



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

THIRTY-FIRST SITTING, THIRD SESSION (2017/2018)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JUNE 12, 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
 - (i) The Eighth Report of the Joint Select Committee on State Enterprises, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on an inquiry to examine the operations of National Quarries Company Limited (NQCL), and to determine its effectiveness in fulfilling its mandate by maintaining quality of product and stability of supply.
(By Senator David Small)
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 121 to the Prime Minister**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

What assistance is being provided to Tobago businesses, having regard to the state of the Tobago economy and their request for financial support of approximately \$750 million?

* Question No. 121 - Standing Order 27(15) invoked on 29.05.2018

***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. 135 to the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister inform this Senate whether:

- i. the Minister had prior knowledge of his Ministry's intention to engage in a \$150,000 settlement with a former employee of the Ministry;
- ii. the Minister had sought and obtained information on the details of the complaint made by the former employee;
- iii. if the answer to (ii) is in the affirmative, whether the complaint involved any sexual harassment accusations; and if so
- iv. against whom?

***Question No. 136 to the Attorney General**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

As regard a \$150,000 settlement with a former employee of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, can the Attorney General inform the Senate of the following:

- i. what were the circumstances that led to a non-disclosure agreement in this matter;
- ii. was the advice/guidance of the Attorney General sought and/or obtained prior to this matter being settled; and
- iii. which party requested the non-disclosure agreement?

Question No. 144 to the Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to the eviction of the Old Tech Steel Orchestra from the compound of the San Fernando West Government School, what is being done by the Ministry to assist this band in finding a new venue?

Question No. 145 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of recent reports concerning the restructuring of the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), can the Minister indicate if there are plans to retrench members of staff?

Question No. 146 to the Minister of Planning and Development

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of recent resignations from the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB), can the Minister inform of the following:

- i. The number of times the board met between December 2017 and March 2018; and
- ii. Whether the board has been fulfilling its mandate?

* Question No. 132 was deferred for two weeks on 21.05.2018

* Questions Nos. 135 and 136 were deferred for two weeks on 29.05.2018

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

Motions:

- (i) **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 of State in the Office of the Prime Minister)

- (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 (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 of State in the Office of the Prime Minister)

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to make jurisdiction for criminal matters exercisable in a division of the High Court to be known as “the Criminal Division” and to make jurisdiction for criminal and traffic matters exercisable in a division of Summary Courts to be known as “the District Criminal and Traffic Courts” and to make provision for matters connected therewith.’

(By the Attorney General)

- (ii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to amend the Interpretation Act, Chap. 3:01, the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, Chap. 4:01, the Summary Courts Act, Chap. 4:20, the Bail Act, Chap. 4:60, Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, Chap. 5:34, the Legal Aid and Advice Act, Chap. 7:07, the Child Rehabilitation Centre Act, Chap. 13:05, the Indictable Offences (Preliminary Enquiry) Act, Chap. 12:01, the Children Act, Chap. 46:01, the Children’s Community Residences, Foster Care and Nurseries Act, Chap. 46:04, the Children’s Authority Act, Chap. 46:10, and the Family and Children Division Act, 2016.’

(By the Attorney General)

- (iii) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to make provision for payments into and out of Court to be made electronically and into and out of a Custodial Bank Account in the name of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago and for related matters.’

(By the Attorney General)

- (iv) 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)

- (v) 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)

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Monday May 21, 2018 will be resumed:**

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)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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PORT OF SPAIN

June 08, 2018

ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY JUNE 12, 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. 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;

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

* Question No. 78 - Standing Order 27(16) invoked on 29.05.2018

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 MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given that the Commissioner of Police is now in receipt of the report on the conduct of Police in the quadruple murders in La Brea, can the Minister indicate what are the findings and what action, if any, will follow?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

The Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines having stated that its citizens are being adversely affected by this country's foreign exchange situation, was the Minister made aware of this situation and what is being done to address same?

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