



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWELFTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JANUARY 22, 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 Public Administration to the Eleventh Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on an Examination of the Administration and Expenditure of the Ministry of Public Administration and Communications.  
**(By the Minister of Public Administration)**
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. 44 to the Minister of Planning and Development**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Can the Minister indicate whether the Town and Country Planning Division had, at any time in the past, refused planning permission for the development of a housing community in the area now known as the Greenvale Housing Development, and if so, when and why?

**Question No. 45 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Can the Minister provide the Senate with the names of the original developer of the Greenvale Estate and the cost paid by the Government to acquire the estate from that developer?

**Question No. 46 to the Minister of Education**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Having regard to the public statement made in June 2018 by the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association (TTUTA) that teachers will be asked to withhold their labour if the Chief

Personnel Officer fails to commence wage negotiations within the coming months, can the Minister indicate:

- i. have negotiations commenced;
  - ii. if not, when are they expected to commence; and
  - iii. what measures have been put in place to avert possible industrial action if such negotiations are not commenced?
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) **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)**

## 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)**

**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 21, 2019



**ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY JANUARY 22, 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)**

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



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**ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**TUESDAY JANUARY 22, 2019 AT 1:30 P.M.**

**NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTION**

The under-mentioned Question which has been accepted by the President in accordance with Standing Order 25 is hereby forwarded for the attention of the Minister concerned.

1. **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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