HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION **NO. 29**
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT **2018/2019**

ORDER PAPER

MONDAY MAY 6, 2019: 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

PETITIONS

PAPERS

1. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Finance to the Twentieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial year 2017.

   (By the Minister of Finance)

2. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to the Fourteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an Examination into the Construction, Maintenance and Refurbishment of State-Owned or State-Funded Housing Projects and Units.

   (By the Minister of Housing and Urban Development)

3. The Annual Report of the Strategic Services Agency, Ministry of National Security for the year 2017.

   (By the Minister of National Security)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

1. The Fifth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Finance and Legal Affairs on a Critical Assessment of the Waste Management Policies and Initiatives of the State (with specific focus on solid waste).

   (By the Member for Oropouche West)

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 165 to the Minister of National Security:**

(By the Member for Oropouche West)

With regard to the continuous kidnappings and robberies of local fishermen by pirates allegedly from Venezuela could the Minister state:

a) the measures if any, which have been implemented to prevent occurrences of this nature;
b) whether any additional resources have been allocated to the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard to address this problem and if in the affirmative, provide the details;
c) the number of missing persons extracted from January 2017 to January 2019; and
d) the amount of stolen items retrieved from January 2017 to January 2019?

***Question No. 166 to the Minister of National Security:**

(By the Member for Oropouche West)

With regard to the circulation of video and images of children engaging in sexual activities, could the Minister indicate:

a) the measures which have been implemented by the Child Protection Unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service to monitor and prevent this offence; and
b) whether any persons have been apprehended or charged in relation to this offence from January 2017 to January 2019?

Question No. 171 to the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government:

(By the Member for Oropouche West)

With regard to reports that Skinner Park will be closed for eighteen (18) months to undergo renovations, could the Minister indicate:

a) the publication dates for the invitation to tender;
b) the name of the entity that was awarded the contract; and
c) the expected total project cost?

Question No. 172 to the Minister of National Security:

(By the Member for Oropouche West)

Could the Minister indicate the measures taken to address reports that the Godineau River, Woodland has been used as an illegal port of entry to smuggle contraband items?

Question No. 173 to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries:

(By the Member for Oropouche West)

With regard to a letter issued on Wednesday February 20, 2019 to the Engineering Unit at Ramjattan Trace, Penal, stating that their services would be terminated on Thursday February 28, 2019, could the Minister indicate:

a) the number of staff that were issued termination letters;
b) the reason for the termination of staff in part (a); and
c) whether staff were issued severance payments?

***Question Nos. 165 and 166 were deferred for two (2) weeks on Monday April 23, 2019.**

Question No. 174 to the Minister of Education:

(By the Member for Chaguanas East)

Could the Minister provide the expected completion date for the Esmond Ramesar Open Campus Centre at Soogrim Trace Chaguanas?

Question No. 175 to the Minister of Education:

(By the Member for Chaguanas East)

Could the Minister provide the expected date for the first intake of students (inclusive of the faculty) at the University of the West Indies, South Campus and Debe?

Question No. 176 to the Minister of Education:

(By the Member for Chaguanas East)

With regard to the statutory boards and other bodies under the Ministry's purview, could the Minister state:

a) the measures taken to ensure these statutory boards and other bodies are achieving their mandates; and
b) whether consideration should be given to changing the focus of statutory boards and other bodies to focus on economy diversification?

Question No. 190 to the Minister of Health:

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

With regard to a recent report that the Ministry is considering Medical Marijuana for the treatment for Epilepsy, could the Minister state the steps being taken to explore this possibility?

Question No. 191 to the Minister of Tourism:

(By the Member for Couva North)

Could the Minister inform this House whether the Tourism Trinidad Destination Management Company Limited has formulated and implemented a strategic plan?

Question No. 192 to the Minister of Education:

(By the Member for Couva North)

Could the Minister state the measures being taken to address increased complaints regarding the structural integrity of the Carapichaima West Secondary School?

Question No. 193 to the Minister of National Security:

(By the Member for Couva North)

In light of the recent murders of three (3) women over a four (4) day period, has the Minister considered recommending pepper spray as legal for women to carry and use against their attackers?

Question No. 195 to the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs:

(By the Member for Oropouche East)

With regard to the meeting of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States in March 2019, could the Minister provide an explanation for the Government's foreign policy when Trinidad and Tobago abstained from the resolution to render humanitarian assistance to Venezuela?

Question No. 196 to the Minister of Finance:

(By the Member for Oropouche East)

Could the Minister provide an update on the approach of Trinidad Petroleum Holdings to the international financial markets for an approximately ten billion dollar loan facility to pay its debts?

Question No. 197 to the Minister of Finance:

(By the Member for Oropouche East)

Could the Minister provide the total cost for the leasing of twelve Boeing 737 Max 8 Aircrafts (inclusive of the leasing company cost) by Caribbean Airlines Limited?

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

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **WHEREAS** section 122(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Chap. 1:01 ("the Act") provides that the President shall, after consultation with the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition nominate persons, who are qualified and experienced in the disciplines of law, finance, sociology or management, to be appointed as members of the Police Service Commission;

   AND WHEREAS section 122(4) of the Act provides that the President shall issue a Notification in respect of each person nominated for appointment under subsection (3) and the Notification shall be subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Representatives;

   AND WHEREAS the President has nominated Mr. Roger Mark Kawalsingh to be appointed as a member of the Police Service Commission;

   AND WHEREAS the President has on the 4th day of April, 2019 made a Notification in respect of the nomination;

   AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the Notification:

   BE IT RESOLVED that the Notification of the nomination of Mr. Roger Mark Kawalsingh as a member of the Police Service Commission be approved.

   (By the Prime Minister)

2. **WHEREAS** it is provided by subsection (3) of section 4 of the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) Act (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), that as soon as may be after the Elections and Boundaries Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") has submitted a report under paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 4 of the Act, the Minister shall lay before the House of Representatives for its approval the draft of an Order by the President for giving effect, whether with or without modifications, to the recommendations contained in the report;

   AND WHEREAS the Commission has submitted a report to the Minister in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 4;

   AND WHEREAS the draft of an Order entitled the "Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) Order, 2019" giving effect to the recommendations of the Commission was laid before the House of Representatives on the 5th day of April, 2019:

   BE IT RESOLVED that the draft of the "Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) Order, 2019" be approved.

   (By the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government)

3. **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)

4. **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. **The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the House adjourned on Wednesday May 1, 2019 will be resumed:**

   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)

1. 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)

2. A Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) Act, 2011 (Act No. 20 of 2011)".

   (By the Attorney General)

3. A Bill entitled, "An Act to amend the Registrar General Act, Chap. 19:03, the Registration of Deeds Act, Chap. 19:06, the Conveyancing and Law of Property Act, Chap. 56:01, the Real Property Act, Chap. 56:02 , the Stamp Duty Act, Chap. 76:01 and the Registration of Title to Land Act, 2000".

   (By the Attorney General)

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)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

2. **The debate on the following Motion which was adjourned on Friday March 22, 2019 will be resumed:**

   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)

3. **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)

4. **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)

5. **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)

6. **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)

7. **WHEREAS** there has been a decline in the educational performance, standards and academic achievements during the current Government's administration;

AND WHEREAS the previous Computer Laptop Programme was abandoned, homework centres closed, provision of textbooks significantly decreased, and Student Support Services, IT, Special Needs, School Social professionals, School Feeding Programme and Scholarships have all been reduced;

AND WHEREAS many schools were routinely closed during several education terms because of disrepair, maintenance issues and gross incompetence of the Ministry of Education, depriving thousands of students of their education;

AND WHEREAS the Primary School Curriculum and the Continuous Assessment Component have been seriously compromised;

AND WHEREAS there has been an inadequate response to school disciplinary and security issues;

AND WHEREAS the construction of new schools has ceased and an estimated seventy schools at various levels of completion were abandoned with resultant disastrous educational environments;

AND WHEREAS the School Transport, School Feeding Programme, personnel and other vital service providers are failing to receive timely payments;

AND WHEREAS there has been a serious reduction in the GATE Programme, tertiary education participation, facilities and training in the various Tech-Voc programmes among others;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemn this Government for its gross failure in the Education Sector and the resultant detrimental effect on generations of students.

(By the Member for Chaguanas East)

8. **WHEREAS** the World Economic Outlook published by the International Monetary Fund projected that the Trinidad and Tobago economy is stagnant;

AND WHEREAS this is at variance with the assertions of the Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister and other Government spokesmen on the subjects of growth and economic performance over the past two years;

AND WHEREAS the economic experience of the majority of citizens is one of distress and concern, the psychological state of workers is one of anxiety and fear and many among the middle class are challenged to meet their mortgage payments;

AND WHEREAS oil production is at its lowest level of production in decades;

AND WHEREAS the renegotiation of natural gas prices with producing companies has created new problems for the National Gas Company and the downstream sector and may affect national policy choices in the immediate future;

AND WHEREAS the local private sector is hesitant to invest in the local economy and small and medium business are struggling to stave off closure;

AND WHEREAS the depletion of foreign reserves is occurring at the net rate of 1.6 billion annually;

AND WHEREAS after three and a half years in office, the Government seems unable to manage the economy effectively, citizens of all dimensions are under stress and live with daily uncertainty and the country as a whole seems rudderless and directionless;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemn the Government for its recklessness and mismanagement of the finances and economy of Trinidad and Tobago.

(By the Member for Caroni Central)

9. **WHEREAS** over the past three years there has been a collapse of the public health sector with a significant increase in morbidity, mortality and preventable deaths in major health institutions;

AND WHEREAS the collapse of our primary health care system and widespread suffering from chronic, non-communicable diseases have resulted from the absence of public education

programmes, reduction in the opening hours at health centres and the unavailability of many CDAP drugs;

AND WHEREAS at major hospitals, there exist overcrowding at Emergency Departments with patients dying on trolleys and the unavailability of beds, basic pharmaceutical supplies, reagents for lab testing, first-line chemotherapy, anti-cancer drugs and surgical medical supplies;

AND WHEREAS the waiting time for surgery is highly unacceptable and there is non-functional diagnostic equipment;

AND WHEREAS hundreds of nationals were denied employment as nurses and doctors despite severe shortages of medical personnel while hundreds of foreign doctors were employed;

AND WHEREAS the closure of the Central Block of the Port of Spain General Hospital, the underutilisation of the Couva Hospital and the discontinued construction of the National Oncology Centre have deprived patients of health care and have led to a major crisis in the delivery of medical care;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemn the Government for its mismanagement of the health sector and call for the implementation of remedial measures, policies and programmes.

(By the Member for Caroni East)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

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PORT OF SPAIN

May 2, 2019

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION **SITTING NO. 29**
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT **2018/2019**

MONDAY MAY 06, 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. Given the Prime Minister's public commitment of a thorough investigation into the recent incident in which three persons were killed and three persons were injured in an alleged gun battle between the TTPS and residents of Big Yard, Carenage, could the Prime Minister inform this House when will the investigation into the said incident commence?
   (By the Member for Couva South)

2. Given the recent loss of a full electricity supply at the San Fernando General Hospital, could the Prime Minister inform this House if all electrical systems including the supply of power at our nation's hospitals have been reviewed?
   (By the Member for Couva South)

3. Given the recent reports that Shell and Heritage Exploration Ltd have signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a possible joint venture, could the Prime Minister state the process which was adopted to select Shell as a partner in this joint venture?
   (By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

4. Given the recent reports which stated that Petrotrin made a profit before tax of $1.6 billion TTD in its last year of operation, could the Prime Minister confirm the validity of these reports and specifically state what was the profit of Petrotrin in its last year of operation?
   (By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

5. Could the Prime Minister inform this House whether his Government intends to complete the segment of the highway from Debe to Mon Desir, and if so, what is the time frame for completion of same?
   (By the Member for Tabaquite)

6. Could the Prime Minister inform the House from whom have the major portions of land been acquired and at what costs for the construction of the Valencia to Toco highway?
   (By the Member for Caroni East)

7. Could the Prime Minister state why there has been no forensic audit into the widely reported AV drilling oil issue with Petrotrin?
   (By the Member for Caroni East)

8. Could the Prime Minister inform this House whether he is in agreement with the invasion of citizens' private properties by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service without the provision of search warrants, as reported by several homeowners?
   (By the Member for Caroni Central)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

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PORT OF SPAIN

May 06, 2019

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION **No. 29**
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT **2018/2019**

MONDAY MAY 6, 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 Health:**
   (By the Member for Couva South)

   Given the recent public disclosure that it is only a matter of time before Trinidad and Tobago experiences a pocket of people infected with measles, could the Minister inform this House if there are any cases that have been recorded with our health system?

2. **To the Minister of National Security:**
   (By the Member for Naparima)

   Given the escalation of murders in both Trinidad and Tobago over the last few days, could the Minister inform this House whether he is satisfied that the Government's crime-fighting initiatives are working?

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

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May 6, 2019