



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**ORDER PAPER**

THIRTY-SECOND SITTING, FOURTH SESSION (2018/2019)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JUNE 11, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M.

1. PRAYERS
2. OATH OR AFFIRMATION
3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT
4. BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5. PETITIONS
6. PAPERS
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- (i) The Twelfth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Local Authorities, Service Commissions and Statutory Authorities (including the THA) on an Inquiry into Occupational Safety and Health Compliance within the Public Service.  
**(Senator Nigel De Freitas)**

8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX**

**Questions for Oral Answer**

**Question No. 158 to the Minister of Works and Transport**  
**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of reports that criminal elements have been intimidating female MTS Security Officers assigned to Primary Schools in the Maracas/St. Joseph district, can the Minister indicate what is being done to address this issue?

**Question No. 159 to the Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts**  
**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of the financial challenges and lack of sponsorship being experienced by Steelbands within recent times, can the Minister indicate what steps are being taken to ensure future sponsorship of these bands?

**Question No. 160 to the Minister of Health**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Can the Minister indicate what measures are needed to improve the National Cancer Registry which is essential to data gathering and policy making?

**Question No. 259 to the Minister of National Security**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

Can the Minister advise as to the number of Venezuelan nationals who are incarcerated/detained in our nation's prisons as at April 15<sup>th</sup> 2019?

**Question No. 260 to the Minister of Trade and Industry**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

Can the Minister indicate why the draft Trade Policy remains to be finalised as at March 31, 2019?

**Question No. 261 to the Minister of Finance**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

As regard the Manta Lodge and Sanctuary Villa properties in Tobago, can the Minister indicate the following:

- (i) the dates of the acquisition of each property; and
- (ii) the total money spent to acquire and outfit each property?

**Question No. 273 to the Minister of National Security**

**(By Senator Paul Richards)**

As regard persons detained at the Immigration Detention Centre, as at April 30, 2019, can the Minister provide the following:

- (i) the number of detainees at the facility;
- (ii) the nationalities of the detainees referred to in (i); and
- (iii) a breakdown by percentage of the nationalities referred to in (ii)?

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

### 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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)**

- (iii) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 38(1) of the Tobacco Control Act, Chap. 30:04 (hereinafter called “the Act”) that the Minister may make Regulations prescribing requirements and standards for tobacco product constituents, including emissions of smoked products, additives and product design and specifying methods for testing and measuring compliance with the performance prescribed and generally for carrying out the purpose of this Act:

**AND WHEREAS** it is also provided by section 38(1) of the Act that Regulations made under that section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament:

**AND WHEREAS** the Minister has on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019 made the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 (hereinafter called “the Regulations”):

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient that the Regulations now be affirmed:

**BE IT RESOLVED** That the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Regulations, 2019 be approved.

**(By the Minister of Health)**

### **Bills Second Reading:**

- (i) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Bail Act, Chap.4:60.'  
**(By the Attorney General)**
- (ii) **The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday April 02, 2019 will be resumed:**  
A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Evidence Act, Chap. 7:02'.  
**(By the Attorney General)**
- (iii) 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)**
- (iv) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Firearms Act, Chap. 16:01.'  
**(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 May 28, 2019 will be resumed:**  
**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)**
- (ii) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday March 26, 2019 will be resumed:**  
**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)**

- (iii) **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)**

- (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** 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** 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)**

**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**  
**June 07, 2019**

**ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY JUNE 11, 2019**  
**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

**Question No. 269 to the Attorney General**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

With regard to the payment for legal and technical services made to persons/agencies by the Office of the Attorney General for the period September 07, 2015 to April 30, 2019, can the Attorney General provide the following information:

- (i) the names, dates and amounts paid to each person/agency;
- (ii) the matter(s) to which each payment relates; and
- (iii) the number of outstanding payments as at April 2019?

**(Answer due by 14.06.2019)**

**Question No. 270 to the Minister of Health**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

As regard suppliers and service providers who are owed monies by the North Central Regional Health Authority, in excess of ninety (90) days, can the Minister provide the following:

- (i) the names of said suppliers and service providers;
- (ii) the dates on which the debts were contracted; and
- (iii) the dates by which payment would be made?

**(Answer due by 14.06.2019)**

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Office of the Parliament  
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**June 07, 2019**



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**ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**TUESDAY JUNE 11, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M.**

**NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS**

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 HEALTH**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of the outstanding debt of \$2.3M to the St Augustine Private Hospital for dialysis services, can the Minister advise what will be done to avoid a discontinuation of treatment to dialysis patients?

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**June 11, 2019**