SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

NINTH SITTING, FIFTH SESSION (2019/2020)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 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

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

   (i) The Twentieth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, Fifth Session (2019/2020) Eleventh Parliament on an examination into the approval process for land use in Trinidad and Tobago.
   (By Senator Wade Mark)

   (ii) The Twenty-First Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, Fifth Session (2019/2020) Eleventh Parliament on an inquiry into the oversight of State Agencies under the purview of the Ministry of Education and funding to Private Secondary School Institutions.
   (By Senator Wade Mark)

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 13 to the Minister of Works and Transport
(By Senator Wade Mark)
In light of the dilapidated condition of the wooden bridge in Piparo Road, Tabaquite, can the Minister indicate when will measures be taken to have said bridge repaired or replaced?

Question No. 14 to the Minister of Planning and Development
(By Senator Wade Mark)
Given the destruction of over sixty-four (64) acres of forest by a private developer at Trestrail Estate in Cedros, can the Minister indicate:

(i) whether this matter has been investigated by the Environmental Management Authority (EMA); and

(ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what action has been taken consequent to the investigation?

Question No. 15 to the Minister of National Security

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the increase in the number of missing young girls and women over the past three (3) years, can the Minister advise as to whether any new initiatives will be taken by the Government to address this problem?

[*]**Question No. 48 to the Minister of Finance**

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Given the announcement that TSTT intends to issue US Dollar denominated bonds, can the Minister indicate:

(i) whether this decision has been approved by Cabinet;

(ii) the total US Dollar value of the intended bonds;

(iii) how such bonds would be guaranteed; and

(iv) the impact of servicing these bonds on the country's foreign reserves?

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) 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)

[*] Question No. 48 was deferred for two weeks on 12.11.2019

(iv) 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)

(v) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to establish a Council for Urban and Regional Planners and to provide for the regulation of the urban and regional planning profession and other matters incidental thereto'.
(By the Minister of Planning and Development)

(vi) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to combat corruption and other wrongdoings by encouraging and facilitating disclosures of improper conduct in the public and private sector, to protect persons making those disclosures from detrimental action, to regulate the receiving, investigating or otherwise dealing with disclosures of improper conduct and to provide for other matters connected therewith'.
(By the Attorney General)

(vii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to establish the Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority and for related matters'.
(By the Minister of Finance)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

(i) **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday November 26, 2019 will be resumed:**

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)

(ii) **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)

(iii) **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)

(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.)

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PORT OF SPAIN

December 05, 2019