



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.13

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THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER, 2017

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OATH/AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE

RECOGNITION OF THE FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL JUDITH JONES-MORGAN

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QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. The Honourable Dr. Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Tourism, Sports and Culture:

In January 2017, the ground-breaking ceremony involving St. Vincent and the Grenadines government officials and the developer was held for the proposed Mt. Wynne/Peters Hope hotel project. Despite public expectation that the project would begin shortly thereafter, to date no work on the construction of the hotel has started.

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Will the Minister please explain the reason for the delay and state when construction of the project will start, the size of the hotel to be built and when the project is expected to be completed.

2. The Honourable Dr. Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Tourism, Sports and Culture:

The Buccament Bay Resort was constructed here several years ago with promises by the government of jobs for our people and a boost for our tourism industry. It suddenly ceased operation almost a year ago, when its electricity supply was cut-off amidst allegations of financial impropriety on the part of its owner and failure to pay bills.

Will the Minister please report on the status of this large and therefore important tourism facility, including plans, if any, for its reorganization or sale and the prospects and timeline for its reopening.

3. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing Informal Settlements, Physical, Land and Surveys:

Since the government several years ago departed from the long-established policy of selling its lands in Bequia to nationals at prices determined by development costs and instead decided to sell the lands at market prices to raise money for the construction of the airport at Argyle, it has become increasingly difficult and frustrating for residents, especially young people, to obtain affordable land on which to build their homes.

Will the Minister please state:

- (a) How much government-owned land is still available for sale in Bequia;
- (b) Where the lands are located, and;
- (c) Whether any such lands are made available at the more affordable prices based on development cost, and if so, where.

4. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (East Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please indicate the current debt to GDP ratio and that of the past 5 years.

5. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (East Kingstown) to ask Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation:

The Government of St. Lucia recently indicated that its expected banana export to Europe to reach 20,000 tonnes in 2017. St. Vincent and the Grenadines banana export to Europe in 2017 is zero.

Now that the Ministry of Agriculture has agreed to adopt new technologies, when can we expect export to Europe to recommence.

6. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Government :

The road and drainage from Mr. Delphenus Allicks' house in Barbruce to Mrs. Durley Snagg's house in Grand Bay is in need of repair, so much so that during heavy rainfall, Mrs. Snagg's house usually floods because of poor drainage and erosion of the unpaved road.

Will the Minister please state when will work be done to ease Mrs. Durley Snagg's plight and that of the other road users.

7. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Government :

On 6th June, 2017 the Minister in response to a question pertaining to wall a near the Union Island Secondary school that was damaged by heavy rains several years ago and which potentially is threatening the safety to motorists and pedestrians, said that a response would be given in a two weeks time frame in regards to the fixing of the problem. Since then we have been experiencing above normal rain fall and the answer is yet to come.

Can the minister please state when this wall will be fixed.

8. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines) to ask the Honourable Minister of Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, Industry, Information and Labour:

In light of the effects of Climate Change and the realities of the hurricane season; when is the government planning for both sides of the House of Assembly to come together and put long term policy framework in place and implement agreed agendas to mitigate the effects of hurricanes and climate change.

9. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Development:

Even while acknowledging that as elected representatives we have no say into road repairs in our respective constituencies, and while giving thanks for more than small mercies, I ask of the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, with respect to the following communities in Central Kingstown:

- (a) How can the grill just at Shepherds Junction in Old Montrose leading to Starlift Steel Orchestra pan yard be properly seated;
- (b) When if not in the Budget can the drains along the road to Starlift be covered to accommodate developing the yard as a Tour for concerts for visiting cruise ships;
- (c) The road beyond Starlift to the dead end as well as the left turn into the other dead end ending at the bridge by Sarah's Shop be completely restored;
- (d) The road into Block 2000- up to the bridge for Ms. Barrow be repaired;
- (e) All side streets in Sharpesdale;
- (f) The road across the PM's Residence to Mother Rose's Corner;
- (g) The grills in Middle Street be removed and all the siltation build up removed to prevent the constant easy flooding of that area and in Hollywood; and
- (h) The stretch from along Carmen Martindale road to the intersection just before Mother Williams' shop.

10. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Development:

- (a) Is any consideration being given to turning the area formerly the Treasury Building and Accountant General Department including the former Printery area into an area of Green for general softness of the town, concerts, relaxation, meeting area, etcetera.
- (b) Has the time come for a proper tree planting exercise in the city of Kingstown to improve the general appearance of what is now a "run down" town.

11. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Development:

Exactly which businesses:

- (a) And under what criteria are some business houses in Kingstown allowed Zebra marking/parking provisions;
- (b) What is the traffic regulation for parking outside the CIBC/FCIB Bank; and

(c) How soon will the grill to replace the drum just at the intersection of the Administrative Complex be completed.

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

St Vincent and the Grenadines has been spared so far from the wrath of hurricanes for the 2017 season. As a result SVG has an ideal opportunity to capitalise on new market opportunities for agricultural produce. In light of this has the Ministry of Agriculture embarked on any assessment of the market opportunities and requirements for agricultural produce in the hurricane ravaged islands and if so:

- (a) What measures are being put in place to optimise these market opportunities in the short medium and long term time frame;
- (b) What effort is being done to ensure that farmers take full advantage of these marketing opportunities; and
- (c) If not, when will an assessment be done so that farmers and stakeholders can benefit from the market opportunities that will become available.

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

Part of the ULP's plans for the Ministry of Agriculture is to cultivate 2000 acres of bananas. This was scheduled to start since 2016.

Will the Minister please state:

- (a) How many acres have so far been cultivated;
- (b) What are percentages of implementation based on agricultural districts; and
- (c) Is the Ministry of Agriculture on track to achieving this goal.

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

The fishing industry and Deep Sea Tuna Fishing in particular is a multimillion dollar industry. In light of this fact, will the Minister:

- (a) Agree that this is an industry that has tremendous potential for local fisher folk; and
- (b) State what support or incentives are provided so that our fisher folk can benefit from the lucrative fishing industry, especially as it relates to tuna fishing?

15. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (South Leeward) to ask the Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Government:

A portion of the road between Joel Neptune and D Tunnel in Campden Park was showing signs of disintegration for some time now. The road collapsed during the passage of Tropical storm Harvey.

Will the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works please state when work will begin to repair the road and the cost and duration of the work.

16. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (South Leeward) to ask the Minister of Housing Informal Settlements, Physical, Land and Surveys:

Keitha Delpêche and her family have been displaced from their home in Campden Park because of structural damage caused by falling rocks. They have been assisted with a rented house by the social welfare department for a period of time.

Will the Honourable Minister of Housing please state:

- (a) When the rocks behind the house will be removed to facilitate repairs to the house; and
- (b) Whether the house has been deemed unsafe and if so what is the government doing to relocate the family.

17. The Honourable Dr. Julian Ferdinand, (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation:

The Centre for Food Security and Entrepreneurship (CFSC) at the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies has expressed its commitment to assisting St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the development of a new economic sector, based on marine bio-prospection.

This programme is seeking to upgrade the value of marine biodiversity to make it attractive for investment, with the areas of focus being drug development and personal care products.

- (a) Has this programme commenced;
- (b) If so, what is the status of the project;
- (c) Has the government been able to identify any potential investments in this area; and
- (d) How many Vincentian nationals are likely to gain employment in this sector over the next five years.

18. The Honourable Marcia Barnwell (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth:

Studies have shown that one of the key reasons women are forced to stay in abusive homes is a lack of housing, that is, a place to escape to immediately when fleeing their homes. And so many times women have to choose between abuse and homelessness.

In 2016 Budget your ministry reported that it provided shelter for 3 women and their children at the crisis centre.

- (a) What is the incidence of domestic abuse in St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- (b) How many women's shelters / crisis centers are available to battered women in St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and
- (c) What is the capacity of each of the centers.

19. The Honourable Marcia Barnwell (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, National Security, Grenadines Affairs and Legal Affairs:

The Rule of Law is one of the fundamental pillars of any modern democracy, and access to justice and the right to a fair trial are elements of the Rule of Law:

Can the Honourable Minister please say:

- (a) How many cases were brought against the State through the Attorney General's Chambers in the last five (5) years;
- (b) How many of these were resolved against the State, and the value of the awards; and
- (c) What is the number and value of the awards against the State that were paid to the Citizens (For the sake of clarity these are judgments and awards not appealed by the State).

20. The Honourable Marcia Barnwell, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Education, National Reconciliation & Ecclesiastical Affairs:

Last September, the Honourable Minister of Education was asked about the number of students who were expelled from school for non-performance and who were expelled for non-performance and reached age 18.

The Honourable Minister responded that the data was being gathered, will the Minister please state:

1. What number of students was expelled from secondary school for non-performance in the periods:

2005-2010

2010- 2016

2. Would the Minister also say the number of students who were expelled from secondary school for non-performance and reached the age of 18 years for the periods:

2005-2010

2010 -2016

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

BILLS

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1*. Agricultural and Feeder Roads Projects (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2017
(Dr the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 2*. Occupational Safety and Health Bill, 2017
(Honourable Camillo Gonsalves/Minister of Labour) | Select Committee |
| 3. Vincy Table Tennis Foundation Incorporation Bill, 2017
(Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports & Culture) | Select Committee |

ADJOURNMENT