



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION
TENTH PARLIAMENT

No. 13
2013/ 2014

ORDER PAPER

FRIDAY DECEMBER 13, 2013: 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE OF A NEW MEMBER

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

PETITIONS

PAPERS

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

1. The Twelfth Report of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament appointed to inquire into and report on Municipal Corporations and Service Commissions on a re-evaluation of the efficiency and effectiveness of the Statutory Authorities' Service Commission.

(By the Member for St. Ann's East)

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 9 to the Minister of National Security**

(By the Member for Laventille East/Morvant)

With respect to the Fire Tender which was involved in an accident in Blanchisseuse in November 2012, could the Minister state:

- a) What was the exact date and approximate time of the accident?
- b) When was the Tender bought and at what price?
- c) What was the book value of the Tender at the time of the accident?
- d) What is the total cost associated with the recovery of the wreck?
- e) What payment has been made to the contractor to date and how much is outstanding?
- f) What was the approval process involved in authorizing the payment?
- g) Who authorized and effected the payment?
- h) Under which Head and Sub-Head were payments made?

* On Friday November 29, 2013, Question No. 9 was deferred for two (2) weeks.

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 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)

2. **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. **The debate on the following Bill which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday December 6, 2013 will be resumed:**

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

(By the Attorney General)

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 Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third-Party Risks) Act, Chap. 48:51”.

(By the Minister of Transport)

4. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Judges Salaries and Pensions Act, Chap. 6:02”.

(By the Attorney General)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday November 29, 2013 will be resumed:**

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 Iacos, 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)

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

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)

3. **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)

4. **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)**
5. **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 Leader of the Opposition)**
6. **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)

7. **WHEREAS** a range of social assistance programmes are provided by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to provide assistance to the poor and indigent in society; and

WHEREAS there is a legitimate expectation that these programmes should be managed and administered in an equitable manner to benefit all who need them; and

WHEREAS there have been numerous reports of the maladministration of social assistance programmes by the Government; and

WHEREAS there are legitimate concerns that social assistance programmes are not being provided to citizens in a transparent, equitable and professional manner:

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House take note of and condemn the Government's failure to manage and administer social assistance programmes in a manner appropriate to achieving the best development of all citizens and the nation.

(By the Member for Diego Martin Central)

*Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House*

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December 09, 2013