



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

TWELFTH SITTING, FIFTH SESSION (2019/2020)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18, 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
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Oral Answer

***Question No. 11 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development**

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of the sudden dismissal of six (6) persons employed by the Ministry's Procurement Department and the decision to outsource the Ministry's procurement functions to a Consultant, can the Minister provide the following:

- (i) the name of the selected Consultant; and
- (ii) the terms of engagement of said Consultant?

Question No. 22 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to reports that in April 2019, a Caribbean Airlines flight departed Trinidad for Tobago with several unoccupied seats, despite there being children and elderly persons on standby, can the Minister advise:

- (i) what were the reasons that led to said occurrence;
- (ii) what is the airline's policy with regard to allowing flights at less than full capacity to depart; and
- (iii) how will the airline avoid a recurrence of the situation?

*Question No. 11 was deferred for two weeks on 04.12.2019

Question No. 23 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of statements by the Chairman of the Sentencing Commission about the non-receipt of State resources to facilitate the operations of the Commission, can the Minister indicate when will said resources be provided?

Question No. 24 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Wade Mark)

In light of reports that the North Central Regional Health Authority ordered and is yet to receive equipment known as a Molecular Biology Laboratory valued at \$40 m for the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, can the Minister advise as to the status of delivery of said equipment?

Question No. 50 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

Given statements made by the Minister in the Senate on October 24, 2017 regarding the Government's intention to introduce transfer pricing legislation in 2018, can the Minister advise as to:

- (i) what are the activities to be completed prior to the establishment of transfer pricing legislation; and
- (ii) does the Government intend to introduce said legislation in the Fifth Session, Eleventh Parliament?

Question No. 57 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Paul Richards)

With respect to reports of the influenza virus, can the Minister indicate the following:

- (i) the number of confirmed deaths over the last six months (April 30 to October 31, 2019);
- (ii) whether there has been an increase in the number of persons who have contracted the virus over the last year, as compared to a similar period in the previous year; and
- (iii) are our public health institutions adequately stocked with influenza medication?

Question No. 58 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Amrita Deonarine)

Having regard to the statutory borrowing limits established under the Development Loans Act Chapter 71:04, the External Loans Act Chapter 71:05 and the Guarantee of Loans (Companies) Act Chapter 71:82, can the Minister indicate, in each case, in TTD dollar value as at October 31, 2019 the following:

- (i) the country's available balances;
- (ii) the outstanding debt; and
- (iii) the total interest paid on loans?

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)
- (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
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