



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

**ORDER PAPER**

**EIGHTEENTH SITTING**

**FRIDAY MAY 09, 2008 AT 1:30 P.M.**

PRAYERS

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OF A NEW MEMBER

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

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PAPERS

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN APPENDIX 1**

**Questions for Oral Answer**

**Question No. 104 to the Honourable Minister of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education**

**(By the Member for Caroni East)**

Could the Minister state why has the University of Trinidad and Tobago been incorporated as a company and not by an Act of Parliament?

**Question No. 117 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**

**(By the Member for Chaguanas West)**

With regard to the Bombardier Executive Jet, could the Minister please state:

- (a) how much was paid in legal fees to lawyers and/or consultants negotiating for Caribbean Airlines with Bombardier over the purchase of the Global Express Jet;
- (b) whether or not a consultant was used to evaluate the jet purchase, and if so how much was he/she paid;

- (c) whether there is any penalty to Caribbean Airlines for not going through with the purchase of the jet after a deposit of US\$500,000 was paid to Bombardier;
- (d) how much was lost due to foreign exchange rates changes in terms of the funds deposited into the accounts of Caribbean Airlines; and
- (e) whether Caribbean Airlines negotiated with Aero Toy with respect to the purchase of the Global Express Bombardier jet?

**Question No. 118 to the Honourable Minister of Finance**

**(By the Member for Chaguanas West)**

- A. What was the cost to the state for the Prime Minister to travel to Jamaica by private jet on or around March 19, 2008?
- B. What was the purpose of this visit to Jamaica?

**Question No. 119 to the Honourable Attorney General**

**(By the Member for Chaguanas West)**

Could the Attorney General advise when will the Chaguanas Magistrates' Court become functional in the premises rented by Government on Ramsaran Street, Chaguanas?

**Question No. 121 to the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment**

**(By the Member for Siparia)**

With regard to the Home Improvement Grants, could the Minister state:

- (a) the number of persons, according to parliamentary constituency, who have applied for grants in 2007 and 2008;
- (b) the number of persons, according to parliamentary constituency, who have been given grants in 2007 and 2008;
- (c) the sum of money given in grants, according to parliamentary constituency in 2007 and 2008; and
- (d) the criteria and procedure used to determine the giving of grants?

**Question No. 122 to the Honourable Minister of Education**

**(By the Member for Siparia)**

Could the Minister state:

- (a) the total cost of advertisements placed by or on behalf of the Ministry in the media (print and electronic) in 2007 and 2008 and the amounts paid to each media house for same;
- (b) whether any agent(s) were utilized by or on behalf of the Ministry with respect to any of the advertisements; and
- (c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, the name(s) of the agent(s) and the amount(s) paid to each agent.

**Question No. 123 to the Honourable Minister of Education****(By the Member for Siparia)**

Could the Minister state:

- (a) the schools which have been de-shifted together with the date of de-shifting of each school; and
- (b) the estimated and actual costs of de-shifting of each school mentioned in (a) together with a breakdown of expenditure for each in the areas of (i) construction (ii) equipping (iii) furnishing and (iv) any other costs?

**Question No. 127 to the Honourable Minister of Education****(By the Member for Siparia)**

With regard to the Secondary Entrance Assessment (SEA), could the Minister state:

- (a) the total number of students who wrote the examinations in 2006, 2007 and 2008;
- (b) the number of students who scored (i) less than 30% and (ii) less than 50% in the 2006 and 2007 examinations, according to education district;
- (c) what steps have been taken to reduce the numbers of children scoring less than 50% in the examination; and
- (d) what steps have been taken to address the educational needs of children who enter into secondary schools with scores less than 50% in the examinations?

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. **The debate on the following Bill which was in progress when the House adjourned on Wednesday April 23, 2008 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, “An Act to provide for the implementation by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago of the Agreement Establishing the Seat of the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Offices of the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean Court of Justice and the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission”.

**(By the Minister of Foreign Affairs)**

2. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Pensions Act, Chap. 23:52”.

**(By the Minister of Public Administration)**

3. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Children’s Community Residences, Foster Homes and Nurseries Act, 2000”.

4. **(By the Minister of Social Development)**

5. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Children’s Authority Act, 2000”.

**(By the Minister of Social Development)**

**PRIVATE BUSINESS**

**Motions:**

1. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House was adjourned on Friday May 02, 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*

*May 05, 2008*

ORDER PAPER/FRIDAY MAY 09, 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 Honourable 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 Honourable 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 Honourable 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 Honourable 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 Honourable 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 Honourable 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 Honourable 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. 93 to the Honourable 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 Honourable 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 Honourable 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)**

**Question No. 130 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government**

**(By the Member for Mayaro)**

With respect to the Rural Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited, could the Minister state:

- (a) what is the mandate, functions and specific geographic area of operations of this Special Purpose Company;
- (b) what is the total expenditure incurred by this agency from its inception to March 2008;
- (c) all the projects which have been undertaken, to date, and the attached costs for each;
- (d) the names of contractors employed and the status of works executed; and
- (e) what new projects are proposed and /or are being undertaken, the areas in which they are to be implemented and the total budget for these works ?

**(Answer due on 21.05.2008)**

**Question No. 131 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government**

**(By the Member for Mayaro)**

With respect to the Community Improvement Services Limited, could the Minister state:

- (a) what is the mandate and specific geographical area of operation of this entity;
- (b) what is the total expenditure incurred to date ,the type of projects undertaken, the areas in which they were implemented and the status of these works;
- (c) the names of contractors employed, the services they provided and at what cost; and
- (d) what new projects are proposed, the areas in which they are to be undertaken, the total budget for these works and projected commencement and completion dates ?

**(Answer due on 21.05.2008)**

**Question No. 132 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government**

**(By the Member for Mayaro)**

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

- (a) what is the mandate of this entity, its specific geographical area of operation and the total expenditure incurred from January 2006 – March 2008;
- (b) the total number and type of projects undertaken, January 2006 –March 2008, the areas in which they were implemented and the status of these works; and
- (c) what new projects are being proposed, the areas in which works will be executed, the budget for these works and the projected commencement and completion dates?

**(Answer due on 21.05.2008)**

**Question No. 133 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government**

**(By the Member for Mayaro)**

With respect to the East Port of Spain Development Company Limited, could the Minister state:

- (a) what is its mandate, functions and specific geographic area of operation;
- (b) what is the total expenditure incurred to date, the type of projects undertaken, the areas in which they were implemented and the status of these works; and
- (c) what new projects are being proposed, the areas in which they are to be implemented and the projected commencement and completion dates

**(Answer due on 21.05.2008)**

**Question No. 142 to the Honourable Minister of Local Government**

**(By the Member for Princes Town North)**

Could the Minister list the recommendations for Local Government reform received from members of the public at the public consultations held?

**(Answer due on 28.05.2008)**

**May 05, 2008**