



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

NINETEENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY MARCH 26, 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 Response of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the Twentieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee, Third Session (2017/2018), Eleventh Parliament on the Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial year 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (ii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the North-West Regional Health Authority for the year ended September 30, 2008.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iii) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the North-West Regional Health Authority for the year ended September 30, 2009.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (iv) The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the North-West Regional Health Authority for the year ended September 30, 2010.
(By the Minister of Finance)
 - (v) The Annual Report of the Police Service Commission for the year 2017.
(By the Vice-President)
 - (vi) The Delegation Report on the World E-Parliament Conference, 2018 held in Geneva, Switzerland on December 3-5, 2018.
(By the Vice-President)

(vii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs to 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, 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 the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs)

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. 78 to the Minister of Social Development and Family Services**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister inform the Senate of the measures implemented to avoid the perpetrating of fraud in the granting/obtaining of state assistance arising from flooding and natural disasters?

Question No. 90 to the Prime Minister

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the December 02, 2018 discovery of the body of a 13 year old boy from Longdenville, Chaguanas, what new measures are being implemented to protect the nation's children?

Question No. 91 to the Minister of Social Development and Family Services

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the displacement of twelve families from Sea Lots as a result of a fire, can the Minister indicate what measures are being taken to address the immediate needs of the displaced families, inclusive of housing accommodation?

Question No. 92 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to the claims made by the President of the Trinidad and Tobago Registered Nurses Association that inexperienced nursing staff are being used to replace experienced staff at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, North Central Regional Health Authority, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. whether an investigation has been launched into said claims; and
- ii. if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what are the findings of the investigation?

Question No. 134 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Can the Minister indicate the size of the country's overdraft in each month of fiscal year 2018?

* Question No. 78 was deferred for two weeks on 12.03.2019

Question No. 135 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Can the Minister advise as to the following, in United States Dollars:

- (i) how much revenue was generated from crude oil exports for the months of December 2018 and January 2019; and
- (ii) how much was spent on importing each of the refined petroleum products namely - Super, Diesel, Premium, Kerosene, Aviation Fuel and Bitumen for the months of December 2018 and January 2019?

Question No. 136 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Can the Minister advise as to the amount of dividends taken from Phoenix Park Gas Processors Limited over the following periods:

- (i) September 8th 2015 – December 31st 2015;
- (ii) January 1st 2016 – December 31st 2016;
- (iii) January 1st 2017 – December 31st 2017; and
- (iv) January 1st 2018 – December 31st 2018?

Question No. 170 to the Minister of Trade and Industry

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

Can the Minister indicate the amount of monies paid to the respective parties via management and/or licensing agreements in each year during the period 2016 to 2018 for the following:

- i. Magdalena Grand Hotel;
- ii. HYATT Regency Hotel; and
- iii. Trinidad Hilton Hotel?

Question No. 171 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

Having regard to the proposed new Diego Martin Health Centre, can the Minister provide the following:

- i. the total cost of the project;
- ii. the name of the contractor(s) awarded the contract; and
- iii. the scheduled completion date of the project?

Question No. 172 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

As regard Firearm Users Licences, for the period September 30, 2015 to January 31, 2019, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. how many applications were received by the Commissioner of Police; and
- ii. how many of the applications referred to in (i) have been approved?

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) **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)

- (ii) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday March 12, 2019 will be resumed:**

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)

- (iii) **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)

- (iv) **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)

- (v) **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)

- (vi) **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)

- (vii) **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)

- (viii) **WHEREAS** the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01 provides for the establishment of commissions to manage the conduct of enquires into public officers, departments and matters of public welfare;

AND WHEREAS Commissions of Enquiry are recognized as an important tool for social investigation in contemporary society, an effective mechanism for delivering truth, justice and social or organizational reform, and a device for inquiring into and ameliorating matters of public concern;

AND WHEREAS successive Government administrations have failed to adequately address public concerns which have arisen from time to time on whether the Commissions of Enquiry in Trinidad and Tobago have been effectively and efficiently carrying out their mandate;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Senate call on the Government to review the Commissions of Enquiry Act, Chap. 19:01 and the public inquiry process in Trinidad and Tobago.

(By Senator Anthony Vieira)

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Motions:

- (i) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 5(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Chap. 58:01 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the President may by Order, declare that land is required for a public purpose;

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 5(2) of the Act that Parliament may by resolution approve an Order made under section 5(1);

AND WHEREAS the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2018 was made by the President under section 5(1) of the Act as Legal Notice No. 190 dated the 19th day of December, 2018:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the said Order;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2018 be approved.

(By the Attorney General)

- (ii) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 5(1) of the Land Acquisition Act, Chap. 58:01 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the President may by Order, declare that land is required for a public purpose;

AND WHEREAS it is provided by section 5(2) of the Act that Parliament may by resolution approve an Order made under section 5(1);

AND WHEREAS the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2019 was made by the President under section 5(1) of the Act as Legal Notice No. 34 dated the 18th day of February, 2019;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the said Order:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Land Acquisition (Requisition) Order, 2019 be approved.
(By the Attorney General)

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 Evidence Act, Chap. 7:02’.
(By the Attorney General)
- (iv) A Bill entitled, ‘An Act to repeal the Livestock and Livestock Products Board Act, Chap. 67:05’.
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

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

March 20, 2019

ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY MARCH 26, 2019

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

***Question No. 164 to the Minister of National Security**

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Having regard to claims of a lack of medical care being provided to detainees at the Immigration Detention Centre, can the Minister indicate:

- i. whether said claims have been investigated; and
- ii. if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, can the Minister advise as to the findings of such investigations?

(Answer due by 16.03.2019)

Question No. 188 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries

(By Senator Wade Mark)

As regard the Trinidad Petroleum Holdings Ltd., the Heritage Petroleum Company Ltd., the Paria Fuel Trading Company Ltd. and the Guaracara Refining Company Ltd., for the period December 01, 2018 to February 28, 2019, can the Minister advise as to the following:

- i. the names of the persons hired by each of the companies over the said period;
- ii. the names of the companies hired/contracted by each of the abovementioned companies over the said period;
- iii. the amount of monies paid to each of the persons/companies referred to in (i) and (ii) above; and
- iv. the processes by which the services of the persons/companies referred to in (i) and (ii) above were recruited/procured?

(Answer due by 30.03.2019)

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

March 20, 2019

* Question No. 164 was deferred for two weeks on 19.03.2019



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

NINETHEENTH SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY MARCH 26, 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 MINISTER OF FOREIGN AND CARICOM AFFAIRS**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports that Trinidad and Tobago participated in a video conference with Mr. Juan Guaido, of Venezuela, can the Minister advise as to whether this represents a change of policy?

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

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of Government's denial of any decision to sell Paria Fuel Trading Company to Simpson Oil Limited, is it the Government intention to sell said Company to Parkland Fuel Corporation of Alberta, Canada?

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

(By Senator Paul Richards)

Given reports that the Trinidad based relatives of Venezuelans who were denied entry into the county, have engaged in acts of intimidation against Immigration Officers, how does the Government intend to address the safety concerns of these Officers?

4. **TO THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given reports that the Diego Martin Regional Corporation has run out of money causing workers to have their workdays reduced, what urgent measures are being effected to immediately rectify this situation?

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

March 26, 2019