ORDER PAPER

WEDNESDAY MAY 24, 2023 AT 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

PETITIONS

PAPERS

1. The Consolidated Audited Financial Statements of the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited for the financial year ended December 31, 2017.
   (By the Minister of Finance who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts [Enterprises] Committee)

2. The Consolidated Audited Financial Statements of the Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago Limited for the financial year ended December 31, 2018.
   (By the Minister of Finance who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts [Enterprises] Committee)

   (By the Minister of Finance who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts [Enterprises] Committee)

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   (By the Minister of Finance who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts Committee)

23. The Annual Report of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) for the fiscal year 2019/2020.
   (By the Minister of Digital Transformation)

   (By the Minister of Digital Transformation)

25. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Works and Transport to the Second report of the Joint Select Committee on State Enterprises on an Inquiry into the operations of the National Infrastructure Development Company Limited (NIDCO) including its compulsory land acquisition in relation to major projects.
   (By the Minister of Works and Transport)

   (By the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
1. The Twelfth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, Third Session, Twelfth Parliament on an examination into the Accessibility and Availability of Diagnostic Imaging Services at Public Health Institutions in Trinidad with specific reference to Regional Health Authorities under the purview of the Ministry of Health.

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

PRIME MINISTER’S QUESTIONS

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Written Answer will appear in the Appendix

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 156 to the Minister of Finance:
(By the Member for Oropouche West)
Will the Minister state the overall sum of funds owed to all the VAT-registered businesses in Trinidad and Tobago to date?

Question No. 157 to the Minister of Finance:
(By the Member for Oropouche West)
Will the Minister provide a list of all the Carnival activities for which Caribbean Airlines Limited provided financial support and the dollar value of each?

Question No. 160 to the Minister of Public Utilities:
(By the Member for Fyzabad)
Further to the response provided to House of Representatives Question No. 70 on January 23, 2023, will the Minister provide an update on the status of the works on the collapsed Water and Sewage Authority Main pipe at the Godineau River?

REQUESTS FOR LEAVE TO MOVE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE ON DEFINITE MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

1. The Valuation of Land (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
(By the Minister of Finance who will move that the next stage of the Bill be taken later in the proceedings)

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:
1. The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday April 21, 2023 will be resumed:
A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Municipal Corporations Act, Chap. 25:04 to establish the Borough of Diego Martin and the Borough of Siparia and to make consequential amendments to the Representation of the People Act, Chap. 2:01, the Interpretation Act, Chap. 3:01, the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) Act, Chap. 25:50, the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Regulations, Chap. 48:50, the Central Tenders Board Act, Chap. 71:91 and other written laws.”
(By the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government)

2. 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 Prime Minister)

3. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Judicial and Legal Service Act, Chap. 6:01, the Prison Service Act, Chap. 13:02, the Defence Act, Chap. 14:01, the Police Service Act, Chap. 15:01, the Civil Service Act, Chap. 23:01, the Fire Service Act, Chap. 35:50 and the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago Act, Chap. 72:01 to provide a regulatory framework for polygraph and drug testing and biometric identification for members of the Protective Services and certain offices in the Judicial and Legal Service and the Civil Service and for other related matters.”
(By the Minister of National Security)

(By the Attorney General)

Committee Stage:

1. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to accord self-government to Tobago and for related matters.”
(By the Prime Minister)

2. A Bill entitled, “An Act to repeal the Tobago House of Assembly Act, Chap. 25:03, and to provide for the powers and functions of the Tobago Island Government and the Tobago Legislature and for related matters.”
(By the Minister of Housing and Urban Development)

PRIVATE MEMBERS’ BUSINESS

Motions:

1. The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday April 28, 2023 will be resumed:

WHEREAS the Minister of National Security is responsible for ensuring public safety by the maintenance of law and order and the effective oversight of the national security infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of National Security through his vast and continued incompetence has mismanaged the organs and departments of national security;
AND WHEREAS the Minister of National Security has unequivocally demonstrated his inability to competently execute his duties:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House express its lack of confidence in the Minister of National Security.
(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)

2. The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday March 24, 2023 will be resumed:

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure the well-being of its citizens by facilitating a decent standard of living and quality of life;

AND WHEREAS the impending increase in utility rates and the imminent imposition of property taxes will further escalate cost of living and the inflation rate;

AND WHEREAS the consistent increases in fuel prices have further negatively impacted the cost of living;

AND WHEREAS this Government has failed to take proactive measures to cushion the economic fallouts brought about by the escalating prices of essential goods and services;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House call on the Government to outline its short, medium and long term strategies to systematically reduce the escalating and uncontrollable increase in the price of essential goods and services accessed by the population of Trinidad and Tobago:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House call on the Government to take the necessary urgent action to immediately remedy the negative effects upon those living below the poverty line.
(By the Member for Chaguanas East)

3. The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday February 24, 2023 will be resumed:

WHEREAS it is the Government’s responsibility to ensure the public safety and security of the citizenry;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed in its management of the organs responsible for national security, law and order and has been unable to provide for the safety and security of citizens resulting in massive increases in serious crimes;

AND WHEREAS the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service has been progressively under-resourced and not equipped to respond effectively to the threat of widespread crime;

AND WHEREAS there has been an astronomical and continuous increase in the murder toll with a corresponding breakdown in the criminal justice system;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to present a clear and effective anti-crime plan to deal with this perturbing crime situation;

AND WHEREAS the Government has contributed to the disturbing crime situation as a result of 7 years of neglect in education, training opportunities, rising unemployment and a total breakdown of the social safety net;
AND WHEREAS thousands of citizens and businesses have been negatively affected by the high level of crime in Trinidad and Tobago:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemn the Government for its failure to effectively address the unacceptable and serious crime level affecting law-abiding citizens.

(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)

4. The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday January 27, 2023 will be resumed:

WHEREAS it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health to protect, promote and improve the health status of citizens;

AND WHEREAS there have been numerous complaints from citizens regarding drug shortages and long waiting times for healthcare services at public health institutions;

AND WHEREAS the Report of the Committee Appointed to Investigate the Factors Contributing to Clinical Outcomes of COVID-19 Patients in Trinidad and Tobago also highlighted the existence of multiple chronic non-communicable diseases in our population;

AND WHEREAS the Government’s approach to healthcare has failed to adequately and effectively treat with these public health issues:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House take note of the failure of the Government to deliver on its health sector mandate.

(By the Member for Fyzabad)

5. WHEREAS it is the duty of the Government to provide safe and reliable healthcare services for all citizens during a pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to address the existing inequities in accessing healthcare services and procedures exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to provide well equipped, well stocked, and well secured spaces for healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to meet the international standards for patient care as highlighted in the Report of the Committee Appointed to Investigate the Factors contributing to COVID-19 Patients in Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to effectively manage resources to facilitate the movement of critically ill patients to and from our nation’s hospitals;

AND WHEREAS the Government has mismanaged our nation’s medical specialists thereby denying the best clinical care to COVID-19 patients;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House take note of the unacceptable number of deaths from COVID-19 and the failure of the Ministry of Health to deliver on its essential mandate:

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House call on the Government to take immediate and urgent steps to initiate a Commission of Inquiry into the Government’s management of COVID-19 at our nation’s healthcare institutions.

(By the Member for Caroni East)
6. **WHEREAS** the Regulated Industries Commission has signalled its intention to increase public utility rates on the advice and justification from the Government;

**AND WHEREAS** citizens should have access to affordable public utilities in light of prolonged unemployment, increasing crime and high food prices;

**AND WHEREAS** the State has a responsibility to ensure citizens of Trinidad and Tobago have a reliable and affordable supply of electricity and water;

**AND WHEREAS** both the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) and the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) are owed billions of dollars, mainly by the State:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this House call on the Government to settle the outstanding debts to T&TEC and WASA and halt attempts to increase public utility rates immediately.

(By the Member for Princes Town)

**Bills Second Reading:**

1. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Trinidad and Tobago Netball Association (Incorporation) Act, 1979.”
   (The Speaker will propose the question that the Bill be read a Second time)

   (The Speaker will propose the question that the Bill be read a Second time)

   (The Speaker will propose the question that the Bill be read a Second time)

*Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel*

*Clerk of the House*

*House of Representatives Secretariat*

*The Red House*

*Abercromby Street*

*PORT OF SPAIN*

*May 19, 2023*
QUESTION FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

*Question No. 79 to the Minister of National Security
(By the Member for Naparima)

In light of numerous videos circulating on social media involving Coast Guard patrol vessels tied up on various occasions at Staubles Bay, will the Minister state what steps are being taken, if any, to guarantee a 24/7 coverage of our coastlines?

(Answer due by 12.01.2023)

*Question No. 147 to the Minister of Communications
(By the Member for Oropouche West)

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of all broadcast aired by Trinidad and Tobago Television (TTT) for the People’s National Movement (PNM) per year during the period 2015 to 2023, detailing the following:
   a) the number of broadcast;
   b) the number of hours of each broadcasts;
   c) the cost of each broadcast;
   d) the value of payments received by TTT per broadcast; and
   e) the name of the person or organisation who paid for each broadcast?

(Answer due by 26.04.2023)

*Question No. 148 to the Attorney General
(By the Member for Oropouche West)

Given the discontinuation of the prosecution of the Piarco 3 Court matter in relation to corruption in the construction of the Piarco International Airport, will the Attorney General provide a detailed breakdown of the following:
   a) the number and names of all the attorneys-at-law engaged by the State on this matter;
   b) the cost to the state to engage each lawyer; and
   c) the overall cost to the State on this matter?

(Answer due by 26.04.2023)

Question No. 159 to the Minister of Health
(By the Member for Fyzabad)

Will the Minister state:
A. the number of nurses who applied for jobs for each year for the period 2016 to 2022 at the following Regional Health Authorities (RHA):
   a) the North Central Regional Health Authority (NCRHA);
   b) the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA);

*Question No. 79 was deferred for two (2) weeks on January 23, 2023, February 10, 2023, February 24, 2023, March 22, 2023, April 21, 2023 and May 10, 2023.
*Question Nos. 147 and 148 were deferred for two (2) weeks on April 26, 2023 and May 10, 2023.
c) the South West Regional Health Authority (SWRHA); and
d) North West Regional Health Authority (NWRHA).

B. the number of nurses from part (A) who were offered employment by each RHA for each year for the period 2016 to 2022?

(Answer due by 18.05.2023)
WEDNESDAY MAY 24, 2023 1:30 P.M.
NOTICE OF PRIME MINISTER’S QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the Deputy Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 26 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Prime Minister.

1. Given the ruling of the Privy Council and its implication for the functioning of our Local Government institutions, will the Prime Minister indicate what urgent action he intends to take to ensure that Local Government bodies perform their functions efficiently, effectively and legally?
   (By the Member for Naparima)

2. Given the recent judgment of the Privy Council in respect of the delayed Local Government Elections, will the Prime Minister indicate when the Government intends to call the elections?
   (By the Member for Caroni Central)

3. Will the Prime Minister state if a buyer or lease operator is being sought or considered for the Caribbean Dockyard and Engineering Services Ltd (Caridoc) which falls under the remit of the Ministry of Works and Transport?
   (By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

4. In light of the recent increase in home invasions, will the Prime Minister state what measures have been implemented to improve the intelligence gathering and analysis capabilities of law enforcement agencies specifically targeting organized criminal groups involved in home invasions?
   (By the Member for Oropouche West)

5. Given the significant resources being expended behind Trinidad and Tobago’s National Security infrastructure by the Government, will the Prime Minister explain why there is little to no improvement in arresting the levels of gang activity and/or gang violence across the country?
   (By the Member for Oropouche West)

6. Given that Heritage Petroleum Company Limited recently declared an after-tax profit of over a billion dollars and that environmental disasters involving oil spills and leaks have been associated with the said company which have impacted on communities, will the Prime Minister inform this House how much money has been set aside by this state enterprise to be invested in the repair and maintenance of Heritage’s network of pipelines?
   (By the Member for Couva South)

7. Will the Prime Minister state what measurable performance criteria was used to inform the decision to offer a one-year contract to extend Mrs Erla Harewood Christopher’s position as Commissioner of Police?
   (By the Member for Naparima)
8. Will the Prime Minister explain why the Minister of National Security has, on four occasions, refused to answer (written) Question No.79 concerning the ineffectiveness of our Coast Guard, even in spite of a letter written on April 24, 2023, by the Honourable Speaker under SO 29(13)?
(By the Member for Naparima)

9. Will the Prime Minister state the tangible crime fighting benefits which have accrued to our country arising from the Regional Crime Symposium held in mid-April 2023?
(By the Member for Naparima)

10. Given the death of Kisseh Lendor at the hands of CID officers and that the people of Carenage have reportedly claimed that it was an unjustified killing, will the Prime Minister state why, after significant expenditures, all frontline police officers are still not equipped with body cameras?
(By the Member for Naparima)

11. Will the Prime Minister state the terms and conditions of the new Chief Executive Officer of Heritage Petroleum Company Limited?
(By the Member for Caroni Central)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

House of Representatives’ Secretariat
The Red House
Abercromby Street
PORT OF SPAIN

May 24, 2023
NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Questions which have been accepted by the Deputy Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 27 are hereby forwarded for the attention of the Ministers concerned.

1. **To the Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister:**
   In light of the recent revelations that two teenage girls are pregnant within state homes under the purview of the Children's Authority, will the Minister update the House on what urgent steps have been taken to determine the circumstances under which these pregnancies occurred?
   (By the Member for Princes Town)

2. **To the Minister of National Security:**
   In light of the recent $234million drug bust, will the Minister state what urgent measures are being contemplated to ensure that our ports of entry are secured and to arrest the masterminds behind this incident?
   (By the Member for Naparima)

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

House of Representatives’ Secretariat
The Red House
Abercromby Street
PORT OF SPAIN

May 24, 2023