



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SECOND SESSION
ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

NO. 15
2016/2017

ORDER PAPER

FRIDAY JANUARY 13, 2017: 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

PETITIONS

PAPERS

1. The Audited Financial Statements of CLICO Investment Fund for the year ended December 31, 2014.

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

2. The Audited Financial Statements of CLICO Investment Fund for the year ended December 31, 2015.

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

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Written Answer appear in the Appendix

Question No. 26 to the Minister of Works and Transport**(By the Member for Tabaquite)**

Could the Minister provide the proposed commencement date for works to desilt and widen the Marie-Dolay River in Gasparillo?

Question No. 27 to the Minister of Works and Transport**(By the Member for Tabaquite)**

When does the Minister expect to commence programme repairs to the roadways:

- a) between Guaracara Junction and Stone Road along the Guaracara Tabaquite Road; and
- b) along the Guaracara Tabaquite Road in the vicinity of the Montserrat Roman Catholic Church?

Question No. 30 to the Minister of Education**(By the Member for Naparima)**

Could the Minister provide a list of the schools that commenced under the previous administration and were left in a state of near completion during the fiscal year 2016?

Question No. 31 to the Minister of Trade and Industry**(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

Given that there are a growing number of foreign business merchants operating across Trinidad and Tobago, could the Minister state:

- i. whether there have been any reports of unregulated business practices by foreign business merchants; and
- ii. if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, whether the Government will launch an investigation into these reports?

Question No. 33 to the Minister of Education**(By the Member for Couva North)**

Could the Minister state when will construction resume on the Orange Valley ECCE Centre?

Question No. 34 to the Minister of Education**(By the Member for Couva North)**

Further to the response provided to an Urgent Question on November 18, 2016, could the Minister provide an update on the relocation of the Montrose Vedic Primary School?

Question No. 35 to the Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development**(By the Member for Couva South)**

Could the Minister advise this House of the number of unemployed persons who attained employment through the National Retrenchment Registry from September 7, 2015 to present?

Question No. 36 to the Prime Minister**(By the Member for Couva South)**

Could the Prime Minister state:

- a) whether termination letters have been issued to officers attached to the Special Security Unit at the Office of the Prime Minister; and
- b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, the number of employees terminated and the total cost to taxpayers?

Question No. 37 to the Minister of Tourism**(By the Member for Couva North)**

Could the Minister provide the figures for cruise ship arrivals in Tobago from July to December 2016 providing:

- a) total cruise vessel calls;
- b) total cruise passengers; and
- c) a comparison of these figures for the same period last year?

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

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

PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**Motions:**

1. **WHEREAS** section 122(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Chap. 1:01 ("the Act") provides that the President shall, after consultation with the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition nominate persons, who are qualified and experienced in the disciplines of law, finance, sociology or management, to be appointed as members of the Police Service Commission;

AND WHEREAS section 122(4) of the Act provides that the President shall issue a Notification in respect of each person nominated for appointment under subsection (3) and the Notification shall be subject to affirmative resolution of the House of Representatives; and

AND WHEREAS the President has nominated **Mr. Martin Anthony George** to be appointed as a member of the Police Service Commission; and

AND WHEREAS the President has on the 24th day of November, 2016 made a Notification in respect of the nomination; and

AND WHEREAS it is expedient to approve the Notification:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Notification of the nomination of **Mr. Martin Anthony George** be approved.

(By the Leader of the House)

2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House consider the findings and recommendations in the Thirty Eighth Annual Report of the Ombudsman.

(By the Leader of the House)

Bills Second Reading:

1. **The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday November 18, 2016, will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, “An Act to provide for the regulation and control of gaming and betting and matters related thereto”.

(By the Minister of Finance)

2. A Bill entitled, “An Act to repeal and replace the Insurance Act, Chap. 84:01; to reform the law relating to insurance companies; to regulate insurance businesses and privately administered pension fund plans and for other related purposes.”

(By the Minister of Finance)

3. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Fire Service Act, Chap. 35:50”.

(By the Minister of Finance)

PRIVATE BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday December 02, 2016 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS the Government has unilaterally reduced its allocation to education and training;

AND WHEREAS the sustainability of tertiary education in both the public and private sectors are under threat;

AND WHEREAS these decisions have denied most-in-need citizens the opportunity to pursue high education, training and the opportunity to secure better jobs and an improved quality of life;

AND WHEREAS the country’s competitiveness will be undermined by these decisions;

AND WHEREAS these decisions will ultimately lead to higher cost, compromised quality, as well as further job losses;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House collectively condemn the Government for such short-sighted and brutal measures against large sections of the population;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House call on the Government to immediately reverse these measures which can have a deleterious effect on the future development of Trinidad and Tobago.

(By the Member for Chaguanas East)

2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House take note of the rising levels of unemployment, growing poverty and deteriorating living standards through the imposition of a wage restraint/freeze policy on the working people; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House condemn the Government for its failure to deal with the current unemployment challenges and to present a clear and cogent economic plan to guide the country through these challenges.

(By the Member for Couva South)

3. **WHEREAS** there has been an increase in the number of persons who suffer with obesity in our nation as a result of the sugar consumption in their diet;

AND WHEREAS obesity as a result of increased sugar intake is the cause of several chronic and non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, pulmonary hypertension, high blood pressure;

AND WHEREAS obesity negatively affects the productivity of our nation due to the inability of persons affected by chronic diseases to perform their functions at full capacity;

AND WHEREAS the persons affected by obesity and related afflictions place an additional burden on the regional health authorities;

AND WHEREAS there are no legislative or regulatory measures to govern the food and beverage industry in relation to the addition of sugar to products;

AND WHEREAS the World Health Organization has classified obesity as a result of sugar consumption as a global epidemic;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House discuss the issue of obesity as a matter of national health importance;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House propose solutions for implementation that will lead to the better health and welfare of our citizens.

(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)

4. **WHEREAS** the growing prison population has a collateral effect on the families and children of persons incarcerated;

AND WHEREAS children under the age of eighteen have been found to suffer psychological strain and instability as a result of a parent being imprisoned;

AND WHEREAS children under the age of eighteen are dependent upon their parents for guidance and support;

AND WHEREAS interactions between children under the age of eighteen and their parents while incarcerated can preserve and strengthen family connections;

AND WHEREAS research has shown interaction between children under the age of eighteen and their incarcerated parents can yield positive societal benefits and assists in the promotion of healthy child development;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government initiate a system of supervised weekly visits between children under the age of eighteen and their incarcerated parents, at a secure location inside the prison.

(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)

Jacqueline Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

House of Representatives' Secretariat
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
Level 3, Tower D
1 A Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN

January 09, 2017

ORDER PAPER FRIDAY JANUARY 13, 2017

QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER

Question No. 8 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By the Member for Oropouche East)

Could the Minister provide the names and application dates for the sixty-two (62) recipients of Housing Development Corporation housing units distributed on September 10, 2016 in San Fernando?

(Answer due by 26.11.2016)

Question No. 13 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By the Member for Chaguanas West)

Could the Minister provide the payment details to contractors of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission during the period October 2015 to December 1, 2016 including the:

- a) contractor name;
- b) total amount paid;
- c) payment date; and
- d) services provided?

(Answer due by 31.12.2016)

Question No. 14 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By the Member for Chaguanas West)

Could the Minister provide the payment details to contractors of the Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation during the period October 2015 to December 1, 2016 including the:

- a) contractor name;
- b) total amount paid;
- c) payment date; and
- d) services provided?

(Answer due by 31.12.2016)

Question No. 15 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By the Member for Chaguanas West)

Could the Minister provide the payment details to contractors of the Water and Sewerage Authority during the period October 2015 to December 1, 2016 including the:

- a) contractor name;
- b) total amount paid;
- c) payment date; and
- d) services provided?

(Answer due by 31.12.2016)

Question No. 16 to the Minister of Public Utilities**(By the Member for Chaguanas West)**

Could the Minister provide the payment details to contractors of the Telecommunication Services of Trinidad and Tobago during the period October 2015 to December 1, 2016 including the:

- a) contractor name;
- b) total amount paid;
- c) payment date; and
- d) services provided?

(Answer due by 31.12.2016)**Question No. 17 to the Minister of Public Utilities****(By the Member for Chaguanas West)**

Could the Minister provide the payment details to contractors of the Solid Waste Management Company Limited during the period October 2015 to December 1, 2016 including the:

- a) contractor name;
- b) total amount paid;
- c) payment date; and
- d) services provided?

(Answer due by 31.12.2016)**Question No. 18 to the Minister of Finance****(By the Member for Chaguanas West)**

Could the Minister provide the contract details for infrastructural works by the National Insurance Property Development Company Limited for the period October 2015 to date, including the:

- a) company name;
- b) initial estimated project cost;
- c) final or revised estimated project cost;
- d) scope of works;
- e) selection method for the contractor;
- f) project status; and
- g) total amount paid to date.

(Answer due by 31.12.2016)



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NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTIONS

The under-mentioned Question which has been accepted by the Speaker in accordance with Standing Order 27 is hereby forwarded for the attention of the Minister concerned.

1. To the Minister of National Security
(By the Member for Couva North)

Does the Minister support the actions of the Commissioner of Police to invoke under the Police Service Act, the power to terminate the appointments of Senior Officials of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service on the grounds of non-performance?

Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House

House of Representatives' Secretariat
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
Level 3, Tower D
1 A Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN

January 13, 2017



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SECOND SESSION

SITTING NO. 15

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

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FRIDAY JANUARY 13, 2017 1:30 P.M.

NOTICE OF PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

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

1. Having detailed the numerous financial difficulties plaguing the state owned Petroleum Company, can the Prime Minister elaborate on the source of the funds that will be required to finance the increase in payroll expenditure by \$80 million per year?
(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)
2. Can the Prime Minister inform this House whether he is satisfied with the performance of the Tobago House of Assembly and their management of Tourism on the island?
(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)
3. Is the Prime Minister aware that CEPEP contractors who would have fulfilled their contracts in 2015 to renovate health centers across the country are still awaiting payment for their completed work?
(By the Barataria/San Juan)
4. Can the Prime Minister inform this House whether there has been any decrease in the registered earnings of the National Lotteries Control Board?
(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)
5. Could the Prime Minister state what is the status of the proposal to build a desalination plant at the Cove Industrial Estate in Tobago?
(By the Member for Chaguanas East)
6. In light of the Prime Minister's statement that a former Finance Minister and other financial experts have been tasked with advising the Cabinet on the way forward with respect to Petrotrin, can the Prime Minister indicate the names of these financial experts and the terms and conditions of the engagement of all Members of the Committee.
(By the Member for Chaguanas East)
7. Could the Prime Minister please state when will he put into effect his promise to the Leader of the Opposition that the Joint Select Committee on National Security will be headed not by a Cabinet Member but by an Independent Senator?
(By the Member for Naparima)

8. In the absence of a crime plan and given that the murder rate last year was the highest in six (6) years would the Prime Minister state what corrective action is proposed to arrest this escalating crime situation?
(By the Member for Naparima)
9. Can the Prime Minister state the specific plans if any his Government intends to implement to protect both local and foreign participants during this Carnival Season and beyond?
(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)
10. Could the Prime Minister state when the Natural Gas Master Plan will be brought to the Joint Select Committee on Energy Affairs of the Parliament?
(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)
11. Could the Prime Minister state the reason(s) for the non-collection of approximately US\$35 million dollars in payments owed to the State by Swiss Offshore Drilling Contractor Transocean for the mooring of nine (9) ships off the coast of Chaguaramas since the beginning of 2015 especially at a time when the nation continues to suffer with a shortage of available foreign currency?
(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)
12. Given the recent remarks by the Chairman of Caribbean Airlines Ltd. (CAL) that the Trinidad to Tobago air bridge is unprofitable, could the Prime Minister inform this House whether the Government intends to increase the price for passengers travelling on the air bridge?
(By the Member for Couva South)
13. Could the Prime Minister please provide this House with a status report on the seizure of the US\$2 million by both local and international law enforcement agencies and indicate whether that seized currency remains in the custody of the Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago?
(By the Member for Couva South)
14. In light of the decision by RBC Bank to downsize and send home workers, thus adding to the list of unemployed persons in T&T, could the Prime Minister please advise this House when will the amendments to the Retrenchment and Severance Benefits Act and accompanying pieces of legislation be placed on the Government's Legislative Agenda?
(By the Member for Couva South)
15. In light of the recent settlement between Petrotrin and the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union for the collective bargaining period 2011-2014, could the Prime Minister state what is the likely negative impact for the workers of Petrotrin, including job losses?
(By the Member for Couva South)
16. Given the benchmarks outlined by the Prime Minister in his recent address to the nation including increased productivity and oil output, as agreed to in the Petrotrin/ Oilfields Workers' Trade Union negotiations, could the Prime Minister inform this House as to whether the workers will receive their backpay which stands in excess of \$300million, should these benchmarks be successfully realized?
(By the Member for Couva South)
17. Could the Prime Minister indicate whether Government is contemplating the removal of the subsidy from either the Air Bridge and/or Sea Bridge between Trinidad and Tobago?

(By the Member for Chaguanas East)

18. Could the Prime Minister indicate what areas of expertise Government has identified as streamlining for the tertiary education sector in keeping with the needs of the country?

(By the Member for Princes Town)

19. Could the Prime Minister please indicate whether Government has considered an Unemployment Commission in light of several thousands of jobs that have been lost during the past year?

(By the Member for Princes Town)

20. Given the announcement by the Government that the Highway to Point Fortin will be re-started in March 2017, could the Prime Minister please indicate whether the restart of construction will include the Debe to Mon Desir Segment?

(By the Member for Tabaquite)

21. Could the Prime Minister please provide a specific timeline as to when will the Couva Children and Adult Hospital be staffed and operational?

(By the Member for Oropouche East)

*Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel
Clerk of the House*

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