



QUESTION NOTICE PAPER
OF THE
SENATE OF JAMAICA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2013

NOTICE GIVEN ON FRIDAY, 7TH JUNE, 2013

4.

*** Senator Montague to ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Leader of Government Business on the 28th day of June, 2013:**

1. Can the Minister state whether a delegation from Jamaica is attending a Local Government conference in Uganda during this fiscal year?
2. Will the Minister state the name, title and basis for the selection of each member of the delegation?
3. Will the Minister state the full itinerary, the cost of the tickets and the class of travel in respect of each member of the delegation?
4. Will the Minister state –
 - (a) The other costs associated with each person's travel, to include, but not limited to, airport transfers, ground transportation, conference registration, accommodation and meal costs? and;
 - (b) The party bearing the cost for each member of the delegation?
5. Will the Minister state, in addition to the foregoing expenses, whether or not members of the delegation are being provided with a daily allowance from the Government of Jamaica? And, if the answer is in the affirmative, would the Minister provide the amount paid to each person per day?

6. Will the Minister state if any contribution is being made by any individual member of the delegation, and, if the answer is in the affirmative, would the Minister state who those persons are and the contribution made by them?

5.

*** Senator Montague to ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Leader of Government Business on the 28th day of June, 2013:**

1. Could the Minister state how many schools, police stations, courthouses and clinics still have and use pit latrines?

2. Could the Minister provide a list of same?

3. Could the Minister provide a list of the said institutions with pit latrines that have budgetary provisions for upgrades to their sanitary facilities in this financial year?

4. Could the Minister provide a timetable for the upgrading of the sanitary facilities at the respective institutions, in particular the schools?

6.

*** Senator Montague to ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Leader of Government Business on the 28th day of June, 2013:**

1. Will the Minister state how many cases of rape were reported and recorded in Jamaica for the periods January 2012 to December 2012, and January 2013 to May 2013?

2. Will the Minister state how many of these reported rape cases, for the above periods, have a suspect being charged for and the matter turned over to the courts for trial?

3. If there are cases, not in the court, will the Minister state how many of these reported rapes have had a suspect being identified?

4. Are rape kits prepared for all reported rape cases in Jamaica?

5. If the answer to Part 4 is "no" or "not all cases", will the Minister state what the three main reasons are why rape kits are not prepared?

6. Are deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) tests conducted on all rape kits that are prepared?

7. Will the Minister state how many suspects have been identified during the above-mentioned periods, as a result of DNA profiling?

8. What is the policy of the Government with regards to the testing of rape kits for DNA and other matters?

9. Will the Minister please state how many rape kits were in the possession of the authorities, to be tested and which have not been tested, up to May 30, 2013?

10. If there is a backlog of rape kits to be tested, will the Minister please state the planned period in which they will be tested and at what costs?

8.

*** Senator Dr. Tufton to ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Leader of Government Business on the 28th day of June, 2013:**

1. How many persons are currently on the Programme for Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH)?

2. What is the breakdown, by numbers of beneficiaries, by gender, health and education?

3. How many of the beneficiaries are disabled?

4. Along with the categories identified in Part 2, how many persons have been removed and how many persons penalised with reduced benefits on an annualised basis over the last three years?

5. What have been the primary reasons (top three reasons) for their removal?

6. What intervention programme is in place for those who have been penalised, to encourage re-engagement?

7. How successful have these interventions been in terms of number of persons who have been re-engaged annually for the last three years?

8. Does the Government believe that the intervention programme is working and, if not, what reviews are taking place to improve its efficiency?

NOTICE GIVEN ON FRIDAY, 21ST JUNE, 2013

10.

*** Senator Dr. Tufton to ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Leader of Government Business on the 12th day of July, 2013:**

1. How many overseas-based participants attended the recently concluded Diaspora Conference held in Montego Bay, St. James, from June 16 to 19, 2013?

2. Of this number, how many were:

(a) Prospective investors?

(b) Delegates?

(c) Other category of special interest stakeholder groups?

3. What was the cost to the Government of Jamaica for staging this event?
4. What were the main conclusions and specific plans agreed to coming out of the conference?
5. What timelines were established for targeted plans and programmes coming out of the decisions arrived at at the conference?
6. How does the Government intend to ensure that these timelines for policies and programmes implementation are kept?

NOTICE GIVEN ON FRIDAY, 12TH JULY, 2013

15.

*** Senator Montague to ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Leader of Government Business on the 2nd day of August, 2013:**

1. Would the Minister state if there is a Government policy, standard or guideline on the eligibility for graduation from early childhood, primary and secondary schools?
2. If the answer to Part 1 is in the negative, would the Minister state whether or not the Government would consider publishing standards or guidelines on the eligibility for graduation from early childhood, primary and secondary schools?
3. Would the Minister state if there is a Government policy, standard or guideline for the cost of graduation from the above-mentioned categories of school?
4. If a parent or guardian believes that the cost of the graduation package for the above-mentioned categories of schools is too burdensome, would the Minister please state what steps he may take to appeal this matter?
5. Would the Minister state whether or not the Government offers any assistance for graduation packages?
6. If the answer to Part 5 is in the negative, would the Minister state what is the Government's policy on PATH beneficiaries who are unable to graduate because they cannot afford the graduation package?

NOTICE GIVEN ON FRIDAY, 19TH JULY, 2013

16.

*** Senator Montague to ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Leader of Government Business on the 9th day of August, 2013:**

- 1.** Is the Minister aware that a ban on smoking in defined public places came into effect on July 15, 2013?
- 2.** Will the Minister state if this ban is part of a holistic programme to reduce smoking across all age groups?
- 3.** If the answer to Part 2 is in the affirmative, will the Minister share with the Senate any other material aspects of this holistic programme, including the relevant policy, and whether or not the programme and/or policy establishes a percentage target for the reduction of smoking?
- 4.** Will the Minister state if the regulations regarding the smoking ban have been circulated to the local boards of health and all other stakeholders within the industry? If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister state when this was done? And, if negative, when will this be done?
- 5.** Will the Minister state whether any programmes are in place to assist small vendors of cigarettes to maintain their income, if affected by the smoking ban?
- 6.** Will the Minister state how much tax revenue was:
 - (a)** Earned from the tobacco industry in 2012/2013? and
 - (b)** Collected in the first quarter of this financial year?
- 7.** Will the Minister state whether there is a contingency plan and/or proposed measures in the event of a revenue shortfall due to a possible reduction in earnings in this industry as a result of the smoking ban? If the answer is in the affirmative, will the Minister outline the plan?
- 8.** Will the Minister state what plans or proposed measures will be implemented to reduce the effects, if any, on the IMF programme as a result of the potential revenue shortfall?

NOTICE GIVEN ON FRIDAY, 26TH JULY, 2013

17.

*** Senator Montague to ask the Minister of Justice on the 16th day of August, 2013:**

- 1.** Will the Minister state how many maintenance orders were granted on behalf of children in the 2012/2013 financial year, and for the period April 1, 2013, to June 30, 2013?

2. Will the Minister state, of this amount, how many were to be served on parents outside of Jamaica?
3. Will the Minister state if maintenance orders have been granted against women? And, if the answer is in the affirmative, would the Minister state how many such orders were granted during the 2012/2013 financial year?
4. Will the Minister state if any maintenance orders were granted against children for the maintenance of their parents during the 2012/2013 financial year? And, if the answer is in the affirmative, would the Minister further state how many such orders were granted for the period April 1, 2013, to June 30, 2013?
5. Will the Minister state if there is any agreement with any foreign state to assist in the service and enforcement of maintenance orders from the Jamaican courts?
6. If the answer to Part 5 is in the negative, will the Minister state if the Government of Jamaica would consider instituting a policy that Jamaica will not enter into any more agreements of this nature with any foreign state, unless they agree to assist with the service and enforcement of maintenance orders?
7. Will the Minister state whether or not the Government has a policy of automatically deducting the amounts payable in satisfaction of maintenance orders from the salaries of Government employees?
8. If the answer to Part 7 is in the negative, will the Minister state if the Government would consider such a policy?

18.

*** Senator Arthur Williams to ask the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Leader of Government Business on the 16th day of August, 2013:**

1. Will the Minister state the number of workers in the tourism industry who have been laid off or who have lost their jobs in the last 12 months?
2. Will the Minister state how many such persons are from Braco, Starfish, Ritz Carlton, Breezes Grand Lido, Sandals Negril, and Wyndham Kingston Hotel?
3. Will the Minister state how many are from other hotels/resorts not named in Part 2 above?
4. Will the Minister state the date for the re-opening of any of the hotels/resorts from which workers have been laid off or have been terminated?