



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FIRST SESSION (2007/2008), NINTH PARLIAMENT**

ORDER PAPER

FOURTEENTH SITTING

FRIDAY APRIL 11, 2008 AT 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OF A NEW MEMBER

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

PETITIONS

PAPERS

1. The National Action Programme to combat Land Degradation in Trinidad and Tobago: 2006-2020.

(By the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment)

2. The Civil Aviation [(No. 1) General Application and Personnel Licensing] (Amendment) Regulations, 2008.

(By the Minister of Works and Transport)

3. The Civil Aviation [(No. 2) Operations] (Amendment) Regulations, 2008.

(By the Minister of Works and Transport)

4. The Civil Aviation [(No. 3) Air Operator Certification and Administration] (Amendment) Regulations, 2008.

(By the Minister of Works and Transport)

5. The Civil Aviation [(No. 7) Instrument and Equipment] (Amendment) Regulations, 2008.

(By the Minister of Works and Transport)

6. The Civil Aviation [(No. 8) Aviation Security] (Amendment) Regulations, 2008.

(By the Minister of Works and Transport)

7. The Civil Aviation [(No. 15) Air Navigation Services] (Amendment) Regulations, 2008.

(By the Minister of Works and Transport)

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN APPENDIX 1

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 12 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

(By the Member for Chaguanas West)

With regard to the Office of Disaster Preparedness Management, can the Honourable Minister inform the House what is the recurrent cost in 2007 in relation to the operations of this office and what has the office achieved thus far?

***Question No. 23 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government**

(By the Member for Princes Town North)

Is the Minister aware that a person was injured when he fell through a dilapidated, rotten wooden bridge in the jurisdiction of the Penal/Debe Regional Corporation?

Could the Minister state:-

- a) the number of wooden bridges under the jurisdiction of each Municipal Corporation;
- b) whether funds have been allocated to Municipal Corporations for the conversion of these wooden bridges into concrete bridges;
- c) the allocations for conversion of wooden bridges into concrete bridges in each Municipal Corporation, if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative; and
- d) the number of wooden bridges she expects to be converted into concrete bridges utilizing the said allocation?

* Question No. 12 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 30.01.2008, for another two (2) weeks on 15.02.2008, for another two (2) weeks on 29.02.2008; for another two (2) weeks on 14.03.2008 and a further two (2) weeks on 28.03.2008.

* Question No. 23 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 08.02.2008, for another two (2) weeks on 22.02.2008; for another two (2) weeks on 07.03.2008 and a further two (2) weeks on 28.03.2008.

*** Question No. 24 to the Honourable Prime Minister**

(By the Member for Princes Town North)

Could the Honourable Prime Minister state:

- a) the allocations given to the Special Purpose Companies for carrying out infrastructure works for the years 2006 and 2007;
- b) what criteria and/or mechanisms are used in determining the type of work and the areas in which such works are to be carried out by the Special Purpose Companies;
- c) the various Ministries under which each Special Purpose Company fall;
- d) the criteria and procedures adopted by these companies in awarding contracts; and
- e) the persons and/or organizations which supervise and/or monitor the performance and the quality of work carried out by them?

***Question No. 43 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**

(By the Member for Naparima)

Could the Minister indicate:

- a) why coverage of self employed persons has not been introduced under the National Insurance Board; and
- b) whether this will be done in the future, and if so when?

***Question No. 48 to the Honourable Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs**

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

With regards to the Brian Lara Sporting Complex in Tarouba, could the Minister state:

- a) the projected cost;
- b) how much money has been expended on the project so far; and
- c) the expected date of completion of the entire project?

***Question No. 49 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

(By the Member for Mayaro)

With respect to the Housing Development Corporation, could the Minister state:

- a) how many housing units were constructed in the Mayaro Constituency during the period 1st January, 2006 – 31st December, 2007;
- b) the geographical location of these units;

*** Questions Nos. 24 and 43 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 08.02.2008, for another two (2) weeks on 22.02.2008; for another two (2) weeks on 07.03.2008 and a further two (2) weeks on 28.03.2008.**

*** Question No. 48 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 08.02.2008, for another two (2) weeks on 29.02.2008; for another two (2) weeks on 14.03.2008. and a further two (2) weeks on 28.03.2008**

*** Questions Nos. 49 was deferred for two (2) weeks on 15.02.2008, for another two (2) weeks on 29.02.2008; for another two (2) weeks on 14.03.2008 and a further two (2) weeks on 28.03.2008.**

- c) the total expenditure on construction of these units to date; and
- d) how many of these units are still unoccupied?

***Question No. 50 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

(By the Member for Mayaro)

Could the Minister state what new housing units are earmarked for construction in the Mayaro Constituency?

***Question No. 51 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

(By the Member for Mayaro)

Could the Minister state:

- a) whether she is aware of the plight of families in Plaisance Park, Mayaro who have been severely affected by regular flooding of their Housing Development Corporation Units (recent advertisement December, 2007); and
- b) what the Housing Development Corporation is doing to bring relief and comfort to these homeowners in the short and long term?

***Question No. 53 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport**

(By the Member for Mayaro)

Could the Minister give a status report on road paving works along the Naparima Mayaro Road to Rio Claro inclusive of the present condition of the road, scope of works still needed to be done and projected completion date?

***Question No. 54 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport**

(By the Member for Mayaro)

Could the Minister state:

- a) what roads within the Constituency of Mayaro are earmarked for road paving, restoration/rehabilitation; and
- b) when these works are expected to commence?

* Questions Nos. 50 and 51 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 15.02.2008, for another two (2) weeks on 29.02.2008; for another two (2) weeks on 14.03.2008 and a further two (2) weeks on 28.03.2008.

* Questions Nos. 53 and 54 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 22.02.2008; for another two (2) weeks on 07.03.2008 and a further two (2) weeks on 28.03.2008.

***Question No. 60 to the Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education**

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

Could the Minister state:

- a) how much money was spent in 2007 to support needy students seeking tertiary training abroad;
- b) how these students were selected for financial support;
- c) whether there was any advertisement with respect to the availability of this fund for assistance to local students studying abroad; and
- d) if the answer to (c) is in the affirmative, could the Minister state the dates and the specific media in which these advertisements were placed?

***Question No. 62 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government**

(By the Member for Cumuto/Manzanilla)

Could the Minister state:

- a) what was the estimated cost of construction of the Sangre Grande Public Market;
- b) when was construction started and when was it scheduled for completion;
- c) which contractor/contracting firm was awarded the contract for the construction of the market; and
- d) is the contractor still on the project and has there been a cost overrun on the construction project?

***Question No. 67 to the Honourable Minister of Works and Transport**

(By the Member for Tabaquite)

Could the Minister please state what plans if any, the government has to redress the continuing hardships and anguish experienced, on a daily basis, by the travelling public at the vicinity of the Gasparillo intersection with the Solomon Hochoy Highway from the traffic jams and congestions of motor vehicles travelling to and from Gasparillo either from North or South on the Highway?

***Question No. 69 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**

(By the Member for Tabaquite)

Could the Minister state :

- (a) the sum of money it has cost the Government to date for it to hire foreign consultant Stephen Mastrofski;

* Questions Nos. 60 and 62 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 22.02.2008; for another two (2) weeks on 07.03.2008 and a further two (2) weeks on 28.03.2008.

* Questions Nos. 67 and 69 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 28.03.2008.

- (b) whether any other foreign consultant or advisor is now employed by the Government in the Police Service, and if so, how many and at what cost in respect of each advisor and/or consultant; and
- (c) what is the total sum spent by the Government since it took office in 2001, to present time, in hiring foreign advisors and /or consultants for the police service and/ or for the fight against crime, giving the particulars for each foreign advisor and /or consultant?

***Question No. 71 to the Honourable Minister of Social Development**

(By the Member for Naparima)

Could the Honourable Minister inform this House:

- (a) if the Government has received the Justice Monica Barnes Report;
- (b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, when this Report will be laid in Parliament; and
- (c) what are the recommendations made in the report and whether these recommendations are being implemented?

***Question No. 73 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs**

(By the Member for Naparima)

Could the Minister state:

- (a) the period/s during which the Board of Management of the Barrackpore Regional Complex was appointed and functioned for the last five (5) years;
- (b) if he is aware that there is no functional Board at present; and
- (c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, when the Board will be appointed and become functional?

***Question No. 74 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources**

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

Could the Minister state:

- (a) how many leases for agricultural land have been given out to and executed by ex-Caroni (1975) Ltd VSEP-availed workers as at February 29, 2008; and
- (b) where the lands in (a) are located?

* Questions Nos. 71, 73 and 74 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 28.03.2008.

Question No. 75 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources*(By the Member for Caroni Central)**

Could the Minister state:

- (a) how many leases for residential lands have been given out to and executed by ex-Caroni (1975) Ltd VSEP-availed workers as at February 29,2008; and
- (b) where the lands in (a) are located?

Question No. 76 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources*(By the Member for Caroni Central)**

Could the Minister state:

- (a) how many residential lots from land previously owned by Caroni (1975) Ltd will be made available by sale/lease/rental to members of the public;
- (b) the price at which the lands in (a) will be sold;
- (c) when the land in (a) will become available; and the criteria for selection of purchasers for the above lots of lands?

Question No. 89 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government**(By the Member for Cumuto/Manzanilla)**

Could the Minister state when would the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation repair the major landslips in Cumuto at :

- (a) Harkoo Trace; and
- (b) Sookoo Trace?

Question No. 98 to the Honourable Minister of Health**(By the Member for Caroni East)**

Could the Minister state the number of doctors, state registered nurses and enrolled nursing assistants that are required at each of the following health institutions, and the number of vacancies that currently exist:

- (a) Port of Spain General Hospital;
- (b) San Fernando General Hospital;
- (c) Mt. Hope Maternity Hospital;
- (d) Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex; and
- (e) Sangre Grande Hospital?

* Questions Nos. 75 and 76 were deferred for two (2) weeks on 28.03.2008.

Question No. 99 to the Honourable Minister of Health**(By the Member for Caroni East)**

Could the Minister state:

- (a) the reasons for the non-commencement of the construction of a Burns Unit in Trinidad and Tobago;
- (b) if the Government is still desirous of constructing such a Unit; and
- (c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, what are the plans for such construction, in terms of tendering, starting and completion dates, and construction costs?

Question No. 100 to the Honourable Minister of Health**(By the Member for Caroni East)**

Could the Minister state:

- (a) the reasons for the non-construction of the Intensive Care Unit at San Fernando General Hospital ; and
- (b) what plans now exist for the construction, including starting and completion dates, and construction costs?

Question No. 105 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**(By the Member for Chaguanas West)**

With respect to the proposed purchase of a Bombardier Executive Private Jet for use by the Government, could the Minister state:

- (a) whether a firm order has been placed for this jet;
- (b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, who placed the order and on what date was it placed;
- (c) if the order was placed, is there a contract and what is the date of the contract;
- (d) whether any money was advanced to Caribbean Airlines Limited for the purchase of a Bombardier jet;and
- (e) if the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, how much money was advanced?

Question No. 106 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**(By the Member for Chaguanas West)**

With respect to the proposed purchase of a Bombardier Executive Private Jet for use by the Government, could the Minister state:

- (a) on what date was the matter of purchase considered by the Cabinet;
- (b) will the proposed official executive jet be utilized by public officers for Official Travel; and
- (c) was a feasibility study presented to Cabinet upon which a decision was based ?

Question No. 107 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**(By the Member for Chaguanas West)**

- A. What was the actual annual Government expenditure on Official Overseas Travel (airfares) from 2006-2007?
- B. What is the projected expenditure on Official Travel for 2008?
- C. How many aircraft travel hours are envisaged for 2008 ?

Question No. 111 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**(By the Member for Princes Town North)**

- A. Could the Minister give the name(s) of the person(s) and /or organization(s) which negotiated the purchase and /or lease of each blimp/sky ship on behalf of the State?
- B. Could the Minister give the name(s) of the person(s) and /or organization(s) which negotiated the purchase and /or lease of each blimp/sky ship on behalf of the suppliers?
- C. Were anti-corruption clauses inserted in the contracts for the purchase and/or lease of each blimp and/or sky ship?

Question No. 112 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**(By the Member for Princes Town North)**

With regard to the Aerus 40 blimp/sky ship, could the Minister state:

- (a) the extent of the repairs and maintenance done thus far;
- (b) the sums spent on parts and labour; and
- (c) the name(s) of the person(s) and/or organization(s) which did these repairs?

Question No. 113 to the Honourable Minister of National Security**(By the Member for Princes Town North)**

With regard to the Aerus 40 blimps/sky ships, could the Minister state:

- (a) whether the specifications were obtained for each prior to the purchase and/or lease;
- (b) if the answer to (a) is negative, why were they not obtained; and
- (c) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what were the specifications?

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 OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **The debate on the following motion which was in progress when the House was adjourned on Wednesday January 30, 2008 will be resumed:**

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House take note of the Government's efforts to combat crime.

(By the Minister of National Security)

2. **WHEREAS** the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has made tremendous progress in the tertiary education sector over the last six years by expanding its capacity and ensuring accessibility, affordability, relevance and excellence in the sector;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House commend the Government for its far reaching and visionary initiatives in the field of tertiary education.

(By the Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education)

Bills Second Reading:

1. A Bill entitled, "An Act to establish the Trinidad and Tobago National Steel Symphony Orchestra Corporation and for matters incidental thereto".

(By the Minister of Community Development, Culture & Gender Affairs)

2. A Bill entitled, "An Act to establish the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean Region in Trinidad and Tobago and for related matters".

(By the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment)

3. A Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Legal Profession Act, 1986".

(By the Attorney General)

Committee Stage

1. **The Committee Stage of the following Bill which was in progress when the House was adjourned on Friday April 04, 2008, will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled "An Act to amend the Copyright Act, 1997".

(By the Minister of Legal Affairs)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House was adjourned on Friday February 22, 2008 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS the price of food continues to rise and the poor and low-income earners now find it difficult to feed themselves and their families;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to take adequate measures to keep food prices at an affordable level to all citizens;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House condemn the Government for its failure in containing food prices at affordable levels for the entire population.

(By the Member for Cumuto/Manzanilla)

2. **WHEREAS** there exists no comprehensive, logical, fair, humane and equitable pension plan to ensure that persons who have worked for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and retired are able to live a life of dignity without experiencing hardships during their retirement, a period when they are least equipped to cope with these hardships;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government take immediate steps to establish a comprehensive pension plan for all categories of persons who have worked for the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and who have retired; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such a pension plan be linked to the cost of living and the wage and salary increases for government workers to ensure that government retirees are able to live out their retirement years with dignity and without being subjected to financial hardships.

(By the Member for Naparima)

Neil Jaggassar
Clerk of the House (Ag.)

House of Representatives' Secretariat
The Red House
PORT OF SPAIN

April 07, 2008

ORDER PAPER/FRIDAY APRIL 11, 2008

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 1 to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

With regards to the Caroni (1975) Ltd, could the Minister state:

- a) the assets held immediately before it was closed;
- b) whether the said assets referred to in (a) were disposed of by lease, rental, sale or other methods;
- c) the names of the individuals or companies which acquired same or acquired any interest in same or were in possession of or were permitted to have occupation of any of the assets including land of the said Caroni (1975) Ltd.; and
- d) the particulars of any such acquisition or the acquisition of any such interest of delivery of possession or giving occupation of any such assets by each individual or company; giving the dates of such acquisitions and/or delivery of possession and/or occupation of any such asset, the price paid and the terms of the acquisition or delivery of occupation and/or possession?

(Answer due on 18.01.2008)

Question No. 56 to the Honourable Minister of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs

(By the Member for Mayaro)

With respect to Carnival 2008, could the Minister state:

- a) the total allocation for Carnival 2008 by her Ministry; and
- b) the total disbursement of grants to all cultural and social organizations, (especially Calypso Tents) for Carnival related activities?

(Answer due on 20.02.2008)

Question No. 59 to the Honourable Minister of Information

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

Could the Minister inform this Honourable House as to how much money was spent by each Ministry on advertisement, promotion and publication to each of the media houses in 2007?

(Answer due on 29.02.2008)

Question No. 80 to the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

With regard to government housing projects, could the Minister provide the following, for the period 2006 to 2007:

- (a) a list of the persons who obtained government houses/ apartments;

- (b) the cost of the same;
- (c) the downpayments made on the same; and
- (d) a list of the persons who obtained same without downpayments?

(Answer due on 03.04.2008)

Question No. 81 to the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

With regard to government housing projects, could the Minister state:

- (a) whether additional works were done on houses/apartments distributed between 2006 to 2007; and
- (b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what was the cost of works done ?

(Answer due on 03.04.2008)

Question No. 82 to the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

With regard to government housing projects, could the Minister provide the following, for the period 2006 to 2007:

- (a) a list of all applicants for government houses/ apartments;
- (b) the dates of the applications; and
- (c) a list of persons who did not obtain same?

(Answer due on 03.04.2008)

Question No. 83 to the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

With regard to government housing projects, could the Minister provide the following, for the period 2006 to 2007:

- (a) a list of the persons who obtained financial support for house construction;
- (b) the amount of monies obtained for same; and
- (c) a list of applicants who did not obtained financial support, and the reasons for refusal?

(Answer due on 03.04.2008)

Question No. 84 to the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

With regard to government housing projects, could the Minister provide the following, for the period 2006 to 2007:

- (a) a list of citizens whose homes were destroyed by the Land Settlement Agency;
- (b) the dollar value of the same;
- (c) the number of persons affected by same; and

(d) the dollar value of compensation awarded to those persons who were affected?

(Answer due on 03.04.2008)

Question No. 85 to the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

Could the Minister provide a list of citizens who obtained security of tenure for land via the Land Settlement Agency between 2006 and 2007?

(Answer due on 03.04.2008)

Question No. 90 to the Minister of Local Government

(By the Member for Oropouche East)

With respect to the Rural Development Company, could the Minister state:

- (a) the number and type of projects undertaken in the Penal/Debe area between January 01, 2006 and December 31, 2007;
- (b) the total expenditure on each of these projects;
- (c) the names of all contractors employed to undertake these said projects in the Penal/Debe area;
- (d) the status of these projects; and
- (e) what new projects are being proposed in the Penal/Debe area and when are they scheduled to commence?

(Answer due on 08.04.2008)

Question No. 91 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By the Member for Oropouche East)

With respect to the National Social Development Programme, could the Minister state:

- (a) the number and type of projects undertaken in the Penal/Debe area between January 01, 2006 and December 31, 2007;
- (b) the total expenditure on each of these projects;
- (c) the names of all contractors employed to undertake these said projects in the Penal/Debe area;
- (d) the status of these projects; and
- (e) what new projects are being proposed in the Penal/Debe area and when are they scheduled to commence?

(Answer due on 08.04.2008)

Question No. 93 to the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By the Member for Princes Town North)

Could the Minister give a detailed list, including names, addresses, date of the application, type of unit and/or plot of all the persons (excluding the tenants and/or occupiers) who have applied to the Housing

Development Corporation (HDC) and the National Housing Authority (NHA) for housing units or building plots in Fairfield Estate, Princes Town?

(Answer due on 08.04.2008)

Question No. 94 to the Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment

(By the Member for Princes Town North)

With respect to the Buen Intento Housing Development, Princes Town, could the Minister give:

- (a) a detailed list of all the applications made for housing units or building plots, including the names, addresses, the type of unit and/or plot applied for;
- (b) the names and addresses of the applicants who have been successful in obtaining housing units and/or building plots of land; and
- (c) the dates on which these applicants were awarded their housing units and/or plots of land?

(Answer due on 08.04.2008)

Question No. 116 to the Minister of Local Government

(By the Member for Oropouche East)

With respect to the Palo Seco Agricultural Enterprises Limited (PSAEL), could the Minister state:

- (a) the number and types of projects undertaken by the company between January 01, 2007 and December 31, 2007;
- (b) the total expenditure on each of these projects;
- (c) the names of all the contractors employed to undertake these said projects ; and
- (d) what new projects are being proposed specifically for the Penal/Debe area and when they are scheduled to commence?

(Answer due on 25.04.2008)

April 07, 2008