



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION
TENTH PARLIAMENT

No. 17
2013/ 2014

ORDER PAPER

FRIDAY JANUARY 31, 2014: 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 of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial Statements on the Eastern Regional Health Authority for the year ended September 30, 2011.

(By the Minister of Finance and the Economy who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts Committee)

2. The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial Statements on the Eastern Regional Health Authority for the year ended September 30, 2012.

(By the Minister of Finance and the Economy who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts Committee)

3. The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the financial Statements on the Trinidad and Tobago Heritage and Stabilisation Fund for the year ended September 30, 2013.

(By the Minister of Finance and the Economy who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts Committee)

4. The Audited Financial Statements of the National Helicopters Services Limited for the year ended September 30, 2012

(By the Minister of Finance and the Economy who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts [Enterprises] Committee)

5. The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the National Infrastructure Development Company Limited for the year ended September 30, 2012.

(By the Minister of Finance and the Economy who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts [Enterprises] Committee)

6. The Annual Report of the Public Service Commission for the year ended December 31, 2012.

(By the Deputy Speaker)

7. The Annual Administrative Report for the Seafood Industry Development Company Limited for the period 2011/2012.

(By the Minister of Food Production)

8. The Annual Administrative Report for the Livestock and Livestock Products Board for the period October 2010 to September 2011.

(By the Minister of Food Production)

9. The Annual Administrative Report for the Livestock and Livestock Products Board for the period October 2011 to September 2012.

(By the Minister of Food Production)

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

QUESTIONS TO MINISTERS

Questions for Written Answer appear in the Appendix

Questions for Oral Answer

*Question No. 34 to the Minister of the Environment and Water Resources

(By the Member for Arouca/Maloney)

Could the Minister state when would the river at Barcaday Junction, Arouca, that runs parallel to the Nicholas Bon Air Gardens Housing Development be desilted?

*Question No. 36 to the Minister of the People and Social Development

(By the Member for Arouca/Maloney)

Could the Minister:

- a) All the projects implemented under the URP Social since June 2012 to date?
- b) Provide a breakdown of the cost for implementing each project

*Question No. 47 to the Minister of National Security

(By the Member for Chaguanas West)

With respect to the recent visit of Mr. William Bratton, Crime Consultant, to this country, could the Minister state:

* On Friday January 24, 2014, Questions Nos. 34, 36 and 50 were deferred for one (1) week.

*On Friday January 10, 2014, Question No. 47 was deferred for two (2) weeks and for a further one (1) week on Friday January 24, 2014.

- a) The terms of engagement for services rendered by Mr. Bratton and/or his consultancy firm prior to, upon or subsequent to his visit?
- b) The total cost incurred by the State and a breakdown of these expenses with respect to the visit by Mr. Bratton and his team?
- c) The cost of hosting of the “Bill Bratton Seminar – A Country to Defend” on November 12, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain;
- d) Whether any contracts or agreements have been signed with Mr. Bratton and/or his consultancy firm prior to, upon or subsequent to his visit to Trinidad and Tobago; and
- e) If the answer to part (d) above is in the affirmative, the particulars of any such contracts/agreements inclusive of the dates of the signing of the contracts/agreements and the deliverables?

***Question No. 50 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development**

(By the Member for Laventille West)

Could the Minister:

- a) Identify all those areas in Trinidad and Tobago where State lands have been assigned and handed over to citizens under the Land for the Landless programme?
- b) Provide details as to the total number of persons, their names and the size of plots handed over?
- c) Identify the selection criteria used in determining the recipients for the programme identified in part (a)?
- d) List the criteria used by the Commissioner for State Lands in selecting State lands for distribution?
- e) State whether any infrastructural upgrades are proposed/have been undertaken by the State to the lands distributed under the programme?

***Question No. 52 to the Minister of Transport**

(By the Member for Chaguanas West)

With respect to the decision by the Vehicle Maintenance Company of Trinidad and Tobago (VMCOTT) to enter into an agreement with the Saladin Group - reputed distributor of the Zavoli line of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) conversion kits and range of vehicles, could the Minister please state:

- a) the date on which the VMCOTT Board took the decision to enter into the agreement with the Saladin Group;
- b) the names of the Directors of VMCOTT who were present for the taking of the decision;
- c) the method by which the Saladin Group was selected for this agreement;
- d) whether the Saladin Group was selected as a result of any Request for Proposals (RFP);
- e) if the answer to part (d) is in the affirmative:
 - i. where and when was the RFP was published;
 - ii. the names and addresses of all companies that submitted proposals and the details of their proposals; and
 - iii. the method of evaluation and the basis for the selection of the successful proposal.

***On Friday January 24, 2014, Questions Nos. 34, 36 and 50 were deferred for one (1) week.**

***On Friday January 17, 2014, Questions Nos. 52 and 53 were deferred for one (1) week and for a further one (1) week on Friday January 24, 2014.**

***Question No. 53 to the Minister of Transport**

(By the Member for Chaguanas West)

With respect to the agreement signed between the Vehicle Maintenance Company of Trinidad and Tobago (VMCOTT) and the Saladin Group - reputed distributor of the Zavoli line of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) conversion kits and range of vehicles, could the Minister please state:

- a) the date on which the agreement was signed;
- b) the signatories to the agreement;
- c) the deliverables;
- d) the breakdown of the costs associated with said deliverables; and
- e) the cost and projected quantity of each type of CNG conversion kit to be supplied under the agreement.

Question No. 37 to the Minister of Sport

(By the Member for Arouca/Maloney)

Could the Minister state:

- a) Whether land has been identified for the development of a Recreation Ground for the Red Hill, D'Abadie community?
- b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, can the Minister state the exact location and date of commencement for the development of the Recreation Ground?

Question No. 38 to the Minister of Community Development

(By the Member for Arouca/Maloney)

Could the Minister state whether Community Centers will be built at Bon Air Gardens, Arouca and Trincity and if so, when?

Question No. 39 to the Minister of Works and Infrastructure

(By the Member for Arouca/Maloney)

Could the Minister indicate when will a traffic light be installed at Barcaday Junction, Arouca, on the Priority Bus Route?

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

* On Friday January 17, 2014, Questions Nos. 52 and 53 were deferred for one (1) week and for a further one (1) week on Friday January 24, 2014.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

PUBLIC BUSINESS

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **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)**

2. **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)

*In accordance with S.O. 30(1), the Member for Diego Martin North/East has been duly authorized to move the Motion on behalf of the Member for Port of Spain South.

3. **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; and

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)

4. **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)

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)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the House adopt the First Report of the Standing Orders Committee of the House of Representatives, Fourth (2013/2014) Session, Tenth Parliament.
(By the Leader of the House)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

1. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Judges Salaries and Pensions Act, Chap. 6:02”.
(By the Attorney General)
2. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Motor Vehicles Insurance (Third-Party Risks) Act, Chap. 48:51”.
(By the Minister of Transport)
3. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Dog Control Act, 2013”.
(By the Attorney General)
4. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Nurses and Midwives Registration Act, Chap 29:53”.
(By the Minister of Health)

*Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House*

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January 27, 2014

ORDER PAPER/FRIDAY JANUARY 31, 2014

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 23 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By the Member for Laventille West)

Could the Minister state:

- a) How many houses/apartment units have been fully constructed between June 1, 2010 and September 30, 2013?
- b) How many houses/apartment units have been distributed between June 1, 2010 and September 30, 2013?
- c) Where are the locations of the units that have been distributed?
- d) The names of the beneficiaries and the locations in each case?

(Answer due by 24.12.2013)

Question No. 27 to the Minister of Local Government

(By the Member for Laventille West)

Could the Minister state:

- a) How many Councilors/Local Government representatives were given funding for rental of offices over the 2010-2013 term?
- b) What was the amount approved and disbursed for each office space?
- c) What was the actual amount expended for rental of such office spaces as at September 30, 2013?
- d) Who were the representatives who received such funding?
- e) In each case, the amount disbursed and the location of the premises rented?

(Answer due by 24.12.2013)

January 27, 2014