



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JANUARY 15, 2019 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
 - (i) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of National Security to the Eighth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on an examination of the perceived inequality faced by Single Fathers in Trinidad and Tobago with specific focus on custody matters, policies and access to Programmes and Services.
(By the Minister of National Security)
 - (ii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of National Security to the Ninth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on an Inquiry into the Treatment of Detainees and Conditions at Holding Cells in Trinidad and Tobago Police Stations.
(By the Minister of National Security)
 - (iii) The Annual Report of the Police Service Commission for the year 2015.
(By the Vice-President)
 - (iv) The Annual Report of the Police Service Commission for the year 2016.
(By the Vice-President)
 - (v) The Annual Report of the Public Service Commission for the year 2017.
(By the Vice-President)
 - (vi) The Annual Administrative Report of the National Flour Mills Limited (NFM) for the year ended December 31, 2017.
(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)
 - (vii) The Consolidated Audited Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards for the year ended September 30, 2017.
(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)

- (viii) The Unconsolidated Audited Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards for the year ended September 30, 2017.
(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)
- (ix) The Annual Report of the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority for the period 2017 to 2018.
(By the Minister of Works and Transport)
- (x) The Annual Report of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TAATI) for the year 2017.
(By the Minister of Public Administration)
- (xi) The Consolidated Audited Financial Statements of Union Estate Electricity Generation Company Limited for the year ended December 31, 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (xii) The Annual Report of the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre Management Company Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2018.
(By the Minister of Finance)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- (i) The Third Report of the Joint Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on the Circumstances surrounding Trinidad and Tobago's vote at the Permanent Council, Organisation of American States (OAS) on the Request by the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica for a waiver of its contribution to the annual budget of the OAS on March 23, 2018.
(By Senator Dr. Maria Dillon-Remy)

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 13 to the Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)

During the period September 2015 to September 2018 how many persons have been admitted into the State Witness Protection Programme?

***Question No. 14 to the Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)

How many police officers are currently on suspension pending the outcome of the following:

- (i) Criminal Investigations; and
- (ii) Departmental/ Internal disciplinary investigations?

*Questions Nos. 13 and 14 were deferred for two weeks on 11.12.2018

***Question No. 15 to the Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Gerald Ramdeen)

How many murder accused at the State Prison are currently awaiting trial having been committed to so stand?

***Question No. 36 to the Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In the aftermath of the events of 2015 whereby the keys at the Port-of-Spain Prison went missing for almost twenty-four hours, can the Minister indicate why the locks at said Prison have remained unchanged?

***Question No. 37 to the Minister of Social Development and Family Services**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports that over a recent six (6) month period, approximately seventy-two (72) senior citizens at privately owned geriatric homes were victims of abuse, can the Minister state what measures are being taken to protect this group of citizens?

Question No. 38 to the Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports of the shortage of spare parts to repair PTSC Buses and the impact that this has been having on the travelling public, can the Minister indicate what is being done to rectify this problem?

Question No. 39 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

How many persons have died as a result of confrontations with the police over the last five (5) years?

Question No. 40 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister inform the Senate of the number of matters involving police killings that have been forwarded for a Coroner's Inquest?

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. 73 to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries**

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Having regard to recent reports of a number of cattle from South America being brought into the country via the South Western Peninsula, can the Minister indicate:

- i. whether the necessary approvals were sought and obtained; and
- ii. if yes, whether any health and safety concerns that may arise were taken into account?

* Questions No. 15 was deferred for two weeks on 11.12.2018

* Questions Nos. 36, 37 and 73 were deferred for two weeks on 19.12.2018

* Question No. 69 was deferred for two weeks on 18.12.2018

Question No. 83 to the Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Dr. Varma Deyalsingh)

Having regard to the October/November flooding in East, Central and South Trinidad, can the Minister indicate when last the major rivers in the said areas were dredged?

Question No. 84 to the Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Dr. Varma Deyalsingh)

Can the Minister advise whether consideration is being given to installing automatic sluice gates and pumps in the following areas:

- i. Greenvale Park, La Horquetta;
- ii. El Socorro South; and
- iii. Real Springs, Valsayn South; and
- iv. if the answer to (i), (ii) and (iii) is in the affirmative, when will said automatic sluice gates be installed?

Question No. 85 to the Minister of Planning and Development

(By Senator Dr. Varma Deyalsingh)

Having regard to the land use policy and guidelines for the ratio of 'green space' in housing developments, can the Minister advise what is being done to ensure compliance to said policy by developers?

Question No. 87 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Can the Minister indicate whether Scotiabank Trinidad and Tobago will be affected by the recent withdrawal of the Bank from several Caribbean territories?

Question No. 88 to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

(By Senator Paul Richards)

In light of the report that the carcasses of five (5) Scarlet Ibis birds were discovered in the possession of poachers at the Caroni Bird Sanctuary, can the Minister state what measures are being taken to protect the national bird?

Question No. 89 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

Given the Minister's statements made in this Senate on November 20, 2018 in relation to the potential impact on fence line communities following the termination of jobs at Petrotrin, can the Minister indicate the details of any projects already undertaken and those yet to be introduced by the Government to cushion this impact on said communities, including:

- (i) the estimated number of fence line community members targeted for these projects;
- (ii) the estimated cost of these projects; and
- (iii) whether any counselling services will be offered to fence line communities as part of said projects?

Question No. 101 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Anita Haynes)

With regard to reports indicating that there exists over 500 derelict police vehicles, can the Minister indicate whether the Government intends to refurbish said vehicles and when?

Question No. 104 to the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

Having regard to reports that over one hundred Cuban nationals seeking asylum in this country are currently housed in a warehouse in Warrenville, Central Trinidad, what measures have been taken by the Government to assist said asylum seekers?

Question No. 105 to the Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

In light of the December 2018 announcement by Australian Shipbuilder, Austal that it has entered into an AU\$97m contract with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to design and build a 94metre, high-speed catamaran, can the Minister provide details of the agreement, complete with a copy of the contract?

Question No. 106 to the Minister of Works and Transport

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

Having regard to reports that ceiling panels from the Galleons Passage fell and caused damage to several vehicles being transported to Tobago, can the Minister indicate the cost to the State to repair said vehicles?

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 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)
- (ii) 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)
- (iii) 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)

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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Level 3, Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN**

January 09, 2019

ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY JANUARY 15, 2019

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 - Standing Order 27(16) invoked on 18.12.2018



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ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT
TUESDAY JANUARY 15, 2019 AT 1:30 P.M.

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 Minister concerned.

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

In light of reports that the Police Service is unable to procure critical goods and services because of a lack of funds, can the Minister indicate when this situation will be rectified?

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

In light of recent reports that criminals are in possession of Trinidad and Tobago Police Service ammunition, what measures are being taken to address this situation?

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