ORDER PAPER

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2023 AT 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLs BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

   (By the Minister of Finance)

PETITIONS

PAPERS

1. The Notification of Her Excellency, the President, in respect of the nomination of Mr. Wendell Lucas, for appointment to the Office of Deputy Commissioner of Police.
   (By the Speaker of the House)

2. The Notification of Her Excellency, the President, in respect of the nomination of Mr. Junior Benjamin, for appointment to the Office of Deputy Commissioner of Police.
   (By the Speaker of the House)

3. The Notification of Her Excellency, the President, in respect of the nomination of Ms. Natasha George, for appointment to the Office of Deputy Commissioner of Police.
   (By the Speaker of the House)

   (By the Deputy Speaker)

   (By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

6. The Trinidad and Tobago Special Economic Zones Regulations, 2023.
(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)

(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)

(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)

9. The Trinidad and Tobago Revenue Authority (Extension of Period) (No. 2) Order, 2023.
(By the Minister of Finance)

10. The Sector Wide Approach Programme Loan Agreement between the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Corporación Andina De Fomento in the amount of US$175 million for a Modernized Transportation Infrastructure.
(By the Minister of Finance)

11. The Sector Wide Approach Programme Loan Agreement between the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Corporación Andina De Fomento in the amount of US$120 million to Support the Implementation of the Digital Transformation and Digital Inclusion Strategy in Trinidad and Tobago.
(By the Minister of Finance)

12. The Trinidad Drainage and Flood Mitigation Programme Investment Loan Agreement between the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Corporación Andina De Fomento in the amount of US$40 million.
(By the Minister of Finance)

(By the Minister of Finance)

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

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(By the Minister of Labour)

(By the Minister of Works and Transport)

(By the Minister of Finance)


(By the Minister of Finance)

28. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development to the Thirteenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an examination of the Management and Operations of the Housing Development Corporation (HDC) including the restructuring of the HDC into three distinct State Enterprises.

(By the Minister of Housing and Urban Development)

29. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Public Administration to the Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on the implementation of the 2021 budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.

(By the Minister of Public Administration)

30. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Education to the Sixth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on an examination of the state of technical and vocational programmes and their contribution to achieving the development goals of Trinidad and Tobago.

(By the Minister of Education)


(By the Member for Tabaquite)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES


(By the Member for Oropouche West)
2. The Eleventh Report of the Public Accounts Committee on an examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Children’s Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (CATT) for the Financial Years 2014 to 2018, Third Session (2022/2023), Twelfth Parliament.  
(By the Member for Oropouche West)

(By the Member for Oropouche West)

(By the Member for Oropouche West)

(By the Member for Mayaro)

(By the Member for Mayaro)

(By the Member for Mayaro)

8. The Thirteenth Report of the Public Accounts (Enterprises) Committee on a follow-up examination on the implementation of the recommendations in the Fourth Report of the Committee on the Audited Accounts, Balance Sheet and other Financial Statements of the Community-Based

(By the Member for Mayaro)


(By the Member for Mayaro)


(By the Member for Mayaro)


(By the Member for Fyzabad)


(By the Member for Fyzabad)


(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. 8 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries:
(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

As it pertains to the downstream industries at the Point Lisas Industrial Estate for the period September 30, 2018 to October 31, 2023, will the Minister advise:

a) the number of petrochemical plants that have been shut down;
b) the names of the petrochemical plants listed in part a);
c) the number of petrochemical plants that are currently idled; and
d) the names of the petrochemical plants listed in part c).
Question No. 9 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries:
(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)
Further to the response provided to the House of Representatives to Question No. 130 on April 26, 2023, will the Minister state the commodity that has been offered or will be used as payment to the Venezuelan Government for gas from the Dragon Gas field?

Question No. 10 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Industries:
(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)
Will the Minister indicate:
   a) whether future monetisation of the Manatee Gas Field will be done separately from the Loran Gas Field and independently of Venezuela as agreed in 2019; or
   b) whether there will be a joint development of Manatee Gas Field and Loran Gas Field by both Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela?

Question No. 17 to the Attorney General:
(By the Member for Naparima)
Further to the response provided to the House of Representatives to Question No. 86 on February 10, 2023, will the Attorney General state what are the specific steps to be taken by Trinidad and Tobago to be fully removed from the European Union’s list of “non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes?”

Question No. 18 to the Prime Minister:
(By the Member for Naparima)
Will the Prime Minister provide an update on the status of the Report of the Commission of Enquiry into the February 25, 2022 Paria diving tragedy?

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

   (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

Motions:

1. WHEREAS it is provided by section 56(1)(a) of the Customs Act, Chap. 78:01 that the House of Representatives may, from time to time, by Resolution, provide that any class of goods specified in the Resolution shall be exempt from import duties of Customs if the goods are imported or entered for use by any person for any purpose specified in the Resolution during any period to be fixed by the Minister, in each particular case, not being a period terminating later than the date prescribed in
the Resolution as the last day on which such exemption shall be operative, and subject to such conditions as the Minister may impose:

AND WHEREAS by Legal Notice No. 389 of 2020, the last Resolution in respect of the goods identified therein came into effect on 1st January, 2021 would expire on 31st December, 2023:

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the goods continue to be exempt from import duties of Customs as of 1st January, 2024:

BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of section 56 of the Customs Act, exempt from import duties of Customs, for the period beginning 1st January, 2024 and ending 31st December, 2026, the classes of goods imported and entered for use in Trinidad and Tobago for the following purposes set out in Part A of the list of Conditional Duty Exemptions in the Third Schedule to the Customs Act:

(a) I - For Approved Industry;
(b) II - For Approved Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Fisheries;
(c) III - For Approved Hotels;
(d) IV - For Approved Mining Purposes; and
(e) V - For Other Approved Purposes.

This Resolution shall come into effect on 1st January, 2024.
(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)

2. WHEREAS it is provided by section 9 of the Beekeeping and Bee Products Act, Chap. 67:53 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the Minister may make Regulations, inter alia, restricting and regulating the importation or exportation of bees, bee products and bee supplies into or out of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS it is also provided by section 9 of the Act that Regulations made under that section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries has on the 24th day of November, 2023 made the Beekeeping and Bee Products (Amendment) Regulations, 2023;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that the Beekeeping and Bee Products (Amendment) Regulations, 2023 now be affirmed:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Beekeeping and Bee Products (Amendment) Regulations, 2023 be approved.
(By the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries)

3. WHEREAS section 123(1)(a) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (“the Constitution”) provides that the Police Service Commission shall have the power to appoint persons to hold or act in the office of Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Police;

AND WHEREAS section 123(3) of the Constitution provides that the Police Service Commission shall submit to the President a list of the names of the persons nominated for appointment to the office of Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Police;

AND WHEREAS section 123(4) of the Constitution provides that the President shall issue a Notification in respect of each person nominated under subsection (3) and the Notification shall be subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Representatives;
AND WHEREAS the Police Service Commission has submitted to the President the name Mr. Wendell Lucas for appointment to the office of Deputy Commissioner of Police;

AND WHEREAS the President has on the 4th day of December, 2023 issued a Notification in respect of the nomination;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the Notification:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Notification of the President of the nomination by the Police Service Commission of Mr. Wendell Lucas to the office of Deputy Commissioner of Police be approved.

(By the Prime Minister)

4. WHEREAS section 123(1)(a) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (“the Constitution”) provides that the Police Service Commission shall have the power to appoint persons to hold or act in the office of Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Police;

AND WHEREAS section 123(3) of the Constitution provides that the Police Service Commission shall submit to the President a list of the names of the persons nominated for appointment to the office of Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Police;

AND WHEREAS section 123(4) of the Constitution provides that the President shall issue a Notification in respect of each person nominated under subsection (3) and the Notification shall be subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Representatives;

AND WHEREAS the Police Service Commission has submitted to the President the name Mr. Junior Benjamin for appointment to the office of Deputy Commissioner of Police;

AND WHEREAS the President has on the 4th day of December, 2023 issued a Notification in respect of the nomination;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the Notification:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Notification of the President of the nomination by the Police Service Commission of Mr. Junior Benjamin to the office of Deputy Commissioner of Police be approved.

(By the Prime Minister)

5. WHEREAS section 123(1)(a) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (“the Constitution”) provides that the Police Service Commission shall have the power to appoint persons to hold or act in the office of Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Police;

AND WHEREAS section 123(3) of the Constitution provides that the Police Service Commission shall submit to the President a list of the names of the persons nominated for appointment to the office of Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Police;
AND WHEREAS section 123(4) of the Constitution provides that the President shall issue a Notification in respect of each person nominated under subsection (3) and the Notification shall be subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Representatives;

AND WHEREAS the Police Service Commission has submitted to the President the name Ms. Natasha George, as the person nominated for appointment to the office of Deputy Commissioner of Police;

AND WHEREAS the President has on the 4th day of December, 2023 issued a Notification in respect of the nomination;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the Notification:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Notification of the President of the nomination by the Police Service Commission of Ms. Natasha George, to the office of Deputy Commissioner of Police be approved.

(By the Prime Minister)

Bills Second Reading:

1. The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the House adjourned on Wednesday November 01, 2023 will be resumed:
   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)

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 Supreme Court of Judicature Act, Chap. 4:01 and the Criminal Procedure Act, Chap. 12:02 in relation to the place and time for sittings of a court and to provide for related matters”.
   (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. **WHEREAS** by virtue of Section 7(6)(e) of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Property Act, 2015 (“the Act”), the Minister of Finance may upon his initiative with the agreement of the Office of Procurement Regulation subject to the negative resolution of Parliament, by Order, determine that the Act shall not apply to services provided to public bodies or State-controlled enterprises;

   **AND WHEREAS** by the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property (Exemption) (Financing Services) Order, 2023 published on 8th September, 2023 by Legal Notice No. 270 dated the 7th day of September, 2023, provided at Clause 3 of the said Order that the Act does not apply to the procurement of financing services by the Ministry with responsibility for finance for–

   a) central government; or
   b) a public body, where the financing services are to be guaranteed by the Government;

   **AND WHEREAS** the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property (Exemption) (Financing Services) Order, 2023 is contrary to the principles of good governance, namely accountability, transparency, integrity and value for money:

   **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property (Exemption) (Financing Services) Order, 2023 be annulled.
   *(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)*

2. **WHEREAS** it is the duty of the Government to provide safe, reliable, and compassionate healthcare services for all citizens,

   **AND WHEREAS** the provision of human resources has not adequately met the demands for public health care resulting in patients being subjected to long waiting times and the postponement of clinic visits and surgeries;

   **AND WHEREAS** healthcare professionals do not have access to modern information technology systems, lack access to suitable drugs, equipment, and facilities to deliver modern and advanced healthcare;

   **AND WHEREAS** health care workers have endured physical and mental stress in the delivery of public healthcare services:

   **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House call on Government to implement measures to immediately improve the delivery of healthcare services to the people of Trinidad and Tobago and to address mismanagement in the healthcare Sector.
   *(By the Member for Caroni East)*

3. **WHEREAS** the Government has signalled that electricity and water rates are set to be increased;

   **AND WHEREAS** citizens should have access to affordable public utilities given the rate of unemployment, increase in 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 in debt mainly by the State:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House call upon Government to settle its indebtedness to T&TEC and WASA and immediately halt increases to public utility rates.

(By the Member for Princes Town)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the House

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

December 08, 2023
ORDER PAPER

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2023

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

**Question No. 3 to the Minister of National Security**
(By the Member for Naparima)

Will the Minister state:

a) the percentage of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) vehicles which is equipped with dashboard cameras; and

b) whether there is a policy being utilised to review and monitor the footage obtained from the dashboard?

(Answer due by 08.11.2023)

**Question No. 4 to the Minister of National Security**
(By the Member for Naparima)

Will the Minister provide the following as it relates to fire stations in Trinidad and Tobago:

a) the number of fire trucks attached to each fire station;

b) the required number of ‘breathing apparatus’ at each fire station;

c) the actual number of ‘breathing apparatus’ at each fire station;

d) the number of fire officers rostered per shift at each fire station; and

e) the number of and the level of functionality of fire hydrants in the geographic areas covered by each fire station?

(Answer due by 08.11.2023)

**Question No. 14 to the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs**
(By the Member for Naparima)

With respect to the first Canada-CARICOM Summit held on October 17, 2023, will the Minister provide:

a) the total cost incurred by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago inclusive of the value of per diems paid to each member of the delegation who attended the Summit;

b) the names of all officials who comprised the delegation, both Government and non-Government, who attended the Summit; and

c) an itemised list of individual official expenses incurred by all officials listed in (b)?

(Answer due by 30.11.2023)

**Question No. 15 to the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs**
(By the Member for Naparima)

With respect to the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York during the period September 19 to 26, 2023, will the Minister provide:

a) the total cost incurred by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago inclusive of the value of per diems paid to each member of the delegation who attended the Session;
b) the names of all officials who comprised the delegation, both Government and non-Government, who attended the Session; and

c) an itemised list of individual official expenses incurred by all officials listed in (b)?

(Answer due by 30.11.2023)

Question No. 16 to the Minister of Finance
(By the Member for Naparima)

Will the Minister provide a list of all contracts awarded by the State including Government Agencies, State Enterprises and Statutory Bodies, to the following persons for the period September 30, 2022 to September 30, 2023:

a) Andrew Gabriel and/or Norman Gabriel Limited Insurance Brokers; and

b) Damian Laing and/or Laing Sandblasting & Painting Company Limited?

(Answer due by 30.11.2023)

Question No. 19 to the Minister of Health
(By the Member for Fyzabad)

Will the Minister provide:

a) the date of appointment and the duration of the employment contract of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for each of the four (4) Regional Health Authorities (RHA’s) in Trinidad;

b) the process for the recruitment of the CEO at each of the RHA’s; and

c) the process for retaining CEOs at each of the RHA’s when the employment contracts have expired?

(Answer due by 30.11.2023)

Question No. 20 to the Minister of Health
(By the Member for Fyzabad)

For each of the four (4) Regional Health Authorities in Trinidad by clinical specialty, will the Minister provide:

a) the number of Registrar positions listed on the establishment;

b) the number of Specialist Medical Officer/Consultant positions listed on the establishment; and

c) the number of doctors currently employed in relation to part a) and b)?

(Answer due by 30.11.2023)
NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

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

1. **To the Minister of Education:**
   Having regard to the recent fire that destroyed the Palmiste Government Primary School and displaced hundreds of students, will the Minister state what urgent steps will be taken to relocate the school?
   (Member for Caroni Central)

2. **To the Minister of Finance:**
   Given the announcement by the Government that public servants and members of the protective services will receive back pay before Christmas, will the Minister inform the House of the date on which these payments will be made?
   (Member for Barataria/ San Juan)

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*Brian Caesar*
*Clerk of the House*

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

*December 13, 2023*