



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

SIXTH SITTING, FIRST SESSION (2020/2021)

TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2020 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 Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Statement of Recovery of Expenses of the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries for the year ended December 31, 2019.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (ii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the San Juan/Laventille Regional Corporation for the year ended September 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 San Juan/Laventille Regional Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2017.
(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 Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended December 31, 2014.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (v) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended December 31, 2015.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (vi) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended December 31, 2016.
(By the Minister of Finance)

- (vii) The Civil Aviation [(No. 9) Approved Training Organisation] (Amendment) Regulations, 2020.
(By the Minister of Works and Transport)
- (viii) The Civil Aviation [(No. 12) Aerodrome Licensing] (Amendment) Regulations, 2020.
(By the Minister of Works and Transport)
- (ix) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services to the Seventeenth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on an Inquiry into Persons living in Poverty and Extreme Poverty in Trinidad and Tobago with specific focus on Vulnerable Groups.
(By the Minister of Social Development and Family Services)
- (x) The Annual Report of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the period October 2018 to September 2019.
(By the Minister of Public Administration and Digital Transformation)
- (xi) The Response of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service to the Fourteenth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on an Inquiry into the Challenges of Prisoner Re-entry into Society and Prisoner Reintegration Services in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of National Security)

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. 1 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given the commitment made by several private medical institutions that patients who test positive for COVID-19 would receive their results between 48 to 72 hours following the test, can the Minister indicate whether these tests must be sent to the Ministry prior to the patients being advised of their results?

Question No. 2 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister indicate what systems are in place to ensure medical monitoring of COVID-19 positive patients who have been directed to self-isolate?

Question No. 3 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the increase in the number of COVID-19 positive cases, particularly over the period August 01-31, 2020, can the Minister indicate:

- (i) what action is being taken by the Government to ensure that persons who undergo testing receive their results within 24 hours; and
- (ii) what are the Government's plans for increasing the rate of testing?

Question No. 6 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Anil Roberts)

Can the Minister indicate the following:

- (i) whether Paria Fuel Trading Company Limited made payments to Trafigura Pte Limited for the purchase of approximately 200,000 barrels of gasoline/fuel, during the period March to April 2020;
- (ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, how much money was paid to Trafigura Pte Limited; and
- (iii) from which Paria Fuel Trading Company's account were said payments made?

Question No. 7 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Anil Roberts)

Can the Minister indicate the following in respect of payments received from ES Euro Shipping SA on the sale of 148,968 barrels of gasoline/fuel:

- (i) when was payment received by Paria Fuel Trading Company Limited;
- (ii) what is the exact amount received; and
- (iii) into which account was payment received?

Question No. 8 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Anil Roberts)

Can the Minister indicate the number of private laboratories that have been approved/accredited by CARPHA to conduct COVID-19 testing?

Question No. 16 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Jayanti Lutchmedial)

Can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) the names of the funeral agencies approved for the conduct of funerals for deceased COVID-19 patients;
- (ii) the process and criteria by which each funeral agency listed at (i) were selected and approved;
- (iii) the cost agreed between the relevant Regional Health Authorities and the agencies listed at (i); and
- (iv) the party or parties responsible for bearing the costs listed at (iii)?

Question No. 17 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Jayanti Lutchmedial)

Can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) the protocols for the disposal of biohazardous waste and the sanitizing of hospital amenities at the institutions where COVID-19 positive patients are treated; and
- (ii) the department in each Regional Health Authority, or otherwise, responsible for verifying and confirming the carrying out of the disposal and sanitation processes referred to at (i)?

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **WHEREAS** the four (4) constitutionally entrenched Service Commissions namely the Public Service Commission, the Police Service Commission, the Teaching Service Commission and the Judicial and Legal Service Commission have been charged with the responsibility for the appointment, promotion, transfer and discipline within the Public Service;

AND WHEREAS the Service Commissions were also established to insulate persons holding or acting in public office from political influence, patronage and discrimination;

AND WHEREAS reported deficiencies within these Service Commissions have negatively impacted the Public Service including the extended delay within the systems of appointment, promotion and disciplinary control of public officials;

AND WHEREAS no definitive action has been taken by Governments to restructure the systems and operations of Service Commissions to better regulate the functions of the Public Service and improve service delivery to citizens;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to review the Trinidad and Tobago Constitution and the enshrined Service Commissions and to table in Parliament, within a reasonable time, a clear plan for the update of the Constitution and reform of the Commissions.

(By Senator Anthony Vieira)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01 provides for the establishment of commissions to manage the conduct of enquiries 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)

- (iii) **WHEREAS** following a year of negotiations, the Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation (HDC) and China Gezhouba International Engineering Company Ltd (CGGC) signed a TT \$485 million contract in May 2019 for the construction of 5,000 apartment units at specific sites across Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS in September 2019 it was announced that the contract was cancelled;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate condemn the Government for its ineffectiveness in its negotiations with CGGC and in its failure to conduct due diligence prior to signing the contract;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Government take the appropriate action to hold the responsible person(s) to account.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (iv) **WHEREAS** it is recognized that rising levels of domestic and foreign debt may negatively impact this country's socio-economic development;

AND WHEREAS it is recognized that as a result of Government's policies, the working population has been experiencing the effects of these rising debt levels;

AND WHEREAS international credit rating agencies have cautioned about Trinidad and Tobago's future borrowings, given the economic constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government reconsider its borrowing policy in light of this country's rising Debt-to-GDP ratio and the possible negative impact of same on the country's socio-economic development;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to outline specific plans and programmes in respect of fulfilling its debt servicing obligations, in light of the economic constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **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)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
The Parliamentary Complex
The Red House
Abercromby Street
PORT OF SPAIN
November 12, 2020

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QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 18 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Jayanti Lutchmedial)

As regard the disposal of biohazardous waste and the sanitizing of hospital amenities at the institutions where COVID-19 positive patients are treated, can the Minister provide:

- (i) the names of the external contractors engaged to provide these services; and
- (ii) the sums paid by each Regional Health Authority and/or the Ministry of Health to the external contractors?

(Answer due by 21.10.2020)

Question No. 33 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Anil Roberts)

As regard the medical treatment of COVID-19 patients, can the Minister provide the following:

- (i) the number of ventilators purchased and/or received by the State during the period April 01-September 30, 2020;
- (ii) a list of the drugs/pharmaceutical products used to treat said patients; and
- (iii) the amount paid for such drugs during the said April 01 - September 30, 2020?

(Answer due by 01.12.2020)

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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 EDUCATION**

(By Senator David Nakhid)

In light of the UTT's decision to close four of its campuses, can the Minister advise as to how the Government intends to mitigate against the socio-economic and psychological fallout from said decision?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

(By Senator David Nakhid)

Given the Government's decision to establish a bursary to cater for approximately 500 students as a result of a reduction in the number of national scholarship awards, can the Minister indicate which institution will be responsible for administering this arrangement?

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

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given reports of an outbreak of COVID-19 among prisoners housed at the Maximum Security Prison, can the Minister indicate what measures are being taken to address these prisoners' health and safety concerns?

4. **TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

(By Senator Paul Richards)

Can the Minister indicate the expected number of tertiary students who will be affected by the cuts to GATE as announced by the Government?

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