



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**ORDER PAPER**

SIXTH SITTING, FIFTH SESSION (2019/2020)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 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 Attorney General and Legal Affairs to the Twelfth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Trinidad and Tobago with specific focus on Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.  
**(By the Attorney General)**
  - (ii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Education to the Twelfth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Trinidad and Tobago with specific focus on Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.  
**(By the Minister of Education)**
  - (iii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Health to the Twelfth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Trinidad and Tobago with specific focus on Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.  
**(By the Minister of Health)**
  - (iv) The Minimum Wages (Amendment) Order, 2019.  
**(By the Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development)**
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. 4 to the Minister of National Security**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of reports that Shaquille Forbes sustained serious injuries as a result of a vehicular accident involving members of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, can the Minister indicate:

- i. whether an investigation has been conducted into the circumstances surrounding the accident
- ii. if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what were the results of the investigation; and
- iii. what measures, if any, are being taken to compensate the civilian?

**Question No. 5 to the Attorney General**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of concerns regarding the proposed reorganization of the Judiciary, can the Attorney General advise whether it is the Government's intention to undertake discussions with the representing trade union(s)?

**Question No. 6 to the Minister of Planning and Development**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Given reports that a land developer has blocked water courses and bulldozed large sections of the forests in Granville, Cedros, which may have an adverse environmental impact, can the Minister state what measures are being employed by the Government to treat with this matter?

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**

**Bills Second Reading:**

- (i) **The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday November 12, 2019 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Bail Act, Chap. 4:60'.

**(By the Attorney General)**

- (ii) 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)**

- (iii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act. Chap. 48:50'.

**(By the Attorney General)**

- (iv) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Animals (Diseases and Importation) Act, Chap. 67:02'.  
**(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)**
- (v) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Copyright Act, Chap.82:80, to give effect to the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons who are Blind, Visually Impaired or otherwise Print Disabled and to the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances'.  
**(By the Attorney General)**
- (iv) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Criminal Law Act, Chap.10:04, the Prisons Act, Chap. 13:01, the Police Service Act, Chap. 15:01, the Immigration Act, Chap. 18:01, the Fire Service Act, Chap. 35:50 and the Customs Act, Chap. 78:01'.  
**(By the Minister of National Security)**

### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

#### **Motions:**

- (i) **WHEREAS** following a year of negotiations, the Trinidad and Tobago Housing Development Corporation (HDC) and China Gezhouba International Engineering Company Ltd (CGGC) signed a TT \$485 million contract in May 2019 for the construction of 5,000 apartment units at specific sites across Trinidad and Tobago;

**AND WHEREAS** in September 2019 it was announced that the contract was cancelled;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate condemn the Government for its ineffectiveness in its negotiations with CGGC and in its failure to conduct due diligence prior to signing the contract;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Government take the appropriate action to hold the responsible person(s) to account.

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (ii) **WHEREAS** the Government has, by virtue of a lease agreement, assigned interest in excess of one thousand acres to the owner of General Earth Movers Limited / Marilissa Farms Limited for the use of a livestock station;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate call on the Government to take steps to ensure that the rich aggregate on the said acreage of the leased lands is protected;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Senate call on the Government to table, within fourteen days, the lease agreement between Marilissa Farms Limited / General Earth Movers Limited and the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries.

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (iii) **WHEREAS** in August 2019 the Government of the Republic in Trinidad and Tobago concluded a TT\$580 million contract, originally estimated at TT\$460 million, with the Australian shipbuilding company, Austal Ltd for the purchase of two Cape Class Patrol Boats for use by the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard;

**AND WHEREAS** there appears to be ambiguity concerning the price paid in 2019 when compared to similar vessels purchased in 2015;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate call on the Government to table, within fourteen days, the contract entered into with Austal for the procurement of the two Cape Class Patrol Boats.

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (iv) **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 Criminal Justice System continues to be faced with inefficiencies notwithstanding the numerous legislative measures taken by the Government;
- AND WHEREAS** citizens continue to be adversely affected by the slow pace of the Criminal Justice System;
- BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate condemns the Government for its inability to adequately address the said inefficiencies in the Criminal Justice System in Trinidad and Tobago.
- (By Senator Sean Sobers)**
- (vi) **WHEREAS** it is the Government's responsibility to ensure public safety and security of the citizenry;
- AND WHEREAS** thousands of citizens and businesses have been negatively affected by the high levels of crime in Trinidad and Tobago;
- BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate condemn the Government for its failure to effectively deal with the unacceptable and serious crime situation affecting law-abiding citizens.
- (By Senator Saddam Hosein)**
- (vii) **WHEREAS** citizens nationwide are consistently plagued by flooding;
- AND WHEREAS** under this administration the country has suffered the worst flooding in decades;
- BE IT RESOLVED** that this Senate condemn the Government for its failure to take action including infrastructure maintenance and development in a manner to prevent perennial flooding.
- (By Senator Saddam Hosein)**
- (viii) **WHEREAS** it is the responsibility of the Government to address economic activity, economic diversification, skills acquisition, planning and industrial growth in every major sector of the economy;
- BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate take note of the Government's failure to address issues of, job creation and high levels of retrenchment in Trinidad and Tobago.
- (By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

- (ix) **WHEREAS** the Government in adopting the 2015 Manifesto of the People’s National Movement as its official policy framework confirmed its commitment to establishing an Economic Development Board, budgetary reform for Parliament, housing reform, establishment of new business clusters and broad economic stability with investor confidence;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate take note of the Government’s failure to deliver on these key promises over the last four (4) years.

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

- (x) **WHEREAS** the Government has announced that sixteen thousand Venezuelan immigrants have registered for temporary residence status in Trinidad and Tobago;

**AND WHEREAS** the Government has not put in place adequate infrastructure and appropriate systems to facilitate access by the Venezuelan immigrants to essential humanitarian services such as temporary housing, health and education;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate call on the Government to establish and outline appropriate measures to assist registered Venezuelan immigrants in accessing essential humanitarian services.

**(By Senator Sean Sobers)**

**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**  
**November 14, 2019**



**ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2019**

**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

**Question No. 30 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 19.11.2019)**

**Question No. 43 to the Minister of Education**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Given reports of a recorded twenty percent (20%) increase in requests for help for students with mental health issues, in the build-up to the 2019 SEA Examination, can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) the total number of students for whom such requests were made; and
- (ii) the measures that are being implemented in schools to address the issue of mental health?

**(Answer due by 19.11.2019)**

**Question No. 47 to the Minister of Finance**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

Can the Minister advise as to the following:

- (i) the TT Dollar value of funds collected from the Unemployment Levy and applied to unemployment relief for each year during the fiscal years 2016 to 2019; and
- (ii) the mechanism used to apply funds from the Unemployment Levy to projects?

**(Answer due by 19.11.2019)**

**Question No. 49 to the Minister of Finance**

**(By Senator Amrita Deonaraine)**

As regard external loan agreements signed by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the period September 2017 to September 2019, can the Minister indicate:

- (i) the names of the lending agencies with which the agreements were signed;
- (ii) the US Dollar value of the external loans; and
- (iii) the interest rates associated with each loan?

**(Answer due by 19.11.2019)**

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

November 14, 2019





**SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**SIXTH SITTING, FIFTH SESSION (2019/2020)**

**ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 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 PRIME MINISTER**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of the recent drowning of two teenagers at the Argyle Waterfall in Tobago, can the Minister advise as to what measures are being taken by the Tobago House Assembly to address the safety of swimmers at the waterfall?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Having regard to reports of the grade profile adjustment to the grades of students considered for scholarships, can the Minister advise as to when the adjustments were made?

3. **TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Can the Minister advise what is being done to address conditions at the Claxton Bay Secondary School that have resulted in teachers falling ill?

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

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

What is being done to address the recent stand-off between Police Officers and MTS Security Guards who are insisting that the Police be searched before being permitted to enter the Sangre Grande Magistrates' Court?

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

November 19, 2019