



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION
TENTH PARLIAMENT

NO. 10
2013/2014

ORDER PAPER

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2013: 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 Report on Activities on Strengthening Parliamentary Practices in Trinidad and Tobago June 2013.
(By the Deputy Speaker)
2. The Sessional Review of the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Session 2012-2013.
(By the Deputy Speaker)
3. The Response of the Teaching Service Commission to the Ninth Report of the Joint Select Committee established to inquire into and report to Parliament on Municipal Corporations and Service Commissions [with the exception of the Judicial and Legal Service Commission] on a Review of the Teaching Service Commission.
(By the Deputy Speaker)
4. The Ministerial Response to the Fourth Report of the Joint Select Committee established to inquire into and report to Parliament on Ministries (Group 1), and on Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises on the Administration and Methods of Functioning of the National Schools Dietary Services Limited.
(By the Deputy Speaker)

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

1. The Seventh Report of the Joint Select Committee established to inquire into and report to Parliament on Ministries (Group 1), and on Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises on the Administration and Operations of the National Insurance Appeals Tribunal.
(By the Member for La Horquetta/Talparo)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 5 to the Minister of Finance and the Economy

(By the Member for Diego Martin West)

With respect to the Point Fortin Highway currently under construction, could the Minister state:

- a) The total budgeted cost for construction by the contractor – OAS;
- b) The total budgeted cost for land acquisition;
- c) The total budgeted cost for all other expenses;
- d) How much money has been paid to OAS to date with respect to the original project cost?
- e) How much has been paid to OAS to date with respect to claims, variations, delays, etc.;
- f) What is the quantum of known outstanding claims in favour of the contractor - OAS as at June 15th, 2013;
- g) The total amount of money paid for land acquisition and the amount of land acquired for those payments as at June 15, 2013?

Question No. 6 to the Prime Minister

(By the Member for Diego Martin West)

Could the Prime Minister:

- a) Indicate the number of meetings of the Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago that were not chaired by the Prime Minister while she was in the country?
- b) Indicate all instances when meetings were held at any other place than the Cabinet office and where and when were these held?

Question No. 7 to the Minister of Health

(By the Member for Diego Martin West)

With respect to the construction of the Children's Hospital in Central Trinidad:

- a) Is the Minister aware of any natural disaster threat which may be associated with the chosen location for the construction of this facility?
- b) Has the Government sought and/or obtained any advice as to the seismic profile and any attendant threats associated with the location?
- c) If the answer to part b) is in the affirmative, which consultant and/or agency provided the advice and what was the advice?
- d) Could the Minister indicate who is responsible for determining and signing off on the design criteria which guide the construction of this facility?

Question No. 13 to the Minister of Sport

(By the Member for Point Fortin)

- A. Could the Minister state whether the refurbishment/upgrade of the Coronation Park Regional Sporting Facility is still being considered?
- B. If the answer to (A) is in the affirmative, could the Minister state:
 - i. the likely start date;
 - ii. the scope of the project;

- iii. the budgeted cost of the project;
- iv. when the project is likely to commence; and
- v. the estimated completion date?

Question No. 14 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By the Member for Point Fortin)

With respect to the La Fortune/Lake View Housing Project, could the Minister state:

- a) what percentage of work has been completed to date;
- b) how many housing units are now completed; and
- c) when these units will be distributed?

Question No. 15 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By the Member for Point Fortin)

With respect to Southern Gardens in Point Fortin, could the Minister state:

- a) how many housing units remain unoccupied;
- b) what is the reason for delay in distributing these; and
- c) when will these be distributed?

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. **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 13(2) of the Excise (General Provisions) Act, Chap. 78:50 that the Minister may by Order impose any new excise duty or increase any excise duty and from the date of publication of the Order in the *Gazette* and until the expiry thereof the duties specified in the Order shall be payable in lieu of the duties payable prior thereto; and

WHEREAS it is provided by the said subsection, that every Order issued under that subsection shall, after four days and within twenty-one days from the date of its first publication, be submitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives and the Senate and the House of Representatives may by Resolution confirm, and or revoke such Order, and upon publication of the Resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives in the *Gazette*, the Resolution shall have effect and the Order shall then expire; and

WHEREAS the Excise Duty (Compressed Natural Gas) Order, 2013, was made under section 13(2) of the Excise (General Provisions) Act, and first published in the *Gazette* on the 8th day of October, 2013; and

WHEREAS it is expedient to confirm the said Order:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Excise Duty (Compressed Natural Gas) Order, 2013 be confirmed.

(By the Minister of Finance and the Economy)

2. **WHEREAS** section 3(1) of the Treasury Notes Act, Chap. 71:39 provides that the Minister of Finance and the Economy on the written advice of the Governor of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago may, for the purposes of promoting monetary credit and exchange conditions most favourable to the economy of Trinidad and Tobago, borrow money in Trinidad and Tobago in such sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate, one thousand million Trinidad and Tobago dollars and such further sum or sums or the equivalent thereof in any foreign currency or currencies as may be specified by resolution of Parliament, by the issue of Notes; and

WHEREAS it is necessary for the Minister of Finance and the Economy to borrow further sums of money for the purposes stated in section 3(1) of the Act:

BE IT RESOLVED that for the purposes of promoting monetary credit and exchange conditions most favourable to the economy of Trinidad and Tobago, the Minister of Finance and the Economy is hereby authorized to borrow such further sum or sums in Trinidad and Tobago, not exceeding in the aggregate, fifteen thousand million Trinidad and Tobago dollars or the equivalent thereof in any foreign currency or currencies, by the issue of Notes.

(By the Minister of Finance and the Economy)

3. **WHEREAS** section 2(1) of the Treasury Bills Act, Chap. 71:40 provides that the Minister of Finance and the Economy may borrow in Trinidad and Tobago such sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate, two thousand million Trinidad and Tobago dollars or the equivalent thereof in any foreign currency or currencies and such further sum or sums as may be specified by resolution of Parliament, or the equivalent thereof in any foreign currency or currencies, by the issue of Treasury Bills; and

WHEREAS it is necessary for the Minister of Finance and the Economy to borrow further sums of money for the purpose of facilitating the conduct of open market operations by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago:

BE IT RESOLVED that for the purposes of facilitating the conduct of open market operations by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, the Minister of Finance and the Economy is hereby authorized to borrow such further sum or sums in Trinidad and Tobago, not exceeding in the aggregate, thirty thousand million Trinidad and Tobago dollars or the equivalent thereof in any foreign currency or currencies, by the issue of Treasury Bills.

(By the Minister of Finance and the Economy)

4. **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 12th day of September, 2013 made the Tobacco Control Regulations, 2013 (hereinafter called “the Regulations”); and

WHEREAS it is expedient that the Regulations now be affirmed:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tobacco Control Regulations, 2013 be approved.

(By the Minister of Health)

5. **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 56(1)(a) of the Customs Act, Chap. 78:01 that the House of Representatives may, from time to time, by Resolution provide that any class of goods specified in the Resolution shall be exempt from import duties of Customs if the goods are imported or entered for use by any person for any purpose specified in the Resolution during any period to be fixed by the Minister in each particular case, not being a period terminating later than the date prescribed in the Resolution as the last day on which such exemption shall be operative, and subject to such condition as the Minister may impose:

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of section 56 of the Customs Act, exempt from import duties of customs the classes of goods imported or entered for use in Trinidad and Tobago for the respective purposes set out in the List of Conditional Duty Exemptions in the Third Schedule to the Customs Act for-

- (a) Approved Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries in Part A, subheading II;
- b) Approved Hotels in Part A, subheading III;
- (c) Approved Mining Purposes in Part A, subheading IV; and
- (d) Other Approved Purposes in Part A, subheading V,

from the date of publication to December 31, 2015.

(By the Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment)

Bills Second Reading:

1. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third-Party Risks) Act, Chap. 48:51”.

(By the Minister of Transport)

2. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Libel and Defamation Act, Chap. 11:16 to abolish malicious defamatory libel”.

(By the Attorney General)

3. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Bail Act, Chap. 4:60”.

(By the Attorney General)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday September 27, 2013 will be resumed:

1. **WHEREAS** the Canadian Commercial Corporation (CCC) has confirmed by way of a media release published in two Daily Newspapers in Trinidad and Tobago in June 2013 that the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (UDeCOTT,) on the recommendation of CCC, signed a contract in February 2013 with SNC-Lavalin to design a Hospital in Penal;

AND WHEREAS CCC has also confirmed that the design contract for this Hospital Project was awarded by UDeCOTT to SNC-Lavalin, on the recommendation of CCC, on a sole selective basis without any competitive tendering;

AND WHEREAS it is estimated that the construction of this Hospital Project will cost the taxpayers of Trinidad and Tobago approximately TT\$1 Billion;

AND WHEREAS SNC-Lavalin is presently embroiled in allegations and findings of irregular payments to public officials, misconduct, corruption and bribery in projects in a number of developing countries;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honorable House urge the Government to terminate all existing contracts with SNC-Lavalin for this Hospital Project and to cease and desist from entering into any future contractual relationships with SNC-Lavalin or any of its affiliates;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the procurement process for this Hospital and all such future Projects in Trinidad and Tobago be subject to open and transparent competitive tendering.

(By the Member for Diego Martin North East)

2. **WHEREAS** traffic congestion is a very serious and frustrating problem in Trinidad and contributes significantly to inefficiency, road rage, wastage of man hours, unnecessary costs for basic goods and services and poor productivity;

AND WHEREAS the former PNM administration sought to alleviate this problem through the design and implementation of a mass transit system and had procured a contractor to implement Phase 1 of this project, i.e. planning, preliminary design and engineering;

AND WHEREAS by May 2010 the planning, preliminary design and engineering of a light rail system for Trinidad was virtually complete;

AND WHEREAS the present government has abandoned the PNM's light rail project and has not implemented an alternative mass transit system since assuming office;

AND WHEREAS traffic congestion is now worse than ever before and delays on the roads in Trinidad have become intolerable;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honorable House affirm its commitment to the early implementation of an appropriate mass transit system for Trinidad.

(By the Member for Diego Martin North East)

3. **WHEREAS** there have been continuing and unacceptable levels of violent crimes in Trinidad and Tobago;
- AND WHEREAS** the mishandling of the security systems and apparatus of the State have contributed to the spiralling crime rate in Trinidad and Tobago;
- AND WHEREAS** and the Government has been unable to effectively reduce the level of crime in Trinidad and Tobago;
- BE IT RESOLVED** that this House call on the Government to take immediate steps to deal with the unacceptable crime level facing the citizenry of Trinidad and Tobago.
- (By the Member for Port of Spain South)**
4. **WHEREAS** the availability and access to swift and affordable justice is an essential requirement in the nation building effort of Trinidad and Tobago and indeed the wider Caribbean;
- AND WHEREAS** the CARICOM region has taken all the necessary steps towards the establishment of the Caribbean Court of Justice which is headquartered in Trinidad and Tobago;
- AND WHEREAS** Trinidad and Tobago had initially indicated its support for and promoted the Caribbean Court of Justice as our final Court of Appeal in complete replacement of the Privy Council;
- BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House direct the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to take all necessary steps, in the shortest reasonable time, to make the Caribbean Court of Justice in both appellate and original jurisdiction the final Court of Appeal for Trinidad and Tobago.
- (By the Member for Diego Martin West)**
5. **WHEREAS** the economy of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has not, for the past (3) years, enjoyed any substantial or appreciative growth, unlike many of our less endowed CARICOM neighbours;
- AND WHEREAS** there has been three (3) consecutive deficit budgets for the same period in spite of higher than budgeted oil and gas prices for most of the past three (3) years;
- AND WHEREAS** the rating agency, Standard and Poor's, has continued to rate certain aspects of economy very favourably;
- AND WHEREAS** these ratings place the Republic, in a strong position to borrow, both locally and externally;
- AND WHEREAS** the Government, through the appropriate agencies, has an obligation to ensure accurate and transparent recording and reporting of public debt and the servicing thereof;
- AND WHEREAS** the Government has a further obligation to facilitate a well-organised domestic capital market; and to monitor the debt portfolio and maintain a debt management strategy that is consistent with a clearly defined monetary policy and fiscal policy;
- BE IT RESOLVED** that this House call upon the Government to provide in writing within one week of the passage of this resolution:
- a) the status of the State's Public debt;
 - b) the debt profile for the short to medium-term; and

c) the State's ability to monitor, manage and service same.

(By the Member for Port of Spain South)

6. **WHEREAS** the 2010 Manifesto of the People's Partnership Government was adopted by Cabinet as Government Policy, as stated in the Preface of the Medium Term Policy Framework; and

WHEREAS in such document, within Pillar 2 – Human Development, Inclusivity, Diversity, Wellness and Competitiveness, the Government articulated its intention to improve physical infrastructure of Public Health Care Facilities, and as a priority a new Point Fortin Hospital; and

WHEREAS several announcements have been made to initiate with immediacy, the construction of several health facilities other than the said new Point Fortin Hospital; and

WHEREAS the construction of the Point Fortin Hospital should have commenced in the first quarter of 2013; and

WHEREAS healthcare at the Point Fortin Hospital continues to deteriorate to unacceptable levels, putting at risk the lives of citizens from La Brea to Icaos, and including persons from Fyzabad, Buenos Ayres and environs; and

WHEREAS there is also no adequate local health service for employees of industries within the South Western Peninsula:

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House call upon the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to take immediate steps to begin construction of the new Point Fortin Hospital.

(By the Member for Point Fortin)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

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PORT OF SPAIN
November 15, 2013