



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SECOND SESSION
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

NO. 19
2016/2017

ORDER PAPER

MONDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2017: 2:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

PETITIONS

PAPERS

1. The Annual Audited Financial Statements of National Information and Communication Technology Company Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2016.

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

2. The Annual Audited Financial Statements of Government Human Resource Services Company Limited for the year ended September 30, 2016.

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

3. The Delegation Report on the 62nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference - Collaborative Commonwealth - Unity, Diversity and Common Challenges held in London, United Kingdom from December 11 to 17, 2016.

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

4. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Planning and Development to the First Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an Examination into the Current Expenditure of Ministries and Departments under three (3) Sub-Heads: Current Transfers and Subsidies, Development Programme – Consolidated Fund and Infrastructure Development Fund.

(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

5. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Trade and Industry to the First Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an Examination into the Current Expenditure of Ministries and Departments under three (3) Sub-Heads: Current Transfers and Subsidies, Development Programme – Consolidated Fund and Infrastructure Development Fund.

(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)

6. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs to the First Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an Examination into the Current Expenditure of Ministries and Departments under three (3) Sub-Heads: Current Transfers and Subsidies, Development Programme – Consolidated Fund and Infrastructure Development Fund.

(By the Attorney General)

7. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs to the First Report of the Joint Select Committee on Finance and Legal Affairs on an Inquiry into Criminal Case Flow Management in the Judicial System.

(By the Attorney General)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Written Answer appear in the Appendix

***Questions for Oral Answer**

***Question No. 29 to the Minister of Finance**

(By the Member for Naparima)

Could the Minister state:

- a) the number of job losses from April 2016;
- b) the number of jobs created from September 2015; and
- c) the sectors most affected by job losses from April 2016?

Question No. 43 to the Minister of Tourism

(By the Member for Naparima)

Could the Minister state the Government's policy with respect to concession agreements for the proposed Sandals Hotel in Tobago?

* On Friday January 06, 2017, Question No. 29 was deferred for two (2) weeks; for a further one (1) week on Friday January 27, 2017 and for one (1) week on Friday February 03, 2017.

Question No. 44 to the Minister of Finance**(By the Member for Naparima)**

- a) Is the Minister aware that the banking sector disburses foreign exchange according to its own priorities that may be inimical to the country's interest?
- b) What steps are being taken by the Government to assume a leadership role in the disbursement of foreign exchange?

Question No. 45 to the Minister of National Security**(By the Member for Naparima)**

- a) Given that the murder rate for 2016 was the highest murder rate for the last six years, does the Minister agree that his policies have failed?
- b) Does the Minister intend to propose new national security initiatives with the objective of reducing this rate in 2017?

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

1. The Anti-Terrorism (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

(By the Minister of National Security)

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**Motions:**

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House consider the findings and recommendations of the Thirty-Eighth Annual Report of the Ombudsman.

(By the Leader of the House)**Bills Second Reading:**

1. A Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Fire Service Act, Chap. 35:50".

(By the Minister of Finance)

2. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, the Proceeds of Crime Act, the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago Act, the Customs Act and the Exchange Control Act”.

(By the Attorney General)

3. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Land Adjudication Act, 2000”.

(By the Attorney General)

4. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Registration of Titles to Land Act, 2000”.

(By the Attorney General)

5. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Land Tribunal Act, 2000”.

(By the Attorney General)

6. A Bill entitled, “An Act to repeal and replace the Crown Suits Limitation Ordinance”.

(By the Attorney General)

7. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Marriage Act, Chap. 45:01, the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act, Chap. 45:02, the Hindu Marriage Act, Chap. 45:03, the Orisha Marriage Act, Chap. 45:04 and the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Act, Chap. 45:51”.

(By the Attorney General)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House adopt the Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Tax Information Exchange Agreements Bill, 2016.

(By the Minister of Finance)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday January 27, 2017 will be resumed:**

BE IT RESOLVED that this House take note of the rising levels of unemployment, growing poverty and deteriorating living standards through the imposition of a wage restraint/freeze policy on the working people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House condemn the Government for its failure to deal with the current unemployment challenges and to present a clear and cogent economic plan to guide the country through these challenges.

(By the Member for Couva South)

2. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday December 02, 2016 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS the Government has unilaterally reduced its allocation to education and training;

AND WHEREAS the sustainability of tertiary education in both the public and private sectors are under threat;

AND WHEREAS these decisions have denied most-in-need citizens the opportunity to pursue high education, training and the opportunity to secure better jobs and an improved quality of life;

AND WHEREAS the country's competitiveness will be undermined by these decisions;

AND WHEREAS these decisions will ultimately lead to higher cost, compromised quality, as well as further job losses;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House collectively condemn the Government for such short-sighted and brutal measures against large sections of the population;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House call on the Government to immediately reverse these measures which can have a deleterious effect on the future development of Trinidad and Tobago.

(By the Member for Chaguanas East)

3. **WHEREAS** there has been an increase in the number of persons who suffer with obesity in our nation as a result of the sugar consumption in their diet;

AND WHEREAS obesity as a result of increased sugar intake is the cause of several chronic and non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, pulmonary hypertension, high blood pressure;

AND WHEREAS obesity negatively affects the productivity of our nation due to the inability of persons affected by chronic diseases to perform their functions at full capacity;

AND WHEREAS the persons affected by obesity and related afflictions place an additional burden on the regional health authorities;

AND WHEREAS there are no legislative or regulatory measures to govern the food and beverage industry in relation to the addition of sugar to products;

AND WHEREAS the World Health Organization has classified obesity as a result of sugar consumption as a global epidemic;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House discuss the issue of obesity as a matter of national health importance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House propose solutions for implementation that will lead to the better health and welfare of our citizens.

(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)

4. **WHEREAS** the growing prison population has a collateral effect on the families and children of persons incarcerated;

AND WHEREAS children under the age of eighteen have been found to suffer psychological strain and instability as a result of a parent being imprisoned;

AND WHEREAS children under the age of eighteen are dependent upon their parents for guidance and support;

AND WHEREAS interactions between children under the age of eighteen and their parents while incarcerated can preserve and strengthen family connections;

AND WHEREAS research has shown interaction between children under the age of eighteen and their incarcerated parents can yield positive societal benefits and assists in the promotion of healthy child development;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government initiate a system of supervised weekly visits between children under the age of eighteen and their incarcerated parents, at a secure location inside the prison.

(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)

5. **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House take note and express its horror at the exponential growth in the crime rate manifested by historic murder rates, violence against the person and property and the inexplicable disappearance of citizens;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House condemn the Prime Minister and the Government for:

- a) failure to address the rising crime epidemic; and
- b) inability to present a credible Anti-Crime Plan aimed at preventing, detecting, prosecuting and rehabilitating the criminal elements.

(By the Member for Naparima)

6. **WHEREAS** the election of a Chairman is held in Committee Stage during the first sitting of a Council after local government elections;

AND WHEREAS there was controversy regarding the authority of the outgoing Chairman of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation to exercise a casting vote for the position of incoming Chairman when there was a tied vote at Committee Stage on Thursday December 15, 2016;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no guiding legislation pertaining to the election of a Chairman of a Regional Corporation in the event of a tied vote at the Committee Stage on Thursday December 15, 2016;

AND WHEREAS there are arguments that suggest that the process for the election of the Chairman at the Committee Stage was illegal and has resulted in the loss of public confidence in the local government system;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House note the issues surrounding the election of the Chairman of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation at the Committee Stage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House refer this matter to the relevant Joint Select Committee to recommend possible solutions for implementation that will lead to restored confidence in the local government system.

(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)

Jacqueline Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

House of Representatives' Secretariat
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
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PORT OF SPAIN

February 07, 2017

ORDER PAPER MONDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2017

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

***Question No. 18 to the Minister of Finance**

(By the Member for Chaguanas West)

Could the Minister provide the contract details for infrastructural works by the National Insurance Property Development Company Limited for the period October 2015 to date, including the:

- a) company name;
- b) initial estimated project cost;
- c) final or revised estimated project cost;
- d) scope of works;
- e) selection method for the contractor;
- f) project status; and
- g) total amount paid to date.

(Answer due by 31.12.2016)

Question No. 41 to the Attorney General

(By the Member for Princes Town)

Could the Attorney General give an update on the establishment of the Family and Children Division of the High Court further to the passage of the Family and Children Division Act, 2016?

(Answer due by 10.02.2017)

Question No. 42 to the Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

(By the Member for Princes Town)

Could the Minister outline her long term plan for the carnival industry and indicate whether any strategic plan has been developed?

(Answer due by 10.02.2017)

* On Friday January 13, 2017, Question No. 18 was deferred for two (2) weeks and a further two (2) weeks on Friday January 27, 2017.



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NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 27 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Ministers concerned.

1. **To the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries:**
(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

Based on media reports that eight (8) National Petroleum Service Stations received contaminated fuel in the past week, could the Minister state the precise cause of this contamination as well as what measures have been implemented to prevent a further occurrence of this incident?

2. **To the Minister of Social Development and Family Services:**
(By the Member for Couva South)

Could the Minister inform this House why a decision was taken to discontinue the National Poverty Reduction Programme Coordinating Unit, which resulted in sixty (66) workers losing their jobs, in spite of poverty eradication being identified as the number one goal in both Vision 2030 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030?

3. **To the Minister of Works and Transport:**
(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

Based on recent reports that the travel times of the water taxis are taking unusually longer than scheduled, causing great inconvenience to passengers, could the Minister state what measures are being implemented to resolve this problem?

4. **To the Minister of Works and Transport:**
(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

It has been brought to my attention that the travelling public is being severely inconvenienced as a result of the disruption in the PTSC bus service between Mayo and San Fernando, could the Minister please inform this House as to what urgent measures will be instituted for an immediate resumption of the said service?

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
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NOTICE OF PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 26 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Prime Minister.

1. Could the Prime Minister advise the reason(s) for the non-renewal or non-extension of the Share Holders Agreement between CL Financial and the Government?
(By the Leader of the Opposition)
2. Could the Prime Minister identify the number of new shelters, rehabilitation centres and safe houses currently under construction in order to prevent and protect our men, women and children from domestic and sexual abuse and violence?
(By the Member for Couva North)
3. In light of recent statements attributed to have been made by the Prime Minister related to the high incidents of violence against women, does the Prime Minister intend to hold a national conversation with women groups to explain his stance and if so, when?
(By the Member for Couva North)
4. Could the Prime Minister inform this House what are some of the critical pieces of legislation he intends to introduce into the Parliament to address the exponential growth in domestic violence, especially against women in Trinidad and Tobago?
(By the Member for Couva North)
5. Could the Prime Minister advise this House as to the status of discussions between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Canadian based recruitment agency Hire Pro Drivers to fill 35,000 vacancies which was promised by the Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development to be concretised and cemented by December, 2016?
(By the Member for Couva South)
6. Given the spiraling crime rate including horrendous murders particularly against vulnerable women, could the Prime Minister inform this House, if and how, his Government intends to address the urgent need to re-socialize our males as part of his crime prevention plans?
(By the Member for Naparima)
7. Could the Prime Minister state what plans, if any, the Government has for the National Gas Company workers who have been and will be dislocated by the sale of the Teak and Poui Gas Compression platforms to Repsol?

(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

8. Could the Prime Minister state whether there are plans to make changes to the investment portfolio of the pension plan of the National Gas Company or whether such plans have already been effected?

(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

*Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House*

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