



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

THIRTEENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JANUARY 29, 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 Planning and Development 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 Planning and Development)**
  - (ii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Finance to the Interim Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on the Processing of Payment of Pensions and Gratuity to Retired Public Officers and Contracted Employees.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
  - (iii) The Annual Administrative Report of the Ministry of National Security for the period October 2014 to September 2015.  
**(By the Minister of National Security)**
  - (iv) The Annual Administrative Report of the Ministry of National Security for the period October 2015 to September 2016.  
**(By the Minister of National Security)**
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. 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. 47 to the Minister of Works and Transport**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

As regard the Curepe Interchange Project, can the Minister inform the Senate of the following:

- i. has there been agreement between the Government and all of the homeowners who must be relocated for the building of the interchange;
- ii. if yes, how many families have been affected;
- iii. what has been the cost of the relocation/acquisition;
- iv. is the project on schedule to meet its completion date; and
- v. what is that date?

**Question No. 61 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Having regard to the Minister's public statement that the closure of the Petrotrin Refinery was informed by HSB Solomon & Associates and the McKinsey & Company reports, does the Government intend to lay said reports in the Parliament, and if so, when?

**Question No. 62 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Having regard to the human resource constraints that exist at the Minerals Division of the Ministry and the impact on the Division's ability to properly manage Mining Licences and exercise effective regulatory controls, what is being done to increase the complement of staff in the Division?

**\*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?

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

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\* Questions Nos. 39, 40 and 101 were deferred for two weeks on 15.01.2019

15. PUBLIC BUSINESS

**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**Bills Second Reading:**

- (i) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) Act, 2011 (Act No. 20 of 2011)'.  
**(By the Attorney General)**
- (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 January 22, 2019 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 24, 2019



**ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY JANUARY 29, 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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**January 24, 2019**

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



**SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
THIRTEENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)**

**ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**TUESDAY JANUARY 29, 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 the United States Embassy's request that all prospective applicants for US Visas must possess computer generated birth certificates, can the Attorney General advise as to what is the state of readiness to deal with this matter?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND ENERGY INDUSTRIES**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of the US Government's decision to impose sanctions on the Venezuelan oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PDVSA), can the Minister state what impact this decision is likely to have on the recently concluded Dragon Gas Deal?

3. **TO THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of the recent closure of the Cedros Port due to an overflowing cesspit, can the Minister inform this Senate what measures are being taken to rectify this problem?

4. **TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Can the Minister advise as to when the Board of Inland Revenue will be implementing the increase in the exemption on stamp duties for first time home owners as passed in the 2019 Budget?

5. **TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

In light of TTUTA's legal action in respect of School Based Assessments, can the Minister advise as to what impact if any this action is having on the students?

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