



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.10

18

TUESDAY 3RD MARCH 2015

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON
17TH, 18TH, 19TH, 22ND DECEMBER 2014; 28TH, 29TH 30TH
JANUARY 2015 AND 2ND, 3RD FEBRUARY 2015**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEE

PETITIONS

1. The humble petition of the Trustees of the International Prayer House Ministries Inc.
(Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)
2. The humble petition of the Trustees of the Church of God Cathedral Worship Centre.
(Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)
3. The humble petition of the Trustees of the Faith in the Action Tabernacle INC.
(Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)
4. The humble petition of the Trustees of the Eleventh Hour Ministries
(Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs, Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

- (a) What is the projected cost of the Argyle International Airport on completion;
- (b) What was the total expenditure of the said airport at December 31, 2014.

2. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs, Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

Will the Prime Minister please give:

- (a) The latest update on how the Argyle International Airport is to be managed on its completion;
- (b) The latest update on progress with regard to airlines agreeing to fly into Argyle International Airport on its completion.

3. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs, Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

Will the Prime Minister please give;

- (a) An update on the CLICO situation with regard to VINLEC workers who have reached retirement age and yet are unable to get their pension payments.

4. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Member for the Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs, Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

- (a) How much money did Saint Vincent and the Grenadines receive under the long term loan component of the PetroCaribe agreement with Venezuela during the period November 1, 2014 through February 28, 2015;
- (b) In which account is the money received under the long term loan component of that agreement kept;
- (c) How is money authorised to be spent from the account and upon whose request or instructions is it spent; and
- (d) Who is responsible for the administration of the fund or funds.

5. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Member for the Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs, Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

Will the Prime Minister please state if he intends to do repair and upkeep J.F. Mitchell Airport at Paget Farm Bequia which is in a state of deterioration, in that, among other things:

- (a) Two of the three front door panels do not work as one cannot be lowered (i.e. closed) and another cannot be kept up (i.e. open) and is now supported by a piece of lumber;
- (b) At least two of the toilets used by patrons do not work and water leaks on the floor of one of the washrooms;
- (c) The roof leaks in several places, particularly in the restaurant;
- (d) The ceiling around the outside of the building and in the washrooms is broken or completely missing in places, creating a security concern;

- (e) The surfaces of the apron leading to the runway and the parking area at the entrance of the terminal building have deteriorated and turned to gravel and dust;
 - (f) The locks in several of the exterior doors no longer work;
 - (g) The navigational lights to facilitate night landing were disabled as solar panels that provide power to them were apparently removed by the authorities?
6. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Member for the Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture:
- (a) Does the government have any plan or intention to maintain and develop the Paget Farm playing field, including the cricket ground, to serve the sporting and recreational needs of the people of that community, and
 - (b) Does the Minister intend to repair the hard court there which is in a deplorable condition and currently poses a danger to the young people who still use it?

7. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Member for the Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

Despite the increased access to secondary education, the percentage of students exiting the system prematurely is uncomfortably high. Analysis of the figures from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Educational Statistical Digest 2013 show that from 2009/2010 to 2013 academic years that 1296 students dropped out at various levels from secondary school before completing their education.

Will the Minister please state whether a study will be conducted nationally to:

- (a) i. Ascertain the reason(s) for school dropouts;
 - ii. Ascertain the spatial distribution of school dropouts;
 - iii. Identify the most vulnerable students in the country that are susceptible to dropping out of school.
 - (b) Will the documentation of the findings be used to put measures or strategies in place to assist in the improvement of students' lives and as a result help to curb school dropouts.
8. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Member for the Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

Regionally and locally concerns are being expressed as to the decline in Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate Examinations (CSEC) pass rates in English A and Mathematics.

Will the Minister please state:

- (a) Whether the Ministry of Education has conducted a full analysis of the 2014 CSEC Examinations results;
 - (b) The national pass rate percentage in English A and Mathematics;
 - (c) The number of secondary school(s) if any, that did not receive any passes in either English A or Mathematics;
 - (d) The number of secondary schools receiving less than 50 percent pass rate;
 - (e) If the answer for (d) is in the affirmative, what measures/strategies are put in place for improving students' performances.
9. Major, the Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask The Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

Several committees in the Central Kingstown Constituency require urgent river defence assistance. This includes the river opposite Ms Bentick in Block 2000 where the road collapsed for years now.

Will the Minister please indicate the river defence projects for the Central Kingstown Constituency and whether the area identified is included.

10. Major, the Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask The Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:

In 2014 as Parliamentary Representative of the Constituency of Central Kingstown, I commenced the first of a series of projects to fix the public baths in the constituency. The project in Redemption Sharpes was stopped by the Planning Authority.

Does the Minister of Health and the Environment intend to complete repairs to these baths, build washing facilities and provide privacy to the users of these public baths in the course of the year.

11. Major, the Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask The Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

Despite many pleadings on behalf of the people of Largo height to have river crossings (bridges) constructed to cross the stream (river) to get to their homes, their situation remains unchanged.

Will the Minister please state if any of the budgetary allocation be directed to give these Largo Height residents some relief this year and before the rainy season.

12. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask The Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:

Would the Honourable Minister please state clearly how many functional ambulances were available for use in the last six months of 2014 and where were they used.

Further, would the Minister please state what, if any arrangement is in place for the maintenance of these ambulances and if it works well or at all.

13. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask The Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:

- (a) Would the Minister please explain the reason for the clutter in the corridors of the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital with beds cupboards, and various pieces of broken equipment;
- (b) Is the Minister aware of the amount of dust that has gathered on these broken materials and the attendant hazard to patients and other users of the hospital;
- (c) What, if any, is the plan for the removal of same.

14. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask The Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:

- (a) Would the Minister please explain, what is the policy in place at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital with respect to the use of the limited functional equipment for medical tests;
- (b) In particular, who determines if a patient should obtain services from private sources instead of the MCMH;
- (c) Is this the responsibility of the administrative staff or the Doctor attending to the patients.

15. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (Member for North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs, Information and Technology:

Food Safety is a subject of serious importance in domestic as well as regional and international trade. The Rotterdam Convention that deals specifically with hazardous chemicals in International Trade was entered into force in February 2004.

(a) Is Saint Vincent and the Grenadines a signatory to The Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals? If yes, will the Minister please state:

- (i) The Designated National Authority that is responsible for the provision of information on hazardous chemicals to the Convention's secretariat;
- (ii) Whether or not Saint Vincent and the Grenadines designated authority has been complying with the convention's requirement of providing timely information on the importation and usage of hazardous chemicals in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

16. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (Member for North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation and Industry:

At the 29th May 2014 sitting of this Honourable House the Minister stated that assistance will be given to fisherfolk in mid June of 2014 for boats, nets, engines and other fishing equipment that were lost or damaged due to the 2013 floods. There are many fisherfolk who have not received any assistance from the state to date.

Will the Minister please:

- (a) Give an update on the assistance that was given to fisherfolk in this regard;
- (b) State the cost to the state for the assistance given to the fisherfolk; and
- (c) Indicate when will all the affected fisherfolk be given some form of assistance to continue to ply their trade.

17. The Honourable Roland Matthews, Member of Parliament for North Leeward, to ask The Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Rural Transformation and Industry:

The black sigatoka disease is still very widespread especially on small farms and backyard gardens where plantains and bananas are grown.

Will the minister please state:

- (a) If there is a specific plan to deal with the disease at this level now that aerial spraying might not be the best method;
- (b) If Yes, what does the plan entail;
- (c) How soon will this plan be implemented in light of the fact that evidence of the disease is taking hold on small farms and backyard gardening.

18. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (Member for South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture:

The Penniston Playing field has been promised to the people of the Buccament Valley for over a decade now. The facility does not feature in the 2015 Estimates.

Will the Minister please state whether the facility is complete so far as the Government is concerned. If not, when will it be completed.

19. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (Member for South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

Sections of the road leading to Questelles Bay have been in a state of disrepair for years and seem to have been abandoned.

Will the Minister please state when that piece of road will be fixed.

20. Dr. the Honourable Linton A. Lewis, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs, Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government.

Will the Minister please state:

- (a) How many offshore entities, namely, international business companies, limited liability companies, international insurances, international banks, international trusts and mutual funds were registered and or licensed during the year 2014;
- (b) What is the total number of each of the aforesaid entities that are recorded at the International Financial Services Authority? How many are active; and
- (c) What is the total revenue earned from the registration and or licensing of those entities for the year 2014.

21. Dr. the Honourable Linton A. Lewis, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing, Informal Settlements, Lands and Surveys and Physical Planning.

Will the Minister please state:

- (a) Whether there are any plans to sell lands in the forestry area of the Glen/Fairhall community that runs alongside the Fair Hall Housing Scheme; and if so;
- (b) How many plots will be sold; and
- (c) When will the sale of those plots begin.

22. Dr. the Honourable Linton A. Lewis, Opposition Senator to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs.

In 2013 Section 32 of the Insurance Act was amended (Act 27 of 2013) to require a Trustee that dealt with the assets of the Trust Fund without the prior approval of the Supervisor of Insurance to make good any deficiency of the total value of the assets contained in the list submitted by the Trustee to the Supervisor of Insurance. The said amendment also requires the Supervisor of Insurance to write to the said Trustee directing the Trustee to make good the deficiency. In this regard will the Honourable Prime Minister please state:

- (a) Whether there is a deficiency in the total value of the assets contained in the list submitted by a Trustee of the assets held on behalf of the category of depositors of British American Insurance Company Ltd. If so;
- (b) The extent of the deficiency in monetary terms;
- (c) Whether the Supervisor of Insurance has written to the Trustee directing the Trustee to make good the deficiency; and
- (d) If the Supervisor of Insurance has not as yet written to the Trustee what are the reasons for the delay in writing to the Trustee.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

BILLS

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| 1.* | Banking Bill 2015 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 2.* | Finance Bill, 2015 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 3.* | Public Sector Investment Loan Bill 2015 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 4.* | Anti-Terrorist Financing and Proliferation Bill 2015 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |

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| 5.* | Electronic Filing Bill 2015 (Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs) | 1 st Reading |
| 6.* | Electronic Transactions Bill 2015 (Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs) | 1 st Reading |
| 7.* | Domestic Violence Bill 2015 (Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation) | 1 st Reading |

ADJOURNMENT