



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

FOURTEENTH SITTING, FIFTH SESSION (2019/2020)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY JANUARY 28, 2020 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 the Trinidad and Tobago Tourism Business Development Limited for the financial year ended December 31, 2018.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
  - (ii) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the National Maintenance Training and Security Company Limited for the financial year ended December 31, 2018  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
  - (iii) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the Rural Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2018.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
  - (iv) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2017.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
  - (v) The Annual Report of Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre Management Company Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2019.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
  - (vi) The Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Heritage and Stabilisation Fund for the year ended September 30, 2019.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
  - (vii) The Annual Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2017.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**

- (viii) The Annual Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2018.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
- (ix) The Response of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service to the Seventh Report of the Joint Select Committee on Finance and Legal Affairs on an Inquiry into the wider application of non-custodial penalties in the Criminal Justice System of Trinidad and Tobago.  
**(By the Minister of National Security)**
- (x) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Education to the Twelfth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on an examination of the current level of childhood obesity and the State's interventions to promote a healthy lifestyle among children.  
**(By the Minister of Education)**
- (xi) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs to the Twelfth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on an examination of the current level of childhood obesity and the State's interventions to promote a healthy lifestyle among children.  
**(By the Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs)**
- (xii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services to the Eleventh Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on a Follow-up Inquiry into the Effectiveness of the State's Interventions directed at Socially Displaced Persons.  
**(By the Minister of Social Development and Family Services)**
- (xiii) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Health to the Eleventh Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on a Follow-up Inquiry into the Effectiveness of the State's Interventions directed at Socially Displaced Persons.  
**(By the Minister of Health)**
- (xiv) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Health to the Twelfth Report of the Joint Select Committee Social Services and Public Administration on an examination of the current level of childhood obesity and the State's interventions to promote a healthy lifestyle among children.  
**(By the Minister of Health)**
- (xv) The Annual Administrative Report of the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority for the financial year ended September 30, 2019.  
**(By the Minister of Works and Transport)**

7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

8. URGENT QUESTIONS

9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Questions for Oral Answer**

**\*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. 25 to the Attorney General**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Given the Prime Minister's statements that Police Officers can enter the homes of citizens without the production of search warrants, can the Attorney General indicate the specific conditions that must be fulfilled in order to do so?

**Question No. 26 to the Minister of Public Utilities**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Can the Minister advise as to the circumstances which led to the suspension and subsequent dismissal of the CEO of the Water and Sewerage Authority?

**Question No. 27 to the Minister of National Security**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Can the Minister provide the reason(s) for the sudden resignation of former Deputy Commissioner of Police Mr. Harold Phillip?

**Question No. 59 to the Minister of Trade and Industry**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

With regard to the operationalization of plots at the eTeck Park, Point Fortin, can the Minister indicate what challenges, if any, have been identified by tenants?

**Question No. 60 to the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

What is being done to repair the non-functioning air-conditioning system at the Siparia Administrative Building?

**Question No. 61 to the Minister of Health**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

In light of the numerous complaints from the public about the challenges being experienced in accessing the Chronic Diseases Assistance Programme (CDAP) drugs at private pharmacies, can the Minister indicate the following:

- (i) whether an investigation has been launched to determine the veracity of the complaints; and
- (ii) if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what are the findings of the investigation?

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

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\* Question No. 15 was deferred for two weeks on 07.12.2019

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.)**

**Senate Secretariat**  
**Office of the Parliament**  
**Parliamentary Complex**  
**Cabildo Building**  
**St. Vincent Street**  
**PORT OF SPAIN**

**January 24, 2020**



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

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

**ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT**

**TUESDAY JANUARY 28, 2020 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 MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY**  
**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of the recent murder of a female employee of the Venture Credit Union, notwithstanding the existence of a restraining order, can the Minister indicate what urgent measures are being put in place to assist persons who are in similar situations?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**  
**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Can the Minister advise as to what specific measures are being put in place at the country's two international airports to safeguard the public from the outbreak of the Coronavirus in light of the Carnival season?

3. **TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**  
**(By Senator Sean Sobers)**

Pursuant to the recent outbreak of the Coronavirus, can the Minister advise as to the urgent steps being taken for screening and quarantine at the Point Lisas, Chaguaramas, Kings Wharf and Cedros Ports?

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January 28, 2020