



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SECOND SESSION
TWELFTH PARLIAMENT

NO. 20
2021/2022

ORDER PAPER

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2022 AT 1:30 P.M.

PRAYERS

OATH OR AFFIRMATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

BILLS BROUGHT FROM THE SENATE

PETITIONS

PAPERS

1. The Report of the Auditor General of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the Financial Statements of the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation for the year ended September 30, 2019.
(By the Minister of Finance who will move that the Report be referred to the Public Accounts Committee)
2. The Annual Report of the Registration Recognition and Certification Board for the year ended December 31, 2019.
(By the Minister of Labour)
3. The Annual Report of the Registration Recognition and Certification Board for the year ended December 31, 2020.
(By the Minister of Labour)
4. The Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services to the Second Report of the Public Accounts Committee on an Examination of The Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2020.
(By the Minister of Social Development and Family Services)

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

URGENT QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions for Written Answer appear in the Appendix

Questions for Oral Answer

Question No. 64 to the Minister of Public Utilities

(By the Member for Couva South)

Having regard to the \$453 million decrease in revenue experienced by the Telecommunication Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT), during the last fiscal year, will the Minister advise this House:

- a. is this likely to negatively impact the company's human resources; and
- b. if the answer to part a is in the affirmative, have there been any discussions with the recognised majority unions on said matter?

Question No. 66 to the Minister of Health

(By the Member for Cumuto/Manzanilla)

Having regard to the mental and physical exhaustion being experienced by health care workers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, will the Minister advise as to what is being done to address said mental and physical exhaustion?

Question No. 70 to the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government

(By the Member for Couva South)

Has the Ministry awarded a contract for the upgrade of the Indian Trail Recreation Ground?

Question No. 71 to the Minister of Sport and Community Development

(By the Member for Couva South)

Will the Minister provide an update on applications to the National Commission for Self Help Limited for Emergency Relief Grants by ten constituents of Couva South whose properties were negatively affected by adverse weather conditions on Friday September 03, 2021?

Question No. 72 to the Prime Minister

(By the Member for Mayaro)

In light of Trinidad and Tobago's score of 41/100 on the Corruption Perception Index, will the Prime Minister state what specific new measures will be taken to improve the country's global standing?

Question No. 73 to the Minister of Education

(By the Member for Mayaro)

Given the daily rate of COVID-19 infections and the planned physical reopening of schools for standard five students, will the Minister provide the Ministry's plans to manage this process to avoid an outbreak?

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motions:

1. **WHEREAS** it is the responsibility of the Government to provide equal and equitable opportunities for all citizens to access quality education;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to address the existing inequities in accessing education exacerbated by the shift to virtual learning;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to provide safe learning spaces following its sudden decision to institute in-person classes for some students;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to meet the varied requirements of teachers leaving many ill-equipped to execute quality online instruction;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to effectively manage resources to facilitate adequate funding to the GATE program, government sponsored scholarships and bursaries, school feeding programme, special education access and other school related services;

BE IT RESOLVED that this House takes note of the increasing and unacceptable levels of disparity in inequitable access to education and the failure of the Ministry of Education to deliver on its essential mandate;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this House calls on the Government to take all immediate and necessary steps to provide equitable access to all students.

(By the Member for Tabaquite)

2. **The debate on the following Motion which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday December 10, 2021 will be resumed:**

WHEREAS the Government has consistently presented Budgets which are unrelated to the demonstrated needs of Trinidad and Tobago;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to present a sustainable and viable plan to address job creation, investment or foreign exchange generation;

AND WHEREAS the cost of living continues to escalate, lowering the standard of living and quality of life of a significant segment of the population;

AND WHEREAS the Government continues to fund its wastage and corruption by engaging in increased domestic and foreign debt while depleting state resources:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House condemns the Government for its neglect of the economy and failure to generate sustainable economic growth and development.

(By the Member for Oropouche West)

3. **WHEREAS** the House of Representatives, is the elected House of Parliament, where lawfully elected Members are entitled to the Constitutionally entrenched right to freedom of speech;

AND WHEREAS the Standing Orders are not intended to diminish, restrict or violate the rights, privileges and immunities of the House;

AND WHEREAS the Speaker must discharge her functions in an unbiased and impartial manner; free from political influence and in no manner to prevent or protect the Government from criticism;

AND WHEREAS the Speaker's lack of understanding of and/or disregard for her role as an impartial presiding officer, the application of, and at times, indifference to, the Standing Orders has impeded her judgment to perform her role free from bias and thereby unequivocally brought the Office of Speaker into disrepute;

AND WHEREAS the Speaker has oppressed and continues to oppress the voice and opinions of hundreds of thousands of constituents of the Members of the Opposition:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House express a lack of confidence in the Speaker.

(By the Member for Couva South)

4. **WHEREAS** section 76(2) of the Constitution provides that the Attorney General is responsible for the administration of legal affairs in Trinidad and Tobago and civil proceedings for and against the State;

AND WHEREAS the Attorney General has shown his lack of knowledge, bias, incompetence and legal ineptitude to manage the administration of legal affairs in Trinidad and Tobago and civil proceedings for and against the State;

AND WHEREAS the Attorney General having failed to properly execute his constitutional duties;

AND WHEREAS the conduct of the Attorney General has brought his office into odium and disrepute:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House express its loss of confidence in the Attorney General.

(By the Member for Barataria/San Juan)

5. **WHEREAS** the Government has been unable to effectively prevent a surge in criminal activity resulting in rapid increases in murders, robberies and home invasions;

AND WHEREAS the Government has failed to set and operationalise a forceful and functional crime reduction plan with SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time bound) goals to curb the growing murder rate;

AND WHEREAS the Government has consistently ignored and, through their incompetence, added to the fundamental causes of crime, while focusing on punitive measures instead of preventative measures;

AND WHEREAS the failure to effectively address crime has created social, political, economic and cultural crises of immeasurable proportions:

BE IT RESOLVED that this House reprimands this Government for its failure to effectively prevent the surge in criminal activity in our country.

(By the Member for Naparima)

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 February 18, 2022 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. **The debate on the Second Reading of the following Bill which was in progress when the House adjourned on Friday February 04, 2022 will be resumed:**

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 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)

4. A Bill entitled, “An Act to repeal the Foreign Labour Contracts Act, Chap. 88:11.”

(By the Minister of Labour)

5. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Sexual Offences Act, Chap. 11:28 and for other related matters.”

(By the Attorney General)

6. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Interpretation Act, Chap. 3:01, the Supreme Court of Judicature Act, Chap. 4:01, the Offences Against the Person Act, Chap. 11:08, the Criminal Procedure Act, Chap. 12:02 and for other related matters.”

(By the Attorney General)

7. A Bill entitled, “An Act to amend the Proceeds of Crime Act, Chap. 11:27, the Anti-terrorism Act, Chap. 12:07, the Securities Act, Chap. 83:02, the Insurance Act, Chap. 84:01 and the Miscellaneous Provisions (FATF Compliance) Act, No. 25 of 2020.”

(By the Attorney General)

8. A Bill entitled, “An Act to provide for the establishment of the National Academy for the Performing Arts and for the management and control thereof and for related matters.”

(By the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts)

9. A Bill entitled, “An Act to provide for the establishment of the Southern Academy for the Performing Arts and for the management and control thereof and for related matters.”

(By the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts)

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 Planning and Development)

Motions:

1. **WHEREAS** it is provided by section 4(3) of the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) Act, Chap.25:50 (hereinafter referred to as “the Act”) that as soon as may be after the Elections and Boundaries Commission (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”) has submitted a report under section 4(1)(a) of the Act, the Minister shall lay before the House of Representatives for its approval the draft of an Order by the President for giving effect, whether with or without modifications, to the recommendations contained in the report;

AND WHEREAS the Commission has submitted a report to the Minister in accordance with the provisions of section 4(1)(a) of the Act;

AND WHEREAS the draft of an Order entitled “the Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) Order, 2021” giving effect to the recommendations of the Commission was laid before the House of Representatives on the 4th day of February, 2022:

BE IT RESOLVED that the draft of the “Elections and Boundaries Commission (Local Government and Tobago House of Assembly) Order, 2021” be approved.

(By the Prime Minister)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS**Motions:**

1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House adopt the Report of the Joint Select Committee on the Miscellaneous Provisions (Local Government Reform) Bill, 2020.
(By the Member for Arouca/Maloney)
2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that this House adopt the Report of the Joint Select Committee on the Cannabis Control Bill, 2020.
(By the Member for San Fernando West)

Brian Caesar
Clerk of the House (Ag.)

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

February 21, 2022

ORDER PAPER FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2022QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWER***Question No. 46 to the Minister of Health****(By the Member for Oropouche West)**

As regard medical equipment that has gone missing from each of the health facilities under the Regional Health Authorities within the period 2015-2021, will the Minister provide:

- (i) the quantity that has gone missing from each facility over the period;
- (ii) the function of each item/piece of medical equipment;
- (iii) the value of each item/piece of medical equipment;
- (iv) the approximate date or time period in which each item/piece of medical equipment went missing;
- (v) the status of the investigation of the missing medical equipment; and
- (vi) whether any person(s) have been held accountable?

(Answer due by 05.02.2022)**Question No. 48 to the Minister of Digital Transformation:****(By the Member for Mayaro)**

With regard to the digitisation of Government services, will the Minister provide:

- a. a detailed breakdown of the extent to which Ministries' services have been digitised; and
- b. specify how the digitisation process improved efficiency in assisting citizens?

(Answer due by 19.02.2022)**Question No. 49 to the Minister of Digital Transformation:****(By the Member for Mayaro)**

Will the Minister provide a breakdown of the following:

- a. the key digital transformation projects being undertaken by the Ministry;
- b. the deliverables of these projects identified at (a); and
- c. the projected date of completion for said projects?

(Answer due by 19.02.2022)**Question No. 54 to the Minister of Health:****(By the Member for Fyzabad)**

Will the Minister provide the following information, for the period September 2015- December 2021, with respect to the Ministry of Health and the Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises which fall under the purview of the Ministry:

- a. The legal matters (litigation and legal advice) for which external legal counsel was retained;
- b. the name of the external counsel retained in each matter;
- c. the amount of money paid in legal fees to external counsel in each matter; and
- d. the number of matters for which invoices have not yet been submitted?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)

Question No. 55 to the Minister of Education:**(By the Member for Tabaquite)**

Will the Minister provide the following information, for the period September 2015- December 2021, with respect to the Ministry of Education and the Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises which fall under the purview of the Ministry:

- a. The legal matters (litigation and legal advice) for which external legal counsel was retained;
- b. the name of the external counsel retained in each matter;
- c. the amount of money paid in legal fees to external counsel in each matter; and
- d. the number of matters for which invoices have not yet been submitted?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)**Question No. 56 to the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs:****(By the Member for Naparima)**

Will the Minister provide the following information, for the period September 2015- December 2021, with respect to the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and the Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises which fall under the purview of the Ministry:

- a. The legal matters (litigation and legal advice) for which external legal counsel was retained;
- b. the name of the external counsel retained in each matter;
- c. the amount of money paid in legal fees to external counsel in each matter; and
- d. the number of matters for which invoices have not yet been submitted?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)**Question No. 57 to the Minister of Finance:****(By the Member for Oropouche West)**

Will the Minister provide the following information, for the period September 2015- December 2021, with respect to the Ministry of Finance and the Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises which fall under the purview of the Ministry:

- a. The legal matters (litigation and legal advice) for which external legal counsel was retained;
- b. the name of the external counsel retained in each matter;
- c. the amount of money paid in legal fees to external counsel in each matter;
- d. the number of matters for which invoices have not yet been submitted; and
- e. the status of each of these matters?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)**Question No. 58 to the Minister of Planning and Development:****(By the Member for Oropouche West)**

Will the Minister provide the following information, for the period September 2015- December 2021, with respect to the Ministry of Planning and Development and the Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises which fall under the purview of the Ministry:

- a. The legal matters (litigation and legal advice) for which external legal counsel was retained;
- b. the name of the external counsel retained in each matter;
- c. the amount of money paid in legal fees to counsel in each matter;
- d. the number of matters for which invoices have not yet been submitted; and
- e. the status of each of these matters?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)

Question No. 59 to the Minister of Social Development and Family Services:**(By the Member for Chaguanas East)**

Will the Minister provide the following information, for the period September 2015- December 2021, with respect to the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and the Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises which fall under the purview of the Ministry:

- a. the legal matters (litigation and legal advice) for which external legal counsel was retained;
- b. the name of the external counsel retained in each matter;
- c. the amount of money paid in legal fees to external counsel in each matter; and
- d. the number of matters for which invoices have not yet been submitted?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)**Question No. 60 to the Prime Minister:****(By the Member for Siparia)**

Will the Prime Minister provide the following information, for the period September 2015- December 2021, with respect to the Office of the Prime Minister and the Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises which fall under the purview of the Office:

- a. the legal matters (litigation and legal advice) for which external legal counsel was retained;
- b. the name of the external counsel retained in each matter;
- c. the amount of money paid in legal fees to external counsel in each matter; and
- d. the number of matters for which invoices have not yet been submitted?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)**Question No. 61 to the Minister of Labour:****(By the Member for Couva South)**

Will the Minister provide the following information:

- a. the number of outstanding wage negotiations in the Public Service, State Enterprises and Statutory Authorities for the bargaining period September 7th, 2015 to present; and
- b. the list of recognised majority unions that are involved in these negotiations?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)**Question No. 62 to the Minister of Rural Development and Local Government:****(By the Member for St. Augustine)**

Will the Minister provide the following information, for the period September 2015- December 2021, with respect to the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government and the Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises which fall under the purview of the Ministry:

- a. the legal matters (litigation and legal advice) for which external legal counsel was retained;
- b. the name of the external counsel retained in each matter;
- c. the amount of money paid in legal fees to external counsel in each matter; and
- d. the number of matters for which invoices have not yet been submitted?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)**Question No. 63 to the Minister of Labour:****(By the Member for Couva South)**

Will the Minister provide the following information, for the period September 2015- December 2021, with respect to the Ministry of Labour and the Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises which fall under the purview of the Ministry:

- a. the legal matters (litigation and legal advice) for which external legal counsel was retained;
- b. the name of the external counsel retained in each matter;
- c. the amount of money paid in legal fees to external counsel in each matter; and
- d. the number of matters for which invoices have not yet been submitted?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)

Question No. 65 to the Minister of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries:

(By the Member for Couva North)

Will the Minister provide the following information, for the period September 2015- December 2021, with respect to the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries and the Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises which fall under the purview of the Ministry:

- a. the legal matters (litigation and legal advice) for which external legal counsel was retained;
- b. the name of the external counsel retained in each matter;
- c. the amount of money paid in legal fees to external counsel in each matter; and
- d. the number of matters for which invoices have not yet been submitted?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)

Question No. 67 to the Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs:

(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

Will the Minister provide the following information, for the period September 2015- December 2021, with respect to the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries and the Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises which fall under the purview of the Ministry:

- a. the legal matters (litigation and legal advice) for which external legal counsel was retained;
- b. the name of the external counsel retained in each matter;
- c. the amount of money paid in legal fees to external counsel in each matter; and
- d. the number of matters for which invoices have not yet been submitted?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)

Question No. 68 to the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts:

(By the Member for Pointe-a-Pierre)

Will the Minister provide the following information, for the period September 2015- December 2021, with respect to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts and the Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises which fall under the purview of the Ministry:

- a. the legal matters (litigation and legal advice) for which external legal counsel was retained;
- b. the name of the external counsel retained in each matter;
- c. the amount of money paid in legal fees to external counsel in each matter; and
- d. the number of matters for which invoices have not yet been submitted?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)

Question No. 69 to the Minister of Trade and Industry:

(By the Member for Mayaro)

Will the Minister provide the following information, for the period September 2015- December 2021, with respect to the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Statutory Bodies and State Enterprises which fall under the purview of the Ministry:

- a. the legal matters (litigation and legal advice) for which external legal counsel was retained;

- b. the name of the external counsel retained in each matter;
- c. the amount of money paid in legal fees to external counsel in each matter; and
- d. the number of matters for which invoices have not yet been submitted?

(Answer due by 25.02.2022)

Brian Caesar
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February 21, 2022

* Question No. 46 was deferred for two (2) weeks on February 11, 2022.