



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

EIGHTEENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY MARCH 19, 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 Public Utilities to the Eleventh Report of the Joint Select Committee on Local Authorities, Service Commissions and Statutory Authorities (including the THA), Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on an Inquiry into the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Regulated Industries Commission (RIC).  
**(By the Minister of Public Utilities)**
  - (ii) The Final Report on the Tenth Actuarial Valuation of the National Insurance System as at June 30, 2016.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
  - (iii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the South-West Regional Health Authority for the year ended September 30, 2010.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
  - (iv) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the South-West Regional Health Authority for the year ended September 30, 2011.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
  - (v) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the National Schools Dietary Services Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2018.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
  - (i) The Seventh Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on an inquiry into the Management of the Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (TCCTP).  
**(By Senator Paul Richards)**

- (ii) The Twenty-Third Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on an Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) for the financial years 2008 and 2011.

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

## **QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX**

### **Questions for Oral Answer**

#### **Question No. 80 to the Minister of Tourism**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of reports that the estimated cost of the Tobago Sandals project is between TT \$8 to \$10 billion, can the Minister advise on the Government's projected cost of the project from start to finish?

#### **Question No. 81 to the Minister of Education**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of the decision by the University of Trinidad and Tobago to deny entry to one of its professors attempting to attend its annual graduation ceremony, can the Minister explain the actions of the University to deny such entry?

#### **Question No. 82 to the Minister of National Security**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

What is being done to address the issues raised by members of the South Florida Human Trafficking Task Force that Trinidad and Tobago has recently moved up from level three to level two on the US Department of State prevention ranking and the possibility that many of the children and adults who have reportedly gone missing are cases of human trafficking?

#### **Question No. 127 to the Minister of Planning and Development**

**(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)**

Given the appeal by Government to citizens to begin recycling waste, can the Minister indicate:

- (i) how the Government plans to educate citizens on proper recycling practices; and
- (ii) whether there are any initiatives in place or planned to educate citizens on how to properly reduce their usage of non-recyclable materials?

#### **Question No. 131 to the Minister of Trade and Industry**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

Can the Minister advise as to the amount of taxes and dividends collected from the Magdalena Grand Hotel for each year during the period 2015 to 2018?

#### **Question No. 132 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

Can the Minister advise as to the amount of taxes and dividends collected from the HYATT Regency Hotel (Trinidad and Tobago) for each year during the period 2015 to 2018?

**Question No. 133 to the Minister of Trade and Industry**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

Can the Minister advise as to the amount of taxes and dividends collected from the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre for each year during the period 2015 to 2018?

**Question No. 167 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

**(By Senator Saddam Hosein)**

Can the Minister provide the net profit for the period December 01, 2018 to February 15, 2019, for the following?

- i. Heritage Petroleum Company; and
- ii. Paria Fuel Trading Company?

**Question No. 168 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

**(By Senator Saddam Hosein)**

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the remuneration packages of the Directors of the following:

- i. Heritage Petroleum Company;
- ii. Paria Fuel Trading Company; and
- iii. Guaracara Refining Company?

**Question No. 169 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

**(By Senator Saddam Hosein)**

Can the Minister indicate whether a decision has been taken to continue to provide assistance to those clubs and/or groups which were formerly sponsored by Petrotrin as part of its corporate social responsibility?

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
14. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER
15. PUBLIC BUSINESS

**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 amend the Companies Act'.  
**(By the Attorney General)**
- (ii) 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)**
- (iii) 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)**
- (iv) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Evidence Act, Chap. 7:02'.  
**(By the Attorney General)**
- (v) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to repeal the Livestock and Livestock Products Board Act, Chap. 67:05'.  
**(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)**

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

**Motions:**

- (i) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday March 12, 2019 will be resumed:**

**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)**

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

**Senate Secretariat**  
**Office of the Parliament**  
**Level 3, Tower D**  
**The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre**  
**1A Wrightson Road**  
**PORT OF SPAIN**

**March 14, 2019**



**ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY MARCH 19, 2019**

**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

**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)**

**Question No. 188 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

As regard the Trinidad Petroleum Holdings Ltd., the Heritage Petroleum Company Ltd., the Paria Fuel Trading Company Ltd. and the Guaracara Refining Company Ltd., for the period December 01, 2018 to February 28, 2019, can the Minister advise as to the following:

- i. the names of the persons hired by each of the companies over the said period;
- ii. the names of the companies hired/contracted by each of the abovementioned companies over the said period;
- iii. the amount of monies paid to each of the persons/companies referred to in (i) and (ii) above; and
- iv. the processes by which the services of the persons/companies referred to in (i) and (ii) above were recruited/procured?

**(Answer due by 30.03.2019)**

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**EIGHTEENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)**

**ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**TUESDAY MARCH 19, 2019 AT 1:30 P.M.**

**NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS**

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

1. **TO THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND ENERGY INDUSTRIES**  
**(By Senator Wade Mark)**  
In light of reports that Paria Fuel Trading is to be sold, can the Minister indicate what impact this development will have on the supply of fuels to the motoring public?
2. **TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**(By Senator Wade Mark)**  
Given the reports of imminent 'administrative changes' at the Magistracy where more than fifty percent of the 452 employees do not have tenure, can the Attorney General indicate how many employees will be dismissed?
3. **TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**(By Senator Wade Mark)**  
In light of the restructuring exercise being undertaken by the Judiciary and its likely impact on hundreds of staff, has the representing union been consulted in the process?
4. **TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**  
**(By Senator Wade Mark)**  
Having regard to the death of a pupil at a Primary School in Moruga reportedly due to meningitis and the resulting fear at the school, can the Minister indicate what steps are being taken to avoid an outbreak?
5. **TO THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY**  
**(By Senator Wade Mark)**  
In light of the recent murder of a witness to a double murder, can the Minister indicate what measures are being taken to protect other witnesses?
6. **TO THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND ENERGY INDUSTRIES**  
**(By Senator Wade Mark)**  
Given the statement of the Chairman of the Petroleum Holdings Company Limited on the issue of the divestment of Paria Fuel Trading Company, can the Minister advise as to the position of the Government on said divestment?

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