



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

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

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

MONDAY JUNE 24, 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 Audited Financial Statements of InvesTT Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2018.
(By the Minister of Finance)
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. 183 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given the statement made by the Commissioner of Police indicating an intention to recruit Police Officers on contract, can the Minister advise as to the Government's position on this matter?

Question No. 184 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of claims that Government contracts have been given to alleged gang leaders, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. whether said claims have been investigated; and
- ii. if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what are the findings?

Question No. 185 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports that a patient at a private medical institution in San Fernando received an overdose of radiation during a routine CT scan, can the Minister indicate:

- i. whether this matter has been brought to the attention of the Minister;
- ii. if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, has an investigation been launched; and
- iii. what remedies exist to protect patients in similar circumstances?

Question No. 283 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Paul Richards)

Can the Minister advise as to whether Venezuelan criminals were involved in financial crimes at the ATMs of a local financial institution in the months of May and/or June, 2019?

Question No. 285 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By Senator Anita Haynes)

With regard to the recent agreement between the Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation (HDC) and the China Gezhouba Group International Engineering Co. Ltd. (CGGC), can the Minister indicate:

- (i) the commencement date of the construction of 235 housing units at Lady Hailes Avenue, San Fernando;
- (ii) the commencement date of the construction of 204 housing units in Port of Spain; and
- (iii) the anticipated completion dates for the units mentioned in (i) and (ii) above?

Question No. 286 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By Senator Anita Haynes)

With regard to the recent agreement between the Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation (HDC) and the China Gezhouba Group International Engineering Co. Ltd. (CGGC), can the Minister indicate:

- (i) the prospective dates for the distribution of the housing units in San Fernando and Port of Spain; and
- (ii) the full and subsidised prices for each of the units referred to in (i) above?

Question No. 290 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

In light of the response given to Senate Question No. 226 that the overdraft with the Central Bank (CBTT) as at September 2018 was TT \$9.86bn whilst it was recorded as TT \$13.65bn in the Auditor's General Report 2018, can the Minister provide details on the conflicting figures?

Question No. 291 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

Given that the Exchequer Account has been in deficit since fiscal 2003, what is the Government's medium-term strategy to reduce this deficit?

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 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)

- (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 29th 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 Petroleum Act, Chap. 62:01, the Petroleum Production Levy and Subsidy Act, Chap. 62:02 and the Income Tax Act, Chap. 75:01.
(By the Minister of Finance)
- (ii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Firearms Act, Chap. 16:01'.
(By the Attorney General)
- (iii) **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)
- (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)

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 18, 2019

ORDER PAPER – MONDAY JUNE 24, 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. 276 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister provide the following information on his official overseas travel for the period September 2015 to April 2019:

- (i) the names of the countries visited and the purposes of each visit;
- (ii) the period of time spent in each country;
- (iii) the names of the hotels at which the Minister stayed on each occasion and the costs of accommodation;
- (iv) the return airfare on each occasion referred to in (i);
- (v) the names of the persons who accompanied the Minister on each occasion;
- (vi) the costs associated with the travel and other expenses of the [persons referred to in (v); and
- (vii) the names of the officials with whom the Minister met on each travel engagement?

(Answer due by 29.06.2019)

Question No. 277 to the Attorney General

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Attorney General provide the following information on his official overseas travel for the period September 2015 to April 2019:

- (i) the names of the countries visited and the purposes of each visit;
- (ii) the period of time spent in each country;
- (iii) the names of the hotels at which the Attorney General stayed on each occasion and the costs of accommodation;
- (iv) the return airfare on each occasion referred to in (i);
- (v) the names of the persons who accompanied the Attorney General on each occasion;
- (vi) the costs associated with the travel and other expenses of the [persons referred to in (v); and
- (vii) the names of the officials with whom the Attorney General met on each travel engagement?

(Answer due by 29.06.2019)

* Question No.269 was deferred for two weeks on 17.06.2019

Question No. 278 to the Minister of State in the Ministry of the Attorney General

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Can the Minister provide the following information on his official overseas travel for the period September 2015 to April 2019:

- (i) the names of the countries visited and the purposes of each visit;
- (ii) the period of time spent in each country;
- (iii) the names of the hotels at which the Minister stayed on each occasion and the costs of accommodation;
- (iv) the return airfare on each occasion referred to in (i);
- (v) the names of the persons who accompanied the Minister on each occasion;
- (vi) the costs associated with the travel and other expenses of the [persons referred to in (v)]; and
- (vii) the names of the officials with whom the Minister met on each travel engagement?

(Answer due by 29.06.2019)

Question No. 282 to the Minister of Planning and Development

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

With respect to the draft National Innovation Policy which was drafted in 2017, can the Minister provide the status of the draft policy, including:

- (i) the key elements of the approved policy;
- (ii) the estimated timeframe by which the Government intends to implement said policy;
- (iii) the main challenges faced with respect to the implementation of said policy; and
- (iv) the activities to be completed prior to the implementation of said policy?

(Answer due by 29.06.2019)

Question No. 287 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By Senator Anita Haynes)

In relation to the statements issued by the Minister of Finance on Monday May 13, 2019 in relation to the Housing and Village Improvement Programme, can the Minister provide the following information:

- (i) the commencement dates of the projects in the Moruga, San Fernando West, St. Joseph and Toco/Sangre Grande constituencies;
- (ii) the publication dates of the invitations to tender with regard to each project;
- (iii) the names of the entities that were awarded the contracts;
- (iv) the expected total costs for each project; and
- (v) the names and addresses of each successful applicant in the constituencies identified in (i) above?

(Answer due by 29.06.2019)

Question No. 288 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By Senator Anita Haynes)

With regard to the Minister of Finance's announcement that the Government will engage in public-private-partnership arrangements for the construction of multiple housing units, can the Minister indicate:

- (i) whether the US \$75 million loan from the International Finance Corporation by Republic Bank will be used to finance said construction projects;
- (ii) where will these units be constructed;
- (iii) the number of units to be constructed; and

(iv) the anticipated completion date of the construction of said units?

(Answer due by 29.06.2019)

Question No. 289 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

Given that the net overdraft with the Central Bank (CBTT) has moved from TT \$6.6bn in October 2017 to TT \$10.4bn as at May 24, 2019, can the Minister indicate the following:

- (i) the net overdraft as a percentage of total available balances at the CBTT as at May 24, 2019;
- (ii) the strategy to reduce said overdraft with the CBTT;
- (iii) when does the Government intend to settle the overdraft in accordance with Section 46(3) of the CBTT Act; and
- (iv) whether government revenue or loan resources are being used to finance the repayment of the overdraft?

(Answer due by 29.06.2019)

Question No. 296 to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

Having regard to the use of the Ministry's compound for the Farmers' Market, can the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of the following:

- (i) the cost of the tents used for the Farmers' Market;
- (ii) the number of times the tents were rented for said events;
- (iii) the name of the company/person that provides said tents;
- (iv) the procurement process used to select the company/person to provide the tents;
- (v) the date on which the contract was entered into with the tent provider and the duration of same; and
- (vi) the amounts of money invoiced and/or paid by the Ministry to the company/person for the provision of tents?

(Answer due by 05.07.2019)

Question No. 297 to the Attorney General

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

Having regard to contract employment in the Children and Family Division and the Criminal Division of the Judiciary, can the Attorney General provide the following information:

- (i) the names and designations of all persons employed/recruited on contract;
- (ii) the date on which these persons referred to in (i) were hired; and
- (iii) details of the compensation packages of each person referred to in (i)?

(Answer due by 05.07.2019)

Question No. 299 to the Minister of Public Administration

(By Senator Saddam Hosein)

Having regard to the buildings/office spaces being rented by the State during the period September 2015 to May 2019, can the Minister provide the following information for each rental agreement:

- (i) the building and address that is rented;
- (ii) the name of the owners of the building;
- (iii) the purpose for renting the building;
- (iv) the cost per month to rent the building;
- (v) the date on which the lease agreement was entered into; and
- (vi) the period of each lease agreement?

(Answer due by 05.07.2019)

Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
Level 3, Tower D
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June 18, 2019



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

MONDAY JUNE 24, 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 Minister concerned.

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

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of concerns by the US State Department that Trinidad and Tobago has not met the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking, can the Minister advise what measures are being taken to improve this country's Tier 2 Level rating?

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

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In respect of Trinidad and Tobago's Tier 2 Level rating in the 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report, can the Minister state how soon will a Director of the Counter Trafficking Unit be appointed?

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

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of recent reports of illegal land occupation by Venezuelan and Columbian migrants in Brickfield, Carapichaima, can the Minister verify whether these reports are being investigated?

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Level 3, Tower D
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