder consultation and with little or no disclosure to the public;

AND WHEREAS the decision to close the Petrotrin refinery will have direct adverse consequences on thousands of persons as well as on the economy of Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate take note of the failure of the Government to disclose a viable and credible plan to address the needs of those persons/business affected by the closure of the refinery;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate condemn the actions of the Government in closing the Petrotrin refinery.

(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)

- (iii) **WHEREAS** the Government has acquired the Galleons Passage, a new inter-island Passenger Ferry in a procurement arrangement that did not include the Central Tenders Board;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Finance has advised that the Government was guided in the amount it paid for the vessel by the valuation reports of two independent international firms;

AND WHEREAS it was discovered that one of the two firms that conducted the valuation is owned by the same company from which Government purchased the vessel;

AND WHEREAS in the interest of transparency and accountability in the procurement of the inter-island passenger ferry, there is need for the Government to provide the Parliament with reports including the Dunn and Bradstreet and all Arbitration Reports surrounding the settlement of the Donia Mercedes;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Minister of Finance to table, within fourteen days, copies of the Dunn and Bradstreet Report and all Arbitration Reports related to the settlement involving the previous owners of the Donia Mercedes.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (iv) **WHEREAS** it is established by Section 71(1) and (12) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, that there shall be an Elections and Boundaries Commission that in the exercise of its functions shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority;

AND WHEREAS the Elections and Boundaries Commission is responsible for holding free and fair elections throughout Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate take note that the Elections and Boundaries Commission is not subject to any parliamentary scrutiny or accountability in respect of its activities and operations unlike other similar independent bodies such as Service Commissions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to take urgent steps to introduce legislation that would make the Elections and Boundaries Commission accountable to the citizenry of Trinidad and Tobago by allowing parliamentary scrutiny of its administration, the manner of the exercise of its powers, methods of functioning and any criteria adopted by the Commission in the exercise of its powers and functions.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (v) **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House take note of the escalating levels of job losses in the country since September 2015 and condemn the Government for its failure to present a clear and cogent economic policy to guide Trinidad and Tobago through these challenging economic circumstances.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (vi) **WHEREAS** the responsibility of a Government is to ensure public safety and security through the maintenance of law and order;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to address the extraordinary increase in the level of crime in Trinidad and Tobago, in particular murders and other violent crimes, which are negatively affecting national peace and economic development;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate take note of the Government's failure to arrest the increasing and unacceptable levels of criminal activity in Trinidad and Tobago;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to table, in the shortest possible time a cogent Strategic Crime Prevention Plan to address the unacceptable levels of crime facing the citizenry of Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

- (vii) **WHEREAS** the Education Act, Chap. 39:01, charges the Government with the responsibility to ensure the promotion of the education of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, the establishment of a system of education and educational institutions, and the effective execution of a national education policy;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to fulfil most of these objectives;

AND WHEREAS recent reports have highlighted the failure of the Government to address the persistent issues of school violence, bullying and mental illness;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate take note of the poor state of the education sector in Trinidad and Tobago;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to table, within the shortest possible time, a comprehensive, long-term strategic plan for the education sector, from early childhood care to tertiary level education.

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

- (viii) **WHEREAS** the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01 provides for the establishment of commissions to manage the conduct of enquires into public officers, departments and matters of public welfare;

AND WHEREAS Commissions of Enquiry are recognized as an important tool for social investigation in contemporary society, an effective mechanism for delivering truth, justice and social or organizational reform, and a device for inquiring into and ameliorating matters of public concern;

AND WHEREAS successive Government administrations have failed to adequately address public concerns which have arisen from time to time on whether the Commissions of Enquiry in Trinidad and Tobago have been effectively and efficiently carrying out their mandate;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to review the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01 and the public inquiry process in Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Anthony Vieira)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **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 Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to validate the constitution of licensing committees established under section 5 of the Liquor Licences Act, Chap. 84:10 as well as the grant, transfer and renewal of licences and all other acts and omissions by licensing committees and for related matters’.

(By the Attorney General)

- (ii) 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)

- (iii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Evidence Act, Chap. 7:02’.

(By the Attorney General)

**Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)**

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PORT OF SPAIN**

March 06, 2019

ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY MARCH 12, 2019

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 121 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister inform the Senate of the following:

- (i) the number of licenses for bunkering of fuel that are currently operational;
- (ii) the total volume of fuel, broken down by type, that was sold via bunkering operations for each year during the period 2014 to 2018; and
- (iii) what commercial and operational arrangements are being put in place to ensure that there is no disruption to the supply of fuel given the closure of the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery?

(Answer due by 05.03.2019)

Question No. 141 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Can the Minister report on the status of the Pension Fund for former Petrotrin workers by stating:

- (i) what is the size of the fund as at 31st January 2019;
- (ii) what is the size of the contributions being added to the fund on a monthly basis; and
- (iii) what is the average monthly pension payment being made to former Petrotrin workers?

(Answer due by 05.03.2019)

Question No. 164 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Having regard to claims of a lack of medical care being provided to detainees at the Immigration Detention Centre, can the Minister indicate:

- i. whether said claims have been investigated; and
- ii. if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, can the Minister advise as to the findings of such investigations?

(Answer due by 16.03.2019)

Question No. 165 to the Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

As regard the Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, can the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the following:

- i. the amount of legal fees paid by the Authority for both contentious and non-contentious matters; and
- ii. the name(s) of the Attorneys-at-Law and/or the legal firms engaged by the Authority for the matters referred to at (i) during the period September 30, 2015 to January 31, 2019?

(Answer due by 16.03.2019)

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March 06, 2019



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ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY MARCH 12, 2019 AT 1:30 P.M.

NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the Vice-President in accordance with Standing Order 25 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Ministers concerned.

1. **TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**
(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports that a shortage of dialysis machines at the Scarborough General Hospital is significantly compromising the healthcare provided to patients at that institution, can the Minister state what is being done to address this matter?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT**
(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given that the recent crash of a Boeing 737 MAX aircraft has caused several countries to suspend the use of this aircraft in their airspaces, can the Minister state whether local aviation authorities are considering a similar course of action?

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March 12, 2019