



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWENTY-THIRD SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

MONDAY APRIL 15, 2019 AT 10:00 A.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 Health to the Twentieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on the Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2017.

(By the Minister of Health)

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. 103 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister indicate if and when the Ryder Scott 2017 Audit Report will be tabled in Parliament?

Question No. 110 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports that a woman conducting business at the Point Fortin Immigration Office was instructed to wipe the sindoor (red spot) off of her forehead, can the Minister indicate the following:

- (i) what is the policy of the Immigration Department regarding the balancing of immigration requirements and religious/cultural practices; and

- (ii) what steps have been taken to ensure that this and similar matters will be appropriately addressed?

Question No. 111 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports that some 26,000 persons have dropped out of the National Insurance Board database, can the Minister indicate what measures will be taken to address the widening gap between benefit expenditure and contribution income?

***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. 204 to the Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

In light of reports that newborn babies at the San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH) were negatively affected by the loud music at a judging point for the 2019 parade of bands located opposite the hospital on Harris Promenade, can the Minister indicate whether consideration has been given to moving said judging point from Harris Promenade to a different location?

Question No. 205 to the Minister of Planning and Development

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

In light of reports that patients at the San Fernando General Hospital (SFGH) were negatively affected by the loud music coming from a nearby judging point during the carnival 2019, what is being done to regulate loud music being played in the vicinity of the hospital?

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;

* Question No. 132 Standing Order 27(15) invoked on 09.04.2019

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)

- (ii) **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:

- (i) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to provide for the establishment of the Civil Asset Recovery and Management Agency for the recovery of criminal property through the use of the remedies of restriction in dealings with civil assets restriction and forfeiture of criminal property and the management of criminal property, and unexplained wealth orders and matters incidental thereto’.

(By the Attorney General)

- (ii) **The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday April 02, 2019 will be resumed:**

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

(By the Attorney General)

- (iii) 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)

- (iv) 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)

- (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 26, 2019 will be resumed:**

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)

- (ii) **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)

- (iii) **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)

(iv) **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)

(v) **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)

(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.)

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PORT OF SPAIN

April 12, 2019

ORDER PAPER – MONDAY APRIL 15, 2019

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

***Question No. 194 to the Minister of Works and Transport**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to the Ministry's contracting of Kallco, for the period January 01, 2016 to February 28, 2019, can the Minister advise as to the following:

- i. the value of each contract awarded to the company through the Central Tenders Board (CTB) over the period;
- ii. the value of each contract awarded to the company without the involvement of the CTB;
- iii. the total amount of monies paid to the company in relation to (i) and (ii) above and/or through any other means, inclusive of emergency works during the period January 2016 to the present time; and
- iv. any outstanding balances due to the company in relation to (i) and (ii) above?

(Answer due by 11.04.2019)

Question No. 213 to the Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In respect of the Curepe Interchange and the acquisition of lands occupied by Prestige Holdings, Curepe/NP Gas Station (Southern Main Road and Churchill Roosevelt Highway) and the former Kay Donna Drive-In Cinema trading as Valsayn Resorts, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. the full amount paid for each parcel of land;
- ii. the total acreage and amount paid per sq. foot for each;
- iii. the name(s) of the valuation companies which conducted the said valuations; and
- iv. whether the commercial entities referred to above were subject to private treaty arrangements governed by current market prices or whether they were subject to compulsory acquisition by the State?

(Answer due by 26.04.2019)

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* Question No. 194 was deferred for two weeks on 11.04.2019



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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 HEALTH**

(Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports of a tuberculosis outbreak at two T&TEC Offices, can the Minister indicate what is being done to avoid the spread of this disease?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY**

(Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports that a Venezuelan national is in possession of a false Trinidad and Tobago Identification Card, can the Minister indicate what is being done to address this situation?

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