



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

EIGHTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 18, 2018 AT 10:30 A.M.

1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OR AFFIRMATION
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 - (i) The Finance Bill, 2018.
(By the Minister of Finance who will move that the next stage of the Bill be taken later in the proceedings)
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
 - (i) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Finance to the Tenth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Local Authorities, Service Commissions and Statutory Authorities (including the THA), Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on an inquiry into the Internal Control Systems and Corporate Social Responsibility Policies of the National Lotteries Control Board (NLCB).
(By the Minister of Finance)
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
 - (i) The Nineteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on the examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation (CBC) for the financial years 2008 to 2011.
(By Senator Taharqa Obika)
 - (ii) The Twenty-First Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on the examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Chaguaramas Development Authority (CDA) for the financial years 2008 to 2014.
(By Senator Taharqa Obika)
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 16 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)

How many persons are currently incarcerated at the State Immigration Detention Centre pending repatriation?

Question No. 17 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)

What is the average length of time it takes for a person held at the State Immigration Detention Centre to be repatriated?

Question No. 18 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)

What is the total amount spent by the Government on the maintenance and upkeep of the Immigration Detention Centre and on the upkeep of detainees, over the period September 2015 to September 2018?

***Question No. 24 to the Attorney General**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the announcement by Government that it intends to bring legislation to address the decriminalization of the use of marijuana, can the Attorney General advise how soon such legislation will be introduced and whether there will be public consultation on same?

Question No. 32 to the Attorney General

(By Senator Wade Mark)

As regard the introduction of legislation to address the security of Prison Officers, can the Minister indicate when will the relevant Bill be brought to Parliament?

Question No. 33 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Based on the statement made by the Minister about people engaging in wasteful use of electricity as a result of heavy subsidization by Government, does the Government intend to reduce and ultimately remove subsidies on electricity?

Question No. 34 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of what religious leaders have described as acts of sacrilege as a result of several robberies at places of worship, what measures are being implemented to protect said places of worship from the criminal elements?

Question No. 59 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Given reports that salary deductions from MTS Workers are not being remitted to certain financial and related institutions, can the Minister indicate the following:

- (i) the number of workers affected by this situation; and
- (ii) when will this issue be remedied?

* Question No. 24 was deferred for two weeks on 27.11.2018

Question No. 69 to the Minister of Trade and Industry

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

With regard to the NAPA Hotel at the National Academy for the Performing Arts, can the Minister indicate:

- (i) Whether a new operating structure has been agreed upon;
- (ii) Has the hotel generated any business for the calendar year 2018; and
- (iii) If the answer to (ii) is in the affirmative, what is the Earnings Before Interest, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBIDA) for the hotel?

Question No. 70 to the Minister of Education

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Given that there is only one secondary school in the Borough of Point Fortin and there is a high demand for sixth form school spaces, does the Government have any immediate plans to increase the number of sixth form spaces in Point Fortin?

- 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 validate the constitution of licensing committees established under section 5 of the Liquor Licences Act, Chap. 84:10 as well as the grant, transfer and renewal of licences and all other acts and omissions by licensing committees and for related matters.'
(By the Attorney General)
- (ii) 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)
- (iii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Planning and Facilitation of Development Act, 2014 and to consequentially amend the Environmental Management Act, Chap. 35:05.'
(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

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

WHEREAS the Board of Petrotrin announced on the August 28, 2018 that the company's refinery will cease its crude oil refining operations;

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister on the September 02, 2018 confirmed that the Cabinet had accepted a recommendation of the Petrotrin Board to close its refinery;

AND WHEREAS it is evident that the decision of the Government was without stakeholder consultation and with little or no disclosure to the public;

AND WHEREAS the decision to close the Petrotrin refinery will have direct adverse consequences on thousands of persons as well as on the economy of Trinidad and Tobago;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate take note of the failure of the Government to disclose a viable and credible plan to address the needs of those persons/business affected by the closure of the refinery;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate condemn the actions of the Government in closing the Petrotrin refinery.

(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** the Government has acquired the Galleons Passage, a new inter-island Passenger Ferry in a procurement arrangement that did not include the Central Tenders Board;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Finance has advised that the Government was guided in the amount it paid for the vessel by the valuation reports of two independent international firms;

AND WHEREAS it was discovered that one of the two firms that conducted the valuation is owned by the same company from which Government purchased the vessel;

AND WHEREAS in the interest of transparency and accountability in the procurement of the inter-island passenger ferry, there is need for the Government to provide the Parliament with reports including the Dunn and Bradstreet and all Arbitration Reports surrounding the settlement of the Donia Mercedes;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Minister of Finance to table, within fourteen days, copies of the Dunn and Bradstreet Report and all Arbitration Reports related to the settlement involving the previous owners of the Donia Mercedes.

(By Senator Wade Mark)

- (iii) **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)

(iv) **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)

(v) **WHEREAS** the responsibility of a Government is to ensure public safety and security through the maintenance of law and order;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to address the extraordinary increase in the level of crime in Trinidad and Tobago, in particular murders and other violent crimes, which are negatively affecting national peace and economic development;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate take note of the Government's failure to arrest the increasing and unacceptable levels of criminal activity in Trinidad and Tobago;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to table, in the shortest possible time a cogent Strategic Crime Prevention Plan to address the unacceptable levels of crime facing the citizenry of Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

(vi) **WHEREAS** the Education Act, Chap. 39:01, charges the Government with the responsibility to ensure the promotion of the education of the people of Trinidad and Tobago, the establishment of a system of education and educational institutions, and the effective execution of a national education policy;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to fulfil most of these objectives;

AND WHEREAS recent reports have highlighted the failure of the Government to address the persistent issues of school violence, bullying and mental illness;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate take note of the poor state of the education sector in Trinidad and Tobago;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to table, within the shortest possible time, a comprehensive, long-term strategic plan for the education sector, from early childhood care to tertiary level education.

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

(vii) **WHEREAS** section 6(2) of the Education Act Chap. 39:01 provides that the Ministry of Education should provide special schools suitable to the requirements of students with physical and learning disabilities;

AND WHEREAS the Ministry has not provided students with disabilities, additional learning needs and/or challenging behaviours with the requisite support networks, and equal opportunities needed to achieve their full potential;

AND WHEREAS the lack of adequate funding, policies and specialist staff is reflected in the poor performance of students;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to commit to the allocation of adequate funding, reform of the appropriate legislation and revision of policies designed to ensure that all children with special needs are provided with equal educational opportunities to other students;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Ministry of Education immediately initiate and implement a comprehensive strategy to assist all children with disabilities, additional learning needs and/or challenging behaviours.

(By Senator Paul Richards)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)

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PORT OF SPAIN

December 13, 2018

ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY DECEMBER 18, 2018

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

***Question No. 49 to the Minister of Public Administration**

(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 30.11.2018)

Senate Secretariat
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* Question No. 49 was deferred for two weeks on 04.12.2018



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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)
Can the Minister inform the Senate what measures are being taken to address the poor quality of food currently being served to members of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND ENERGY INDUSTRIES:**
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of recent protests by former temporary and casual workers of Petrotrin because of the non-payment of severance or back pay, can the Minister state, if and/or when these workers will be paid?

3. **TO THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND ENERGY INDUSTRIES:**
(By Senator Paul Richards)
Given the public concern since the announcement of the cessation of sale of 'regular gasoline' on the local market, can the Minister advise as to why this has been put in place?

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