



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

NO. 40
2018/2019

ORDER PAPER

WEDNESDAY JULY 03, 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 Trinidad Nitrogen 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)

2. The Consolidated Financial Statements of Trinidad and Tobago National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited and its Subsidiaries for the financial year ended March 31, 2018.

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

3. The Audited Financial Statements of the Deposit Insurance Corporation 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)

4. The Audited Financial Statements of the Deposit Insurance Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2018.

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

5. The Administrative Report of the University of Trinidad and Tobago for the period October 2015 to September 2016.

(By the Minister of Education)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

1. The Tenth Report of the Joint Select Committee on State Enterprises on an Inquiry into the Operations of Lake Asphalt of Trinidad and Tobago (1978) Limited and to determine its effectiveness at fulfilling its mandate.

(By the Member for D'Abadie/O'Meara)

2. The Eleventh Report of the Joint Select Committee on State Enterprises on an Inquiry into the operations of National Flour Mills (NFM) including the Company's role in the processing of rice for local farmers.

(By the Member for D'Abadie/O'Meara)

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question for Written Answer will appear in the Appendix

Question for Oral Answer

***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?

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

*** Question No. 179 was deferred for two (2) weeks on Friday May 10, 2019, Friday May 24, 2019 and Friday June 7, 2019 and for one (1) week on Wednesday June 26, 2019.**

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)

4. **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 38(1) of the Tobacco Control Act, Chap. 30:04 (hereinafter called “the Act”) that the Minister may make Regulations prescribing requirements and standards for tobacco product constituents, including emissions of smoked products, additives and product design and specifying methods for testing and measuring compliance with the performance prescribed and generally for carrying out the purpose of this Act;

AND WHEREAS it is also provided by section 38(1) of the Act that Regulations made under that section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS the Minister has on the 29th day of May, 2019 made the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (hereinafter called “the Regulations”);

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Regulations now be affirmed:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 be approved.

(By the Minister of Health)

Bills Second Reading:

1. 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)

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 Supplemental Police Act, Chap. 15:02”.

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

4. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Criminal Law Act, Chap.10:04, the Prisons Act, Chap. 13:01, the Police Service Act, Chap. 15:01, the Immigration Act, Chap. 18:01, the Fire Service Act, Chap. 35:50 and the Customs Act, Chap. 78:01”.

(By the Minister of National Security)

5. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Sexual Offences Act, Chap. 11:28”.

(By the Attorney General)

6. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Bail Act, Chap. 4:60”.

(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 Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority Bill, 2018.

(By the Member for Diego Martin North/East)

2. **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:

1. **The debate on the following Motion which was adjourned on Friday June 28, 2019 will be resumed:**

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)

2. **The debate on the following Motion which was adjourned on Friday May 24, 2019 will be resumed:**

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)

3. **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)

4. **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)

5. **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)

6. **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)

7. **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)

8. **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)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

House of Representatives' Secretariat
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
Level 3, Tower D
1 A Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN

July 01, 2019

ORDER PAPER WEDNESDAY JULY 03, 2019QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWERQuestion No. 233 to the Minister of Finance:

(By the Member for Naparima)

With regard to the Petrotrin bullet payment on the US\$850 million bond due in August 2019, could the Minister state:

- a) the type of financing;
- b) the source of the financing;
- c) the interest rate for the financing;
- d) the repayment period for the financing;
- e) whether this financing facility was conjoined with payments for Petrotrin retirees;
- f) if the answer to part (e) is affirmative, the total amount financed; and
- g) the impact of this financing facility on the total foreign debt and the debt to gross domestic product ratio?

(Answer due by 29.06.2019)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SESSION
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

No. 40
2018/2019

WEDNESDAY JULY 03, 2019 1:30 P.M. NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Question which has been accepted by the Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 27 is hereby forwarded for the attention of the Minister concerned.

1. To the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries:
(By the Member for Oropouche West)

With regard to reports indicating that workers of the Reforestation Programme, have not been issued salaries for the past three months, could the Minister indicate when funds would be made available for the disbursement of salaries to said workers?

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

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PORT OF SPAIN

July 3, 2019