



ST HELENA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ORDER PAPER

First Sitting of the Second Meeting of Legislative Council

Tuesday 19th December 2017 at 10am
in the Council Chamber

1. Formal Entry of the President
2. Prayers
3. Address by the President
4. Papers

SP 39/2017 *(Hon Financial Secretary)*
*St Helena Government - Update to St Helena Government
Response to Recommendations following the Adoption of the
Public Accounts Committee Reports laid before Legislative
Council as Sessional Papers 63/16, 10/17 And 15/17*

SP 40/2017 *(Hon Financial Secretary)*
*St Helena Government - Statements of Expenditure in Excess,
Financial Year 2016/2017*

SP 41/2017 *(Hon Anthony Green)*
A Bill for an Ordinance- Marriage Bill, 2017

SP 42/2017 *(Hon Anthony Green)*
*A Bill for an Ordinance - Welfare of Children (Employment of
Children) (Amendment) Bill, 2017*

SP 43/2017 *(Hon Anthony Green))*
*A Bill for an Ordinance - Welfare of Children (Cruelty to Children
And Young Persons) (Amendment) Bill, 2017*

SP 44/2017 *(Hon Anthony Green)*
A Bill for an Ordinance - Domestic Abuse Bill, 2017

- SP 45/2017 (*Hon Financial Secretary*)
St Helena Government – St Helena Government Guarantee to Connect Saint Helena Ltd to support the St Helena Fisheries Corporation (SHFC)
- SP 46/2017 (*Hon Acting Chief Secretary*)
St Helena Government – Proceedings of the Legislative Council – Wednesday, 2nd August, 2017- Inaugural Meeting Of The Legislative Council
- SP 47/2017 (*Hon Acting Chief Secretary*)
St Helena Government – Proceedings of the Legislative Council – Friday 15th September 2017 - First Sitting of the First Meeting of Legislative Council

5. Questions

1. The Hon Dr. Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Financial Secretary:

Will the Honourable Financial Secretary tell this Council what is the role of St Helena Government in ensuring that St Helena has a reliable and adequate sea freight service that provides for the essential requirements of the island following the withdrawal of the *RMS St Helena*?

2. The Hon Christine Scipio-O'Dean to ask the Hon Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Will the Honourable Chairman of the Public Health Committee tell this Council what are the standards of health care set out in policy and is there any independent verification that the services provided meet these standards?

3. The Hon Christine Scipio-O'Dean to ask the Hon Financial Secretary:

Will the Honourable Financial Secretary tell this Council what the current position is regarding implementation of the recommendations in the Audit Report on Managing Grants and Subsidies?

4. The Hon Dr. Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Chairman of the Economic Development Committee:

Will the Honourable Chairman of the Economic Development Committee tell this Council why importation of vegetables is no longer controlled by permit at times when local produce is readily available?

5. The Hon Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Will the Honourable Chairman of the Public Health Committee tell this Council what arrangements are in place for the transportation by air service of medical samples and specimens requiring analysis overseas?

6. The Hon Christine Scipio-O'Dean to ask the Hon Financial Secretary:

Will the Honourable Financial Secretary tell this Council why there is a delay in Government Response to PAC Recommendations being laid in this session contrary to Section 69(9) of the Constitution of St Helena?

6. Motions

1. The Hon Anthony Green

That the Marriage Bill, 2017 be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the whole Council.

2. The Hon Anthony Green

That the Welfare of Children (Employment of Children) (Amendment) Bill, 2017 be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the whole Council.

3. The Hon Anthony Green

That the Welfare of Children (Cruelty to Children and Young Persons) Bill, 2017 be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the whole Council.

4. The Hon Anthony Green

That the Domestic Abuse Bill, 2017 be approved in principle and referred to a Committee of the whole Council.

5. The Hon Financial Secretary

That this House approves the terms and conditions of the St Helena Government Guarantee to Connect Saint Helena Ltd, as laid before Legislative Council.

6. The Hon Brian Isaac

That this House resolves that the remuneration for the Deputy Speaker is set as provided for under Section 7(a) of Schedule 1 of the Legislative

Council (Remuneration and Allowances) Ordinance, 2010 and that it is effective from 2nd August 2017.

7. The Hon Dr Corinda Essex

That this House formally places on record its grave concerns relating to the continuing absence of an agreed capital investment programme to address the essential development needs of St Helena after 1st January 2018, and requests that Her Majesty's Government be fully informed of these.

7. Adjournment Debate

Questions for Written Response

1. The Hon Dr. Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Financial Secretary:

Will the Honourable Financial Secretary tell this Council why the freight charges for cargo to be carried by the MV Helena commencing in February 2018 considerably exceed those published when it was anticipated that the vessel would start providing the Island's freight service in 2016?

Response:

The Freight Service Agreement between the Freight Service Provider AW Ship Management Ltd and St Helena Government makes provision for freight charges to be revised in accordance with a predetermined calculation. The price adjustment methodology takes account of the following factors: Consumer Price Index (CPI), Bunker Adjustment Factor, Currency Adjustment Factor and Volume Adjustment Factor.

Each of these factors has trigger points which will trigger the adjustment of freight charges.

Freight charges will be adjusted annually for the movement in CPI. The rate to be used is the Bank of England annual inflation report for the previous fiscal year.

The Bunker Adjustment Factor is calculated based on the current bunker costs compared to the budgeted bunker costs. The price for bunkers are published on the ship and bunkers website and these adjustments must be evidenced based.

The Currency Adjustment Factor is based on US Dollar to pound sterling exchange rate and compares what the rate was at the signing of the contract against current exchanges rate.

The volume adjustment factor will only come into effect after one year of operations where the volume of freight exceeds the pre agreed volume estimate.

It has been 22 months since the signing of the Agreement and these external cost factors have changed. As a result the Service Provider requested an adjustment and SHG has agreed for freight service charges to be modified based on the agree price adjustment methodology.

2. The Hon Dr. Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

Will the Honourable Chairman of the Public Health Committee tell this Council what is the current situation regarding the implementation of the Regulations pertaining to home slaughtering?

Response:

The Food Safety Ordinance came into effect from the 1st April 2017. Regulations were made under section 7 and also came into force the same day.

However, an undertaking was given to the Council that the section pertaining to “Home Slaughter” would be enforced later to give animal owners time to comply. This is now scheduled for 31 March 2018.

The Health Protection Board approved a minimum standard in April 2017 that specified the requirements needed to ensure compliance. Also Enterprise St Helena developed a criteria to enable financial support to be given to animal owners to comply with the regulation, under certain conditions.

As of now,

- Veterinary services has delivered training to potential animal owners who may wish to slaughter their own animals;
- Environmental Health has issued the minimum standards to those persons expressing an interest; and
- There are some owners who previously slaughtered at home who are now opting to take their animals to a registered Slaughter House. Additionally, many “home slaughterers” have now tidied up their existing facility with a view to applying for registration in March 2018. There are however some animal owners who are yet to make plans about how to comply with regulations by March 2018.

In January 2018, the Environmental Health team will contact those persons currently requesting home meat inspections to advise them regarding the impending full enactment date (31 March 2018) and to encourage those concerned to apply for registration by 1st March 2018 should they wish to continue slaughtering domestic ungulates at home.

Extract from Regulation for easy reference:

FOOD SAFETY (PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN) REGULATIONS –
SECTION 7
SCHEDULE III
SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS
PART I
MEAT OF DOMESTIC UNGULATES
Chapter VIII
Slaughter of domestic ungulates on premises other than slaughterhouse

Notwithstanding the provisions of this Part, food business operators may slaughter sheep, goats and pigs on premises other than a slaughterhouse only with authorisation of the Regulatory Authority and in compliance with the requirements prescribed by the authority from time to time.

3. The Hon Dr. Corinda Essex to ask the Hon Financial Secretary:

Will the Honourable Financial Secretary tell this Council what is the planned timescale for the disposal of the RMS St Helena and will St Helena Government receive the income derived from this sale?

Response:

The process for the disposal of the RMS started in September 2017 when St Helena Line (SHL) requested an expression of Interest for the purchase of the RMS St Helena. A reputable ships broker has been engaged and will manage the disposal process on behalf of SHL and ultimately SHG.

The final timescale for the disposal will depend on the offer/s received for the vessel, at this point in time it is envisaged that if an offer is received before the end of December 2017, the vessel could be sold and handed over by the end of February 2018. A final decision on the disposal will need to be taken by Executive Council in early January 2018.

There would need to be a number of steps in the process of handing over the vessel, the decommissioning would expect to start once the RMS arrives in Cape Town on or around the 15 February 2018.

At this time it is expected that the income from the sale will revert to SHG after all incidental cost of the disposal are deducted. Further discussions will be required in due course with HMG on this specific disposal.

4. The Hon Christine Scipio-O'Dean to ask the Hon Chairman of the Economic Development Committee:

Will the Honourable Chairman of the Economic Development Committee tell this Council what, if any future strategy has been developed regarding the widening of the shareholding in the Bank of St Helena?

Response:

At this time no strategy has been developed regarding the widening of the shareholding in the Bank of St Helena, however we do have a mandate from the Executive Council to look into all shareholdings that St Helena Government currently have. Therefore, a subcommittee of the Economic Development committee will be formed in 2018 to look at the options for disposal, widening and dilution of SHG shareholdings in all of its key subsidiaries, such as the Bank of St Helena, Solomon's & Company, Connect Saint Helena and St Helena Hotel Development Ltd. The subcommittee will consist of members of the Economic Development committee and the relevant professionals who have the necessary skills and knowledge to compile a suite of options which will form the basis of SHG's strategic intention for the continued holdings in these key subsidiaries. Where appropriate SHG would hope to receive a return on their investment and provide much needed resources to deliver key core Government services. An options paper would be presented to Executive Council in due course with a number of recommendations.