



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
**ORDER PAPER**

ELEVENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

MONDAY JANUARY 21, 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 Annual Report of the Heritage and Stabilisation Fund for the year 2018.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
  - (ii) The Telecommunications (Universal Service) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019.  
**(By the Minister of Public Utilities)**
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. 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?

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\*Questions Nos. 13, 14 and 15 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. 41 to the Minister of National Security**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Can the Minister inform the Senate of the following:

- i. the reason(s) for the non-implementation of Police Body Cameras; and
- ii. when and how will this technology be rolled out in the TIPS?

**Question No. 42 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of the recent flooding in the Greenvale Housing Development, can the Minister indicate whether consideration is being given to relocating the residents?

**Question No. 43 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Given the recent flooding at the Greenvale Housing Development, is the Government considering establishing a Commission of Inquiry to determine the following:

- i. the cause of the flooding;
- ii. who should be held responsible for the losses incurred; and
- iii. how can a reoccurrence be prevented?

**Question No. 86 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

**(By Senator Dr. Varma Deyalsingh)**

Can the Minister advise whether counseling services will continue to be offered to former Petrotrin workers and their families, via the newly formed entities' Employee Assistance Programme, in order to continue to assist these former workers in transitioning?

**Question No. 107 to the Minister of Works and Transport**

**(By Senator Saddam Hosein)**

Can the Minister advise the Senate as to the policy in place and the protocols effected by the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the arrival and departure of Ministers of Government and other Members of Parliament, at the Piarco International Airport?

**Question No. 108 to the Minister of Works and Transport**

**(By Senator Saddam Hosein)**

Can the Minister indicate if pursuant to the Shipping Act, Chap. 50:10, any exemptions were granted to the Galleons Passage for its certification?

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\* Questions No. 36 was deferred for two weeks on 19.12.2018

**Question No. 109 to the Prime Minister**

**(By Senator Saddam Hosein)**

Having regard to the statements made by the Chairman of Sandals that Trinidad and Tobago owes his company money, can the Prime Minister state the amount of monies that the Government owes to Sandals?

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 Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) Act, 2011 (Act No. 20 of 2011)'.  
**(By the Attorney General)**

**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.)**

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

**January 17, 2019**



**ORDER PAPER – MONDAY JANUARY 21, 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  
Office of the Parliament  
Level 3, Tower D  
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PORT OF SPAIN**

**January 17, 2019**

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\* Question No. 49 - Standing Order 27(16) invoked on 18.12.2018



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**ELEVENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)**

**ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**MONDAY JANUARY 21, 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 Ministers concerned.

1. **TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of reports that T&T Birth Certificates are being sold to non-nationals, can the Attorney General state what is being done to address this issue?

2. **TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Given reports that approximately 147 T&T Birth Certificates have been illegally altered during the period May 2016 to November 15, 2018, can the Attorney General indicate what steps are being taken to retrieve these Birth Certificates?

3. **TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Having regard to recent reports of Government's non-payment of full tuition and other fees for additional Scholars studying in Jamaica, can the Minister indicate when will said payments be made?

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