SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

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

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 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 Report of the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (CBTT) with respect to the Progress of the Proposals to Restructure CLICO, BAT and CIB for the quarter ended June 30, 2019.
   (By the Minister of Finance)

   (ii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Public Administration to the Twenty-Second Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial years 2010 to 2016.
   (By the Minister of Public Administration)

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

   (i) The Twentieth Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on an examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheets and other Financial Statements of the Palo Seco Agricultural Enterprises Limited for the financial years 2012 to 2017.
   (By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

   (ii) The Twenty-Second Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on an examination of the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheets and other Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Limited (CreativeTT) for the financial years 2014 and 2015.
   (By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

   (iii) The Twenty-Third Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee, Fourth Session (2018/2019), Eleventh Parliament on an examination of the Audited Financial Statements of InvesTT Limited for the years 2014 to 2017.
   (By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 207 to the Minister of Community Development, Culture and the Arts
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of the advanced state of dilapidation of Lion's House which is listed by the National Trust as a heritage site, can the Minister state what measures are being taken to preserve this historical building?

Question No. 208 to the Minister of Public Utilities
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Having regard to a recently published UN Report which revealed that desalination plants are 'pumping far more salt-laden brine into the sea' thereby posing a major risk to ocean life and the marine ecosystem, can the Minister state what measures are being taken to address threats to this country's environment?

Question No. 209 to the Minister of National Security
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of a number of recent fires in the Cedros community and the petition signed by residents requesting the construction of a fire station, can the Minister state whether the Government intends to facilitate said request?

Question No. 318 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries
(By Senator Taharqa Obika)
As regard the Petroleum Regulations made under section 29 of the Petroleum Act, Chap. 62:01, can the Minister advise:

(i) whether a Petroleum Register has been instituted;
(ii) whether the documents referred to in the Register are available to the public for examination;
(iii) if the answer to (ii) is in the affirmative; what mechanisms are available for the public to access said documents; and
(iv) what is the waiting period for persons to gain access to said documents?

Question No. 319 to the Minister of Finance
(By Senator Taharqa Obika)
As regard the Unemployment Levy, can the Minister provide the sums received by the State for fiscal years 2016, 2017 and 2018?

Question No. 320 to the Minister of Health
(By Senator Taharqa Obika)
Can the Minister advise as to the policy of the Blood Bank with respect to donors who suffered with malaria in the past?

Question No. 323 to the Minister of Finance
(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)
Having regard to the public expenditure review conducted by the World Bank, can the Minister state:

(i) whether it is the intention of the Government to make the Report public; and
(ii) what are the main areas of inefficiencies and duplications identified in the Report, specifically with respect to the Ministries of Social Development and Family Services, Health and Education?

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 repeal the Livestock and Livestock Products Board Act, Chap. 67:05'.
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

(ii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act. Chap. 48:50'.
(By the Attorney General)

(iii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Animals (Diseases and Importation) Act, Chap. 67:02'.
(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 June 25, 2019 will be resumed:**

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)

(ii) **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)

(iii) **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)

(iv) **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)

(v) **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)

(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.)

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PORT OF SPAIN
September 18, 2019

APPENDIX

ORDER PAPER – WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2019
QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

***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)

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September 18, 2019

[*] Question No. 276 - Standing Order 27(16) invoked on 11.09.2019