



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

NO. 23
2018/2019

ORDER PAPER

FRIDAY MARCH 22, 2019: 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

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 of the Princes Town Regional Corporation Chairman's Fund for the year ended September 30, 2016.

(By the Minister of Finance 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 of the Princes Town Regional Corporation's Chairman's Fund for the year ended September 30, 2017.

(By the Minister of Finance 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 of the South West Regional Health Authority for the year ended September 30, 2010.

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

4. The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the South West Regional Health Authority for the year ended September 30, 2011.

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

5. The Audited Financial Statements of the National Schools Dietary Services Limited for the year ended September 30, 2018.

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

6. The Report of the Tenth Actuarial Valuation of the National Insurance System as at June 30, 2016.

(By the Minister of Finance)

7. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Health to the Sixteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an Examination into the implementation of the Public Sector Investment Programme.

(By the Minister of Health)

8. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Public Utilities to the Eleventh Report of the Joint Select Committee on Local Authorities, Service Commissions and Statutory Authorities (including THA) on an Inquiry into the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Regulated Industries Commission.

(By the Minister of Public Utilities)

9. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Public Administration to the Fifteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an Examination into the Expenditure and Internal Controls of the Ministry of Tourism.

(By the Minister of Public Administration)

10. The Response of the Service Commissions Department to the Nineteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation for the financial years 2008 to 2011.

(By the Minister of Public Administration)

11. The Annual Report of the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the year ended September 30, 2017.

(By the Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister)

12. The Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2019.

(By the Attorney General)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

1. The Twenty-Third Report of the Public Accounts Committee on an Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation for the financial years 2008 to 2011.

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

2. The Seventh Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on an Inquiry into the Management of the Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme.

(By the Member for Toco/Sangre Grande)

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Written Answer will appear in the Appendix

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 91 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries:**(By the Member for Oropouche West)**

Having regard to the passage of the Finance Act, 2018, could the Minister state the expected date that former Petrotrin workers will receive tax refunds on the first \$500,000.00 of their severance payments?

Question No. 92 to the Minister of Works and Transport:**(By the Member for Oropouche West)**

With regard to flood mitigation work being conducted in various parts of Trinidad and Tobago, could the Minister indicate:

- a) the expected date that flood mitigation works will commence in the Penal/Debe and Siparia regions;
- b) whether projects were identified for the San Francique and Woodland regions; and
- c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, provide the list and expected completion dates of each proposed project?

Question No. 93 to the Minister of Health:**(By the Member for Oropouche West)**

Could the Minister indicate:

- a) whether there are persons currently living at public hospitals;
- b) if the answer to part (a) is affirmative, provide the number of persons currently living at the San Fernando, Port of Spain and Mt Hope Hospitals; and
- c) whether there is a maximum time frame that a person can be treated at a public hospital?

Question No. 99 to the Minister of Social Development and Family Services:**(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

Could the Minister provide the number of socially displaced persons who were removed from the streets of Trinidad and Tobago between September 2015 and January 31, 2019?

Question No. 100 to the Minister of Education:**(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

With regard to the restructuring of the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), could the Minister state:

- a) the number of staff cuts expected in 2019;
- b) the estimated total severance amount; and
- c) whether the amount in part (b) was given a budget allocation in fiscal 2019?

Question No. 101 to the Minister of Education:**(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

Could the Minister state whether the qualifications of any member of staff at UTT are under investigation?

Question No. 107 to the Minister of National Security:**(By the Member for Couva North)**

Could the Minister provide an update on the police investigations into the missing \$10 million from Tobago House of Assembly funds meant for Virgin Atlantic Airways?

Question No. 118 to the Minister of Social Development and Family Services:**(By the Member for Cumuto/Mazanilla)**

Further to the response to House of Representatives Question No. 12 on January 11, 2019, could the Minister provide a status update on the completion date of assessment of flood victims?

Question No. 120 to the Minister of National Security:**(By the Member for Fyzabad)**

Could the Minister provide a status update on the construction of a new Forensics Sciences Centre?

Question No. 121 to the Minister of National Security:**(By the Member for Fyzabad)**

Given the recent use of polygraph tests within the South Western Division, Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), could the Minister indicate whether this measure will be extended to all Divisions within the TTPS?

Question No. 122 to the Minister of Health:**(By the Member for Fyzabad)**

Could the Minister state whether the Human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination programme is still ongoing?

Question No. 129 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development:**(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)**

Could the Minister state whether local private construction companies competing against Chinese State Companies which are backed by the Chinese Government are being evaluated fairly?

Question No. 130 to the Minister of Health:**(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)**

Could the Minister state the rationale why a pathology report for a patient suspected of suffering stage four prostate cancer should take six months at the Eric Williams Medical Services Complex?

Question No. 131 to the Minister of Health:**(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)**

Could the Minister state whether Severe Hirshsprung Disease is considered a life-threatening illness by the Board of the Children's Life Fund if diagnosed in a neonate?

Question No. 138 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries:**(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)**

Could the Minister state the new methods of exploration and production currently being undertaken by the Heritage Petroleum Company Limited that were not previously utilised by Petrotrin?

Question No. 139 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries:**(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)**

In light of the preparation of a request for proposals for the Petrotrin Refinery, could the Minister state the reason(s) for the change from the Government's decision in August 2018 to shut the refinery down?

Question No. 140 to the Prime Minister:**(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)**

With regard to statements in the Prime Minister's address to the nation on September 2, 2018 that, *"the wider population in fence line communities will benefit from some deliberate additional Government expenditure on infrastructure and social support"*, could the Prime Minister provide the specific list of projects that have been undertaken within the fence line communities of Pointe-a-Pierre, Santa Flora, Couva and Gasparillo?

Question No. 152 to the Minister of Works and Transport:**(By the Member for Couva South)**

Could the Minister inform this House of the total cost to repair the damaged cable barriers along the Uriah Butler Highway and the Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway?

Question No. 153 to the Minister of National Security:**(By the Member for Couva South)**

Could the Minister inform this House of the expected commencement date of the construction of the new Forensics Science Centre?

Question No. 154 to the Minister of Works and Transport:**(By the Member for Couva South)**

Further to the response to House of Representatives Question No. 292 on September 17, 2018, could the Minister inform this House when will repairs commence to the collapsed cylinder crossing on the layby onto the north bound lane of the Sir Solomon Hochoy Highway in the vicinity of the Couva/Point Lisas Interchange?

Question No. 158 to the Minister of Finance:**(By the Member for Naparima)**

Could the Minister provide the list of achievements of the lobbyist "Group DC LLC" in fiscal 2018?

Question No. 159 to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries:**(By the Member for Naparima)**

Further to the response to House of Representatives Question No. 79 on February 15, 2019, could the Minister provide the relief programmes being considered to address the hardships faced by fishermen as a result of the high price of super gasoline and the cessation of the supply of regular fuel?

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **WHEREAS** over the recent past there have been a number of media articles alleging acts of serious misbehaviour and abuse of office by the Chief Justice, the most serious of which remain unanswered;

AND WHEREAS the Chief Justice has by his resolute refusal to respond adequately to these allegations, brought the office of Chief Justice and by extension, the entire Judiciary into disrepute and odium;

AND WHEREAS by Section 137 of the Constitution the Prime Minister has the authority and responsibility to act in the interest of the integrity of the Office of the Chief Justice and the Judiciary;

AND WHEREAS the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago established a Committee to investigate allegations of misconduct by the Chief Justice and the Committee Report was sent to the Prime Minister for which action is yet to be taken;

AND WHEREAS there have been public calls for the Prime Minister to act and trigger Section 137 thereby allowing for the course of natural justice which would allow for the rebuilding of public confidence in the administration of justice and the Judiciary;

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister by his failure to act permits the perception that the Government is protecting the Chief Justice and has further eroded public confidence in the administration of justice;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House call upon the Prime Minister to trigger Section 137 of the Constitution and forthwith advise the President that the question of removing the Chief Justice ought to be investigated.

(By the Member for Oropouche East)

2. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday February 22, 2019 will be resumed:**

BE IT RESOLVED that this House consider the details of the two-part address by the Hon. Keith Rowley, MP, Prime Minister termed, "*Mind your Business: Reporting to the Nation*" that aired on January 6, 2019 and January 7, 2019.

(By the Leader of the Opposition)

3. **WHEREAS** the Government has taken a policy decision to construct and establish an all-inclusive tourist destination in Tobago;

AND WHEREAS this decision has been met with considerable public disquiet, controversy and outrage over matters of procurement of Sandals Resorts International and project planning and development;

AND WHEREAS it is felt that this project had been conceptualized and is being implemented without any regard to transparency, accountability and good governance;

AND WHEREAS this project involves the expenditure of approximately one billion Trinidad and Tobago dollars with concerns over the social and economic returns to such an investment;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemn the lack of proper procurement policy, disclosure and the improper implementation of the Sandals Resorts International project.

(By the Member for Couva North)

4. **WHEREAS** the United Nations established seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to transform the world by 2030;

AND WHEREAS the second target under SDG number five (5) states, “the elimination all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation”;

AND WHEREAS women are increasingly becoming victims of domestic abuse, violent crime and human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government take urgent steps to ensure the protection of our nation’s women.

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

5. **WHEREAS** climate change is a matter of global concern which threatens all nations;

AND WHEREAS small island states and coastal states are especially susceptible to the impact of climate change;

AND WHEREAS the Caribbean region including Trinidad and Tobago has recently experienced heavy rainfall, devastating hurricanes, and floods;

AND WHEREAS earthquakes and drought are anticipated and must be prepared for;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House agree that the Government develop a holistic and sustainable national response to climate change inclusive of solutions to perennial flooding in Trinidad and Tobago and the management of drought conditions.

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 5(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Chap. 58:01 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the President may by Order, declare that land is required for a public purpose;

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 5(2) of the Act that Parliament may by resolution approve an Order made under section 5(1);

AND WHEREAS the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2018 was made by the President under section 5(1) of the Act as Legal Notice No. 190 dated the 19th day of December, 2018;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the said Order:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2018 be approved.

(By the Attorney General)

2. **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 5(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Chap. 58:01 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the President may by Order, declare that land is required for a public purpose;

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 5(2) of the Act that Parliament may by resolution approve an Order made under section 5(1);

AND WHEREAS the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2019 was made by the President under section 5(1) of the Act as Legal Notice No. 34 dated the 18th day of February, 2019;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the said Order:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2019 be approved.

(By the Attorney General)

Bills Second Reading:

1. A Bill entitled, “An Act to combat corruption and other wrongdoings by encouraging and facilitating disclosures of improper conduct in the public and private sector, to protect persons making those disclosures from detrimental action, to regulate the receiving, investigating or otherwise dealing with disclosures of improper conduct and to provide for other matters connected therewith”.

(By the Attorney General)

2. A Bill entitled, “An Act to establish a Council for Urban and Regional Planners and to provide for the regulation of the urban and regional planning profession and other matters incidental thereto.”

(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Motions:

1. The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday November 09, 2018 will be resumed:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House adopt the Fifth Report of the Joint Select Committee on National Security on the Final Report of the Police Manpower Audit Committee.

(By the Member for Laventille West)

*Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House*

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

March 15, 2019

ORDER PAPER FRIDAY MARCH 22, 2019**QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER*****Question No. 62 to the Minister of Finance:****(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)**

Could the Minister provide the list of Government projects being executed by Chinese state companies inclusive of:

- a) the total cost per project;
- b) the labour cost per project expressed as a percentage of total project cost; and
- c) the percentage of labour cost repatriated by these companies in the form of United States dollars?

(Answer due by 05.02.2019)**Question No. 102 to the Minister of Education:****(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

Could the Minister state:

- a) the total amount spent on overseas travel by UTT staff in 2018; and
- b) for each overseas trip provide the name and position of the staff who travelled, the purpose and the cost

(Answer due by 09.03.2019)**Question No. 103 to the Minister of Education:****(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

Could the Minister state the total cost for each consultant hired by UTT since September 2015?

(Answer due by 09.03.2019)**Question No. 119 to the Minister of Social Development and Family Services:****(By the Member for Cumuto/Manzanilla)**

With regard to the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Unit, could the Minister provide:

- a) the current status of the Unit;
- b) the current staffing arrangements;
- c) the criteria to qualify for a grant;
- d) the maximum amount that can be disbursed to an NGO;
- e) the number of NGOs that have applied for financial assistance from September 2015 to present;
- f) the list of successful NGO grant recipients inclusive of the NGO's address;
- g) the total grant amount disbursed from September 2015 to present;
- h) the permitted use of grant funding by NGOs;

***Question No. 62 was deferred for two (2) weeks on Friday February 8, 2019, Friday February 22, 2019 and Friday March 8, 2019.**

- i) whether grants are disbursed incrementally or as a one-off payment; and
- j) the current systems in place to verify funding was used by the recipient for the intended purpose?

(Answer due by 21.03.2019)

Question No. 126 to the Minister of Health

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

Could the Minister provide the number of filled positions of House Officer in each of the regional health authority in Trinidad for the period July 2015 to December 2018 inclusive of the nationality and graduation year of the successful candidate?

(Answer due by 21.03.2019)

Question No. 127 to the Minister of Health

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

Could the Minister provide the monthly number of perinatal and neonatal deaths at the San Fernando General Hospital from January to December 2018?

(Answer due by 21.03.2019)

Question No. 128 to the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

Could the Minister provide the current number of vacant positions of Principal Medical and Health Officer within each regional corporation and city corporation?

(Answer due by 21.03.2019)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION

SITTING NO. 23

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

2018/2019

FRIDAY MARCH 22, 2019 1:30 P.M. 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. In light of the invitation from the President of the United States to five (5) Caribbean leaders excluding the Prime Ministers of Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and St. Kitts and Nevis on Venezuela and other matters, could the Prime Minister indicate whether he has had discussions with the CARICOM Chairman to voice the Community's collective concern to the United States that these countries were deliberately excluded?
(By the Member for Princes Town)
2. Could the Prime Minister inform the House whether he has had any discussions with the Mr. Wilfred Espinet, Chairman, Paria Fuel Trading Company to determine how a Request for Proposals (RFP) was advertised and then retracted for the sale of the company?
(By the Member for Princes Town)
3. In light of his public commitment prior to the closure of Petrotrin that former employees will be given priority in the rehiring process, could the Prime Minister inform this House how many former employees of Petrotrin have been employed at Heritage Petroleum Company Limited, Paria Fuel Trading Company Limited and Guaracara as of March 22, 2019?
(By the Member for Couva South)
4. Could the Prime Minister advise the strategic thinking behind the closure of the High Commission in Uganda?
(By the Member for Naparima)
5. Could the Prime Minister state why refugees from Nigeria, Ghana and Sierra Leone are treated less favorably than those from Venezuela?
(By the Member for Naparima)
6. Could the Prime Minister inform this House what is the estimated cost for the rebuilding and refurbishment of the Red House to date?
(By the Member for Couva North)

7. Given a recent report which stated that “the National Gas Company (NGC) told bpTT it wants less natural gas than is available to it for the rest of the year”, could the Prime Minister state the reason(s) for this decision?
(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)
8. Given a Reuters report on March 12, 2019 which stated that “Trinidad Petroleum Holdings (TPH) is in advanced debt restructuring talks with banks and has secured new loans of up to US\$1.4 billion”, could the Prime Minister state if the Government of Trinidad and Tobago would be guaranteeing these loans to the state company?
(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)
9. Could the Prime Minister inform this House whether the Government approves of the intimidation and terror tactics of the military backed regime against elected representatives in the National Assembly who oppose the Nicolás Maduro regime in Venezuela?
(By the Member for Caroni Central)
10. Does the Prime Minister not agree that recent developments in Venezuela may have rendered CARICOM very vulnerable to division and more susceptible to competing bilateral alliances which now have the potential to undermine any recent initiatives to quicken the pace of the CSME?
(By the Member for Caroni Central)
11. In light of the revelation by the Elections and Boundaries Commission that the local government report for the 2019 local government elections was sent to the Minister in June 2017, could the Prime Minister indicate when this report will be laid in the House?
(By the Member for Oropouche East)
12. In light of the recent announcement made by the Minister of National Security that the Government is working on an amnesty policy for thousands of Venezuelans who are in Trinidad and Tobago illegally, could the Prime Minister indicate whether the Government will give a stay to Venezuelans who have been issued deportation orders or those who are on appeal?
(By the Member for Princes Town)
13. Given the recent thrust to effect the CARICOM Single Market and Economy, could the Prime Minister indicate what level of consultations were held with the national community before committing Trinidad and Tobago to the most recent policy of allowing wider categories of persons in elementary occupations from CARICOM to enter and work in this country?
(By the Member for Oropouche East)

*Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House*

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March 22, 2019



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

No. 23
2018/2019

FRIDAY MARCH 22, 2019 1:30 P.M. 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 National Security:**
(By the Member for Naparima)

Could the Minister inform the House what urgent measures are being taken to safeguard the interests of local fishermen in Cedros from prospective Venezuelan pirates who continue to pose a daily threat to the lives of these fisher folks?

2. **To the Minister of Health:**
(By the Member for Couva South)

Could the Minister inform this House how many elective surgeries have been cancelled at the San Fernando General Hospital due to overcrowding, during the period March 20 to 22, 2019?

3. **To the Minister of National Security:**
(By the Member for Oropouche West)

With regard to the detention of 10 Venezuelan nationals at Cedros, including 5 of whom were children, could the Minister indicate whether the children were admitted to the Child Protection Unit at the Oropouche Police Station?

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

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March 22, 2019