



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ORDER PAPER

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

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY MAY 15, 2018 AT 10:00 A.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 Consolidated Audited Financial Statements of First Citizens Holdings Limited for the financial year ended September 30, 2017.
(By the Minister of Finance)
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. 107 to the Minister of Health

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Given recent reports on Trinidad and Tobago's high infant mortality rate when compared to international standards, can the Minister indicate what measures are being taken to reduce the high incidence of infant mortality?

***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:

* Questions Nos. 111 - Standing Order 27(15) invoked on 11.05.2018

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

Question No. 121 to the Prime Minister

(By Senator Wade Mark)

What assistance is being provided to Tobago businesses, having regard to the state of the Tobago economy and their request for financial support of approximately \$750 million?

Question No. 122 to the Minister of Housing and Urban Development

(By Senator Wade Mark)

Having regard to the provisions of Section 6 of the Town and Country Planning Act Chap 35:01 and HDC's proposed North Grove Development in St Augustine, can the Minister inform the Senate whether:

- i. a recent/updated survey of that area has been carried out and when;
- ii. the survey and its corresponding report with proposals for additions to the plan have been submitted to Parliament; and
- iii. the proposed Development has been approved by Parliament?

Question No. 130 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

With respect to the planned sale of some of the assets of CL Financial via a National Investment Fund arrangement, can the Minister indicate whether there will be beneficial owner restrictions as regard share ownership?

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
15. PUBLIC BUSINESS

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS

Bills Second Reading:

- (i) A Bill entitled, 'An Act to supplement and vary the appropriation of the sum the issue of which was authorized by the Appropriation (Financial Year 2018) Act, 2017.'
(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 11, 2018

ORDER PAPER – TUESDAY MAY 15, 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)

* 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

(By 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

(By 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)

Question No. 173 to the Minister of Finance

(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Can the Minister provide the Senate with the following:

- (a) the terms and conditions involved in the recently concluded loan agreement with the Corporacion Andina De Fomento (CAF) Development Bank, namely:
 - i. the rate of interest for the period of the loan;
 - ii. the period/term of the loan;
 - iii. the commencement date for the repayment and the monthly instalments;
 - iv. any other special repayment arrangements;
 - v. the sanctions/penalties for failure to meet the conditions of the loan;
 - vi. the method of disbursement of the said loan; and
- (b) copies of the completed loan agreement?

(Answer due by 06.06.2018)

**Senate Secretariat
Office of the Parliament
Level 3, Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road
PORT OF SPAIN
May 11, 2018**



SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT

TUESDAY MAY 15, 2018 AT 10:00 A.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 EDUCATION**
(By Senator Khadijah Ameen)

In light of reports that termination letters have been served to thirty (30) members of the academic staff at UTT, can the Minister indicate the impact this action will have on the institution and the delivery of the academic programme?

2. **TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH**
(By Senator Taharqa Obika)

Having regard to the protest action taken by workers on the construction site of the new Point Fortin Hospital, owing to the non-payment of wages, what measures are being taken by the Ministry to immediately address this issue?

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

May 15, 2018