



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWENTY-SEVENTH SITTING, THIRD SESSION (2017/2018)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

MONDAY MAY 21, 2018 AT 1:30 P.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. 111 to the Prime Minister**

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

In light of statements from the Government that a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and Sandals Resorts International, can the Prime Minister indicate:

- i. the date on which the Memorandum of Understanding was signed; and
- ii. the parties who signed the Memorandum of Understanding?

Question No. 131 to the Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In view of reports that an assessment conducted by a UK based company on the state of the two Tobago passenger ferries revealed multiple defects to the vessels, can the Minister indicate why after having such a report for eight (8) months the vessels were allowed to continue operating on the sea-bridge?

Question No. 132 to the Prime Minister

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In view of this country's objection to Dominica's request for an OAS fee waiver, can the Prime Minister indicate what actions he intends to pursue against the persons deemed responsible for the embarrassment caused to this country?

Question No. 133 to the Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In view of recent reports by a UK based company that the T&T Spirit had been operating to an almost unserviceable state, can the Minister indicate what action, if any, will be taken against the persons responsible for the maintenance of said vessel?

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **WHEREAS** it is established by Section 71(1) and (12) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, that there shall be an Elections and Boundaries Commission that in the exercise of its functions shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority;

AND WHEREAS the Elections and Boundaries Commission is responsible for holding free and fair elections throughout Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate take note that the Elections and Boundaries Commission is not subject to any parliamentary scrutiny or accountability in respect of its activities and operations unlike other similar independent bodies such as Service Commissions;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate call on the Government to take urgent steps to introduce legislation that would make the Elections and Boundaries Commission accountable to the citizenry of Trinidad and Tobago by allowing parliamentary scrutiny of its administration, the manner of the exercise of its powers, methods of functioning and any criteria adopted by the Commission in the exercise of its powers and functions.

(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)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) 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)
- (ii) 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)
- (iii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Registration of Titles to Land Act, 2000.’
(By the Attorney General)
- (iv) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Land Tribunal Act, 2000.’
(By the Attorney General)
- (v) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to repeal and replace the Crown Suits Limitation Ordinance.’
(By the Attorney General)
- (vi) 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)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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PORT OF SPAIN

May 18, 2018

ORDER PAPER – MONDAY MAY 21, 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

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

* Question No. 118 was deferred for two weeks on 01.05.2018

Question No. 156 to the Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to security at the nation's airports, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. whether any contract(s) has been recently awarded to any company/companies to conduct surveillance works at the airports;
- ii. if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what is the security experience/knowledge profile of the company/companies; and
- iii. what was the procurement process used to award the contract(s) to the company/companies?

(Answer due by 01.06.2018)

Question No. 159 to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister provide the Senate with a breakdown of the total expenses incurred, per year, for the Christmas event(s) known as "Family Nights Under the Lights" and/or "Movie Night Under the Lights" held at the Botanic Gardens in the years 2015, 2016 and 2017?

(Answer due by 01.06.2018)

Question No. 173 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Can the Minister provide the Senate with the following:

- (a) the terms and conditions involved in the recently concluded loan agreement with the Corporacion Andina De Fomento (CAF) Development Bank, namely:
 - i. the rate of interest for the period of the loan;
 - ii. the period/term of the loan;
 - iii. the commencement date for the repayment and the monthly instalments;
 - iv. any other special repayment arrangements;
 - v. the sanctions/penalties for failure to meet the conditions of the loan;
 - vi. the method of disbursement of the said loan; and
- (b) copies of the completed loan agreement?

(Answer due by 06.06.2018)

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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 PRIME MINISTER**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the passing of six year old Zakiah Lorde after she succumbed to her injuries, can the Prime Minister state whether an investigation will be undertaken?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of recent reports that there is an escalation in the number of allegations of domestic violence by Police Officers, can the Minister advise what urgent measures are being implemented to reduce this incidence of domestic violence?

3. **TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister advise of the total number of persons who are expected to be retrenched in the upcoming weeks as part of the UTT's restructuring exercise?

4. **TO THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SMALL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister advise whether the Ministry has been formally notified by the UTT of its retrenchment of several employees and what assistance, if any, is being provided by the Ministry to the retrenched employees?

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