



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**ORDER PAPER**

TWENTY-FOURTH SITTING, THIRD SESSION (2017/2018)

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

FRIDAY MAY 11, 2018 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 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards for the year ended September 30, 2014.  
**(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)**
  - (ii) The Audited Unconsolidated Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards for the year ended September 30, 2014.  
**(By the Minister of Trade and Industry)**
  - (iii) The Annual Audited Financial Statements of Union Estate Electricity Generation Company Limited for the year ended December 31, 2016.  
**(By the Minister of Finance)**
  - (iv) The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services to the Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration, Second Session (2016/2017), Eleventh Parliament on an inquiry into the effectiveness of the State's interventions directed at Socially Displaced Persons in Trinidad and Tobago.  
**(By the Minister of Social Development and Family Services)**
7. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES
8. URGENT QUESTIONS
9. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER APPEAR IN THE APPENDIX**

**Questions for Oral Answer**

**Question No. 104 to the Minister of Works and Transport**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Given reports that passengers on the Cabo Star have been experiencing discomfort as a result of the vessel being overly crowded, can the Minister indicate what systems are in place to ensure that the safety of passengers and crew members is not compromised?

**Question No. 105 to the Prime Minister**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In light of recent reports that a 16-year-old special needs child rescued last January from a life of abuse has not been provided with the necessary counselling by the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, can the Prime Minister indicate, if and when, this child would be provided counselling?

**Question No. 106 to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Given reports of suspected sabotage in the infecting of plants with the citrus greening disease at the St. Augustine Nurseries, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. whether the Ministry has thoroughly investigated the origin of said disease in this country;
- ii. whether the disease has been contained; and
- iii. whether the allegations of sabotage have been or are being investigated; and
- iv. if the answer to (iii) is in the affirmative, what is the outcome of such investigation?

**\*Question No. 110 to the Minister of Health**

**(By Senator Saddam Hosein)**

Having regard to food vending at the Maracas Beach facility, can the Minister advise on the following:

- i. have the relevant officials from the Ministry of Health inspected the food vending facilities prior to occupation by vendors; and
- ii. have the necessary approvals for food vending been granted by the Ministry of Health?

**\*Question No. 111 to the Prime Minister**

**(By Senator Saddam Hosein)**

In light of statements from the Government that a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and Sandals Resorts International, can the Prime Minister indicate:

- i. the date on which the Memorandum of Understanding was signed; and
- ii. the parties who signed the Memorandum of Understanding?

**\*Question No. 119 to the Minister of Tourism**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

In the aftermath of a man having drowned at Blue Basin Waterfall in Diego Martin, can the Minister inform the Senate of the measures that are in place to ensure the safety of swimmers and visitors to the Waterfall?

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\* Questions Nos. 110 and 111 were deferred for two weeks on 20.04.2018

\* Questions No. 119 was deferred for two weeks on 26.04.2018

**\*Question No. 125 to the Minister of National Security**

**(By Senator Saddam Hosein)**

Having regard to the ISIS conflict in Syria and reports of the alleged participation of a number of Trinidad and Tobago nationals, can the Minister indicate what measures are being implemented by the Government to dissuade Trinidad and Tobago nationals from participating in conflict on behalf of ISIS?

**Question No. 126 to the Minister of Works and Transport**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

Can the Minister advise as to the circumstances that led to the malfunctioning of the engine of the 'Trini Flash' Water Taxi, on March 27, 2018?

**Question No. 127 to the Minister of Public Utilities**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

Having regard to the closure of the Iacos Health Centre on March 27, 2018 due to a lack of water, can the Minister indicate what is being done to ensure that this situation does not arise again?

**Question No. 128 to the Minister of Education**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

In light of reports that the authorities failed to act on a report of student bullying at the Point Fortin RC Primary School and the fact that the reported bullying continued and resulted in a student being beaten with a street sign, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. has the Ministry launched an investigation into this incident;
- ii. if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, has the investigation been completed;
- iii. what were the findings of such investigation; and
- iv. what action will be taken to ensure that there is no recurrence of this situation?

**Question No. 141 to the Minister of Works and Transport**

**(By Senator Paul Richards)**

In light of recent reports that the toilet facilities on the Cabo Star are non-functional, can the Minister indicate what is being done to remedy this situation?

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

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\* Question No. 125 was deferred for two weeks on 26.04.2018

15. PUBLIC BUSINESS

**GOVERNMENT BUSINESS**

**Bills Second Reading:**

- (i) **The debate on the Second reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the Senate adjourned on Tuesday May 01, 2018 will be resumed:**

A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Property Tax Act, Chap. 76:04'.

**(By the Minister of Finance)**

- (ii) 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)**

- (iii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chap. 48:50 to provide for the implementation of spot speed camera devices for the purpose of detecting speeding violations.'

**(By the Attorney General)**

- (iv) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to abolish preliminary enquiries and to provide for the pre-trial procedure in respect of indictable offences and for ancillary matters.'

**(By the Attorney General)**

- (v) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Registration of Titles to Land Act, 2000.'

**(By the Attorney General)**

- (vi) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Land Tribunal Act, 2000.'

**(By the Attorney General)**

- (vii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to repeal and replace the Crown Suits Limitation Ordinance.'

**(By the Attorney General)**

- (viii) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to amend the Land Adjudication Act, 2000.'

**(By the Attorney General)**

**Motions:**

- (i) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 34(1) of the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act, 2012 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") that the Minister may make Regulations for the purpose of giving effect to this Act, and all such other matters and things as may appear necessary or expedient or are required to be prescribed for effectively carrying into operation the provisions of the Act:

**AND WHEREAS** it is provided by section 34(2), that Regulations made under the Act shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament:

**AND WHEREAS** the Minister of National Security has on the 5th day of March, 2018 made the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Regulations, 2018:

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient that the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Regulations, 2018 now be affirmed:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Regulations, 2018 be approved.

**(By the Attorney General)**

(ii) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 53(1)(a),(d),(e),(f) and (g) of the Children’s Community Residences, Foster Care and Nurseries Act, Chap. 46:04 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the Authority may, with the approval of the Minister, make Regulations for, *inter alia*, –

- (a) the management of any Community Residence...;
- (d) the imposition of requirements as to the accommodation and equipment to be provided in residences, foster homes and nurseries;
- (e) the medical arrangements to be made for protecting the health of the children in Community Residences and foster homes;
- (f) the provision of information to the Authority by the Managers as to the facilities provided for the parents or guardians of children in Community Residences and foster homes, to visit and communicate with the children and where not provided to authorise the Authority to give directions as to the provision of such facilities; and
- (g) all such matters and things...for effectively carrying into operation the provisions of the Act:

**AND WHEREAS** it is provided by section 53(2) of the Act that Regulations made under this section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament:

**AND WHEREAS** the Children’s Community Residences (Rehabilitation Centres) Regulations, 2018 were made by the Authority under section 53 of the Act on the 20th day of February, 2018 and approved by the Minister on the 5th day of March, 2018:

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient to approve the said Regulations:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Children’s Community Residences (Rehabilitation Centres) Regulations, 2018 be approved.

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

(iii) **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 53(1)(a),(d),(e),(f) and (g) of the Children’s Community Residences, Foster Care and Nurseries Act, Chap. 46:04 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that the Authority may, with the approval of the Minister, make Regulations for, *inter alia*, –

- (a) the management of any community residence...;
- (d) the imposition of requirements as to the accommodation and equipment to be provided in residences, foster homes and nurseries;
- (e) the medical arrangements to be made for protecting the health of the children in Community Residences and foster homes;
- (f) the provision of information to the Authority by the Managers as to the facilities provided for the parents or guardians of children in Community Residences and foster homes, to visit and communicate with the children and where not provided to authorise the Authority to give directions as to the provision of such facilities; and
- (g) all such matters and things...for effectively carrying into operation the provisions of the Act:

**AND WHEREAS** it is provided by section 53(2) of the Act that Regulations made under this section shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament:

**AND WHEREAS** the Children's Community Residences (Children's Homes) Regulations, 2018 were made by the Authority under section 53(1) of the Act on the 20th day of February, 2018 and approved by the Minister on the 5th day of March, 2018:

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient to approve the said Regulations:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Children's Community Residences (Children's Homes) Regulations, 2018 be approved.

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

### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

#### **Motions:**

- (i) **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House take note of the escalating levels of job losses in the country since September 2015 and condemn the Government for its failure to present a clear and cogent economic policy to guide Trinidad and Tobago through these challenging economic circumstances.

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

- (ii) **WHEREAS** it is established by Section 71(1) and (12) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, that there shall be an Elections and Boundaries Commission that in the exercise of its functions shall not be subject to the direction or control of any other person or authority;

**AND WHEREAS** the Elections and Boundaries Commission is responsible for holding free and fair elections throughout Trinidad and Tobago;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Senate take note that the Elections and Boundaries Commission is not subject to any parliamentary scrutiny or accountability in respect of its activities and operations unlike other similar independent bodies such as Service Commissions;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Senate call on the Government to take urgent steps to introduce legislation that would make the Elections and Boundaries Commission accountable to the citizenry of Trinidad and Tobago by allowing parliamentary scrutiny of its administration, the manner of the exercise of its powers, methods of functioning and any criteria adopted by the Commission in the exercise of its powers and functions.

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

**Brian Caesar**  
**Clerk of the Senate (Ag.)**

**Senate Secretariat**  
**Office of the Parliament**  
**Level 3, Tower D**  
**The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre**  
**1A Wrightson Road**  
**PORT OF SPAIN**

**May 07, 2018**



**ORDER PAPER – FRIDAY MAY 11, 2018**  
**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER**

**\*Question No. 13 to the Minister of Public Administration and Communications**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

Having regard to contract employment in Government Ministries/Departments and Statutory Authorities, can the Minister provide the following information:

- a) the names and designations of all persons whose contracts were not renewed during the period September 30, 2015 – September 30, 2017;
- b) the reasons for such non-renewal referred to in (a);
- c) the names and designations of all persons employed/recruited on contract during the period September 30, 2015 – September 30, 2017;
- d) details of the compensation package of each person referred to in (c);
- e) the names and designations of all contract officers who during the period September 30, 2015 and September 30, 2017 were terminated before the original completion date of their contracts; and
- f) the reasons for the termination referred to in (e)?

**(Answer due by 03.11.2017)**

**\*Question No. 78 to the Prime Minister**

**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

In view of the public advertisements issued by the Office of the Prime Minister inviting suitably qualified nationals to apply for employment on contract in the positions of Director of Scheduling and Advance, Director of Communications, Communications Strategist, Deputy Director of Communications, Deputy Press Secretary and Office Support Assistant, can the Prime Minister provide this Senate with the following information:

- i. whether these advertised positions have since been filled;
- ii. if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what are the names of the respective persons who were selected for the positions;
- iii. details of the terms and conditions of each position as outlined above;
- iv. the names and qualifications of each person who applied;
- v. the process of selection used to arrive at the final selection of each position advertised; and
- vi. whether the persons selected are all based in the Office of the Prime Minister?

**(Answer due by 29.03.2018)**

**\*Question No. 118 to the Minister of Education**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

Having regard to the Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses Programme, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. the total amount owed by Government to local tertiary level institutions;
- ii. a breakdown of the respective local tertiary level institutions and the amount of GATE funding owed to each as at February 2018; and
- iii. how soon are these institutions likely to receive full payment of monies owed to them?

**(Answer due by 27.04. 2018)**

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\* Question No. 13 - Standing Order 27(16) invoked on 20.02.2018

\* Question No. 78 was deferred for two weeks on 11.04.2018

\* Question No. 118 was deferred for two weeks on 01.05.2018



**Question No. 129 to the Minister of Finance**

**(By Senator Taharqa Obika)**

With respect to the Government's lobby group based in Washington DC known as The Group DC LLC, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. the total amount paid, in both US and TT dollars, to this lobby group during the period October 31, 2016 to March 31, 2018;
- ii. a detailed breakdown of the services rendered by said lobby group during the period October 31, 2016 to March 31, 2018; and
- iii. how has the lobby group contributed in the promotion of Trade and Investment between the United States and Trinidad and Tobago during the period October 31, 2016 to March 31, 2018?

**(Answer due by 12.05.2018)**

**Question No. 156 to the Minister of Works and Transport**

**(Senator Wade Mark)**

Having regard to security at the nation's airports, can the Minister indicate the following:

- i. whether any contract(s) has been recently awarded to any company/companies to conduct surveillance works at the airports;
- ii. if the answer to (i) is in the affirmative, what is the security experience/knowledge profile of the company/companies; and
- iii. what was the procurement process used to award the contract(s) to the company/companies?

**(Answer due by 01.06.2018)**

**Question No. 159 to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries**

**(Senator Wade Mark)**

Can the Minister provide the Senate with a breakdown of the total expenses incurred, per year, for the Christmas event(s) known as "Family Nights Under the Lights" and/or "Movie Night Under the Lights" held at the Botanic Gardens in the years 2015, 2016 and 2017?

**(Answer due by 01.06.2018)**

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**FRIDAY MAY 11, 2018 AT 1:30 P.M.**

**NOTICE OF URGENT QUESTION**

The under-mentioned Question which has been accepted by the President in accordance with Standing Order 25 is hereby forwarded for the attention of the Minister concerned.

1. **TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION**  
**(By Senator Wade Mark)**

What steps are being taken to address the issue of a defective sewer system and asbestos fragments on the compound of the Egypt Government Primary School, Point Fortin?

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