



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

NINETEENTH SITTING, THIRD SESSION (2017/2018)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY APRIL 17, 2018 AT 10:00 A.M.

1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OR AFFIRMATION
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 64 to the Minister of Finance**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to the Dunn and Bradstreet Report on the Galleons Passage, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. the main elements contained in the report; and
- ii. the cost of said report?

Question No. 79 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the Housing Development Corporation's proposed expansion of the East Grove Housing Development, can the Minister advise on the following:

- i. whether public consultations were held with stakeholder groups;
- ii. if yes, the dates and locations of all such public consultations;

* Question No. 64 - Standing Order 27(15) was invoked on 11.04.2018

- iii. a breakdown, by date and location, of the number of external stakeholders who attended said consultations;
- iv. the methods/means by which the public was invited to the consultations; and
- v. a breakdown of the cost of said consultations?

Question No. 80 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to the proposed housing expansion reportedly approved for the East Grove Housing Development, can the Minister indicate:

- i. whether nearby alternative sites were considered;
- ii. the proposed cost of the expansion; and
- iii. the method by which the funding of the project will be sourced (whether by loan or bond issue etc.) for the same?

Question No. 81 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By Senator Wade Mark)

With respect to Phases 1 and 2 of the East Grove Housing Development, can the Minister indicate:

- i. the number of housing units completed or renovated for the period September 2015 - January 31, 2018; and
- ii. the number of housing units distributed for the period September 2015 - January 31, 2018;

Question No. 94 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

Can the Minister indicate the following:

- (i) the name of the company that was awarded the contract for the construction of the Diego Martin Health Center; and
- (ii) the budgeted cost for same?

Question No. 95 to the Minister of Trade and Industry

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

Can the Minister inform the Senate of the profits and/or losses realized by the Hyatt Regency Trinidad over the last five (5) years?

Question No. 103 to the Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Taurel Shrikissoon)

With regard to the recent severe landslip which occurred at Lengua Road, Indian Walk owing to a ruptured WASA pipeline, can the Minister advise the Senate on the following:

- i. what action is being taken by the Ministry to alleviate the plight of residents;
- ii. whether residents have been made aware of the Ministry's short-term and long-term plans with regard to same; and
- iii. whether accommodation has been provided to the resident who lost his home due to the landslip?

Question No. 108 to the Minister of Tourism

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

Can the Minister indicate the number of tourist arrivals to Trinidad and Tobago for Carnival during the period 2014 – 2018?

10. REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
11. STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS OR PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARIES
12. PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS
13. INTRODUCTION OF BILLS
14. MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER
15. PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Valuation of Land Act, Chap. 58:03.'
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (ii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Property Tax Act, Chap. 76:04'.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (iii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chap. 48:50 to provide for the implementation of spot speed camera devices for the purpose of detecting speeding violations.'
(By the Attorney General)
- (iv) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to abolish preliminary enquiries and to provide for the pre-trial procedure in respect of indictable offences and for ancillary matters.'
(By the Attorney General)
- (v) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to repeal and replace the Insurance Act, Chap. 84:01; to reform the law relating to insurance companies; to regulate insurance businesses and privately administered pension fund plans and for other related purposes.'
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (vi) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Registration of Titles to Land Act, 2000.'
(By the Attorney General)
- (vii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Land Tribunal Act, 2000.'
(By the Attorney General)
- (viii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to repeal and replace the Crown Suits Limitation Ordinance.'
(By the Attorney General)
- (ix) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Land Adjudication Act, 2000.'
(By the Attorney General)

Motions:

- (i) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 34(1) of the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, 2012 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the Minister may make Regulations for the purpose of giving effect to this Act, and all such other matters and things as may appear necessary or expedient or are required to be prescribed for effectively carrying into operation the provisions of the Act:

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 34(2), that Regulations made under the Act shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament:

AND WHEREAS the Minister of National Security has on the 5th day of March, 2018 made the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Regulations, 2018:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Regulations, 2018 now be affirmed:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Regulations, 2018 be approved.

(By the Attorney General)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 53(1)(a),(d),(e),(f) and (g) of the Children’s Community Residences, Foster Care and Nurseries Act, Chap. 46:04 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the Authority may, with the approval of the Minister, make Regulations for, *inter alia*, –

(a) the management of any Community Residence...;

(d) the imposition of requirements as to the accommodation and equipment to be provided in residences, foster homes and nurseries;

(e) the medical arrangements to be made for protecting the health of the children in Community Residences and foster homes;

(f) the provision of information to the Authority by the Managers as to the facilities provided for the parents or guardians of children in Community Residences and foster homes, to visit and communicate with the children and where not provided to authorise the Authority to give directions as to the provision of such facilities; and

(g) all such matters and things...for effectively carrying into operation the provisions of the Act:

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 53(2) of the Act that Regulations made under this section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament:

AND WHEREAS the Children’s Community Residences (Rehabilitation Centres) Regulations, 2018 were made by the Authority under section 53 of the Act on the 20th day of February, 2018 and approved by the Minister on the 5th day of March, 2018:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the said Regulations:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Children’s Community Residences (Rehabilitation Centres) Regulations, 2018 be approved.

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

- (iii) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 53(1)(a),(d),(e),(f) and (g) of the Children’s Community Residences, Foster Care and Nurseries Act, Chap. 46:04 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the Authority may, with the approval of the Minister, make Regulations for, *inter alia*, –

(a) the management of any community residence...;

- (d) the imposition of requirements as to the accommodation and equipment to be provided in residences, foster homes and nurseries;
- (e) the medical arrangements to be made for protecting the health of the children in Community Residences and foster homes;
- (f) the provision of information to the Authority by the Managers as to the facilities provided for the parents or guardians of children in Community Residences and foster homes, to visit and communicate with the children and where not provided to authorise the Authority to give directions as to the provision of such facilities; and
- (g) all such matters and things...for effectively carrying into operation the provisions of the Act:

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 53(2) of the Act that Regulations made under this section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament:

AND WHEREAS the Children’s Community Residences (Children’s Homes) Regulations, 2018 were made by the Authority under section 53(1) of the Act on the 20th day of February, 2018 and approved by the Minister on the 5th day of March, 2018:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the said Regulations:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Children’s Community Residences (Children’s Homes) Regulations, 2018 be approved.

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday March 27, 2018 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS financial and administrative autonomy of Parliament is an undisputed benchmark of a true democracy;

AND WHEREAS a legislative proposal entitled the Houses of Parliament Service Authority Bill, 2014 was laid in Parliament and referred to a Joint Select Committee in 2014;

AND WHEREAS the Joint Select Committee agreed that parliamentary autonomy is essential to the recalibration of the existing relationship between the Executive and the Legislature;

AND WHEREAS the Government, in adopting the 2015 Manifesto of the People’s National Movement as its official policy framework, confirmed its commitment to the principles of parliamentary autonomy;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to introduce legislation by April 30, 2018 to give effect to parliamentary autonomy and that this legislation be immediately referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament for early consideration and report.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (ii) **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House take note of the escalating levels of job losses in the country since September 2015 and condemn the Government for its failure to present a clear and cogent economic policy to guide Trinidad and Tobago through these challenging economic circumstances.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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PORT OF SPAIN

April 13, 2018

ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY APRIL 17, 2018

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

***Question No. 13 to the Minister of Public Administration and Communications**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to contract employment in Government Ministries/Departments and Statutory Authorities, can the Minister provide the following information:

- a) the names and designations of all persons whose contracts were not renewed during the period September 30, 2015 – September 30, 2017;
- b) the reasons for such non-renewal referred to in (a);
- c) the names and designations of all persons employed/recruited on contract during the period September 30, 2015 – September 30, 2017;
- d) details of the compensation package of each person referred to in (c);
- e) the names and designations of all contract officers who during the period September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2017 were terminated before the original completion date of their contracts; and
- f) the reasons for the termination referred to in (e)?

(Answer due by 03.11.2017)

***Question No. 78 to the Prime Minister**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In view of the public advertisements issued by the Office of the Prime Minister inviting suitably qualified nationals to apply for employment on contract in the positions of Director of Scheduling and Advance, Director of Communications, Communications Strategist, Deputy Director of Communications, Deputy Press Secretary and Office Support Assistant, can the Prime Minister provide this Senate with the following information:

- i. whether these advertised positions have since been filled;
- ii. if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what are the names of the respective persons who were selected for the positions;
- iii. details of the terms and conditions of each position as outlined above;
- iv. the names and qualifications of each person who applied;
- v. the process of selection used to arrive at the final selection of each position advertised; and
- vi. whether the persons selected are all based in the Office of the Prime Minister?

(Answer due by 29.03.2018)

Question No. 118 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Having regard to the Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses Programme, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. the total amount owed by Government to local tertiary level institutions;
- ii. a breakdown of the respective local tertiary level institutions and the amount of GATE funding owed to each as at February 2018; and
- iii. how soon are these institutions likely to receive full payment of monies owed to them?

(Answer due by 27.04. 2018)

* Question No. 13 - Standing Order 27(16) invoked on 20.02.2018

* Questions No. 78 was deferred for two weeks on 11.04.2018

Question No. 129 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

With respect to the Government's lobby group based in Washington DC known as The Group DC LLC, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. the total amount paid, in both US and TT dollars, to this lobby group during the period October 31, 2016 to March 31, 2018;
- ii. a detailed breakdown of the services rendered by said lobby group during the period October 31, 2016 to March 31, 2018; and
- iii. how has the lobby group contributed in the promotion of Trade and Investment between the United States and Trinidad and Tobago during the period October 31, 2016 to March 31, 2018?

(Answer due by 12.05.2018)

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NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the President in accordance with Standing Order 25 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Ministers concerned.

1. **TO THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY**
(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the failure of the Guardia Nacional to return the three local fishermen to Trinidad and Tobago as promised on April 15, 2018, can the Minister indicate why to date this has not been done?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**
(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister state what measures are being implemented to safeguard the public from the purchase and consumption of substandard and fake pharmaceutical products?

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