



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

NO. 33
2018/2019

ORDER PAPER

FRIDAY MAY 24, 2019: 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

PETITIONS

PAPERS

1. The Audited Financial Statements of the Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2017.

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

2. The Consolidated Financial Statements of Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries 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)

3. The Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the National Investment Fund Holding Company Limited for the financial year ended December 31, 2018.

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

4. The Administrative Report of the Ministry of Tourism for the fiscal year 2016.

(By the Minister of Tourism)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

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. 178 to the Minister of Education:*(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

Could the Minister provide an update on the expected opening date for the Dass Trace Primary School?

Question No. 179 to the Minister of Public Administration:*(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

Further to the response to House of Representatives Question No. 145 on July 1, 2017, could the Minister provide:

- a) the number of vacancies in the permanent establishment in each Ministry from March 1, 2016 to March 31, 2019; and
- b) the number of vacant contract positions in each Ministry from September 2015 to March 31, 2019?

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. 194 to the Minister of Education:*(By the Member for Couva North)**

Further to the response to House of Representatives Question No. 138 on March 21, 2018, could the Minister provide an update on the opening of the Waterloo ECCE Centre?

Question No. 186 to the Minister of National Security:**(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

Further to the response to House of Representatives Question No. 192 on April 13, 2018, could the Minister provide a status update on the acquisition of a site for the Enterprise Police Station?

Question No. 187 to the Minister of Public Utilities:**(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

In light of the current water shortage, could the Minister state whether there are plans to establish another desalination plant or to undertake another 'water winning' project?

***Question No. 140 was deferred for two (2) weeks on Friday March 22, 2019, Friday April 5, 2019, Tuesday April 23, 2019 and Friday May 10, 2019. Question Nos. 178, 179 and 194 were deferred for two (2) weeks on Friday May 10, 2019. Question No. 193 was deferred for two (2) weeks on Monday May 6, 2019.**

Question No. 188 to the Minister of Public Utilities:**(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

Could the Minister provide the qualifications of the incumbent Financial Comptroller at the Water and Sewerage Authority?

Question No. 210 to the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government:**(By the Member for Oropouche West)**

With regard to a report on March 28, 2019 alleging a number of fraudulent practices at various regional corporations such as missing and stolen cheques as well as fraudulent employment slips, could the Minister provide the actions being taken to address these reports?

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** 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)

2. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday May 10, 2019 will be resumed:**

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)

3. **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)

4. **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)

5. **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)

6. **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)

7. **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)

8. **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)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **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)

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, 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)

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, 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 amend the Petroleum Act, Chap. 62:01, the Petroleum Production Levy and Subsidy Act, Chap. 62:02 and the Income Tax Act, Chap. 75:01”.

(By the Minister of Finance)

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)

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)

4. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Supplemental Police Act, Chap. 15:02”.

(By the Minister in the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs)

5. A Bill entitled, “An Act to establish the Private Security Service Authority and to regulate the private security industry and for other related matters”.

(By the Minister in the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs)

6. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the National Emblems of Trinidad and Tobago (Regulation) Act, Chap. 19:04”.

(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

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)

2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House adopt the Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to consider and report on the Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority Bill, 2018.

(By the Member for Diego Martin North/East)

*Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House*

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May 20, 2019



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

No. 33
2018/2019

FRIDAY MAY 24, 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 Prime Minister:**
(By the Member for Chaguanas West)

Could the Prime Minister explain to this House the legal basis for his recent policy decision (announced Thursday May 23, 2019) to place all State Agencies under the supervisory jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs on matters regarding the Freedom of Information Act, Chap. 22:02?

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

Could the Minister inform this House as to why an estimated one hundred and one (101) Venezuelans and several other boatloads arriving at Icados Beach and Columbus Bay were able to easily evade the lockdown of this country's borders which the Minister claimed was in force?

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

Could the Minister provide to this House the names of the proposed five building sites that will be earmarked for use as well as the state of readiness inclusive of the training of staff for the two-week Venezuelan registration exercise which is expected to commence next week?

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

Could the Minister inform this House whether any study has been done on the number of asylum seekers that this country can reasonably accommodate in order to ensure that our social services do not collapse?

5. **To the Minister of National Security:**
(By the Member for Tabaquite)

By allowing Venezuelan nationals the unfettered right and freedom to remain in this country despite being here illegally, could the Minister inform the House whether the Government has formally and finally accepted the existence of a major humanitarian crisis in Venezuela?

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

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