



# SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### ORDER PAPER

**No.11**

**31**

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**TUESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2017**

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#### **PRAYERS**

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#### **OBITUARIES**

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#### **CONGRATULATORY REMARKS**

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#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTING HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017, 27<sup>TH</sup> & 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2017**

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

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#### **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

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#### **REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES**

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#### **PETITIONS**

1. The humble petition of the Trustees of the First Born Christian Church of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
(Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)

#### **PAPERS**

1. **House of Assembly Paper 4 of 2017**  
National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Universal Service Fund Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2016  
(Honourable Camillo Gonsalves/ Minister of Information)
2. **House of Assembly Paper 5 of 2017**  
National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2016  
(Honourable Camillo Gonsalves/Minister of Information)

## **QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS**

1. The Honourable Dr. Godwin Friday, Member of Parliament for Northern Grenadines, to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

In or about 2008, the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines received funding from the European Union to modernize the land registration and titling system in the country to include, among other things, digitizing the land registry records and introducing on-line access to title searches and survey plans. Will the Minister please state:

- (a) The status of the land registration modernization project and say as accurately as reasonably possible what percentage of title deeds and similar legal instruments stored in the Registry of Deeds has been digitized thus far and;
- (b) What is the Government's timeline for completion of the project.

2. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Member of Parliament for the Northern Grenadines, to ask the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce:

Considering the worsening political crisis in Venezuela, in which many people have sadly lost their lives, and the fact that many in the international community including the United Nations Secretary General and leaders in Latin America, Europe and North America have called on the Government of Venezuela to negotiate with the Opposition to bring about a peaceful democratic solution to the crisis, will the Minister please state:

- (a) What is his government's current position on that worsening political crisis; and
- (b) Whether he is concerned about its implications for our longstanding diplomatic ties and our very close and extensive economic relations with Venezuela under the Petrocaribe and other loan arrangements.

3. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Member of Parliament for the Northern Grenadines, to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing Informal Settlements, Physical, Land and Surveys:

Recently, construction began on a building located on reclaimed land (or landfill) in the sea at Adams Bay Bequia near the approach to the J.F. Mitchell Airport. Will the Minister please state:

- (a) Whether in granting permission for the project, Planning authorities considered the implications for airplanes approaching the airport runway to land during daytime and night time;
- (b) Whether the building when completed and in use will have any negative effect on the operation of airplanes approaching the runway during day and night; and
- (c) Whether the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority is aware of and has raised no objection to the construction of the building in that location.

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

What is the fiscal outturn for the Central Government for the period June 2017, as compared with the similar period in 2016.

5. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, Member of Parliament for East Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

Given the high level of liquidity in our banks and the other lending institutions and the increase in non-performing loans; what proposals are in place to advertise the passage of the two critical pieces of legislation passed at the last sitting of Parliament, namely the "Harmonized Credit Reporting Act" and the "Eastern Caribbean Partial Guarantee Corporation Agreement", which will assist in addressing the above mentioned situation.

6. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, Member of Parliament for East Kingstown, to ask Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation:

A new technology referred to as H2K AGRO is being tried to restart banana production in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, particularly for export to the extra regional market. Trials of this technology conducted on farms here have led to the doubling of the yield per bunch. Will the Ministry of Agriculture promote and support this new technology.

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

The building used as a teachers' residence at Badeau Ashton, Union Island has been abandoned and left in a state of disrepair, even after some improvement work was done a few years ago. Will the Minister please state if and when this building will be repaired and restored to proper condition for use as a residence.

8. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, Member of Parliament for Southern Grenadines, to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Government :

There are structural problems such as leaking roof, faulty toilet facility, and electrical problems for several years at the Union Island airport. This is causing problems for the proper functioning of this facility. Will the Minister please state when these problems will be rectified to bring this facility up to good operation condition.

9. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, Member of Parliament for Southern Grenadines, to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Government :

The main road in Union Island between the Clifton and Ashton communities especially from Bajan Corner to Cross Road at Mr. Lathan's Shop is in need of repair. For several years, I have been requesting the repair of this road to promote road safety and protect motor vehicles from unnecessary wear and tear. Will the Minister please state when this road will be fixed.

10. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, Member of Parliament for West Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Government :

- (a) What is the status of the South Leeward Highway project.
- (b) Are the resurfacing of back street and fixing of those bypass roads still part of the project.
- (c) When would the defects between Daddy's shop and Grand Gate be fixed.

11. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, Member of Parliament for West Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Government :

- (a) How much money has been spent to date in an attempt to restore or repair heavy equipment used at the Argyle Airport and
- (b) What if any of the equipment is effectively repaired.

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

- (a) What is the status of payment to the OECS PPS by this country.
- (b) Is there any attempt being made by your government to ensure the survival of the service by meeting our requirements in good time.

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

The recent situation whereby hundreds of pounds of arrowroot rhizomes have been left to rot on the factory compound in Owia is cause for serious concern. In light of this, will the minister please state:

- (a) How many pounds of arrowroot rhizomes are presently at the Owia factory yard.
- (b) What is the monetary value of the rhizomes at present at the factory yard.
- (c) Whether or not farmers will be paid for the rhizomes that have been harvested and are currently sitting in the factory yard.
- (d) Give an update of the management structure that is in place for the Arrowroot industry with reference to personnel and their roles.

14. The Honourable Roland Matthews, Member of Parliament for North Leeward, to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Government:

The wharf in the Town of Chateaubelair has been in a deplorable condition and has been unusable for many years. Will the minister please state:

- (a) Whether are not there are plans to reconstruct a wharf in the Town of Chateaubelair.
- (b) If in the affirmative, please state when this will be done.
- (c) What is the total cost of this project and how long will it take to be completed.

15. The Honourable Roland Matthews, Member of Parliament for North Leeward, to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth:

The community of Petit Bordel has been without the use of a community centre for a very long time. The building that once housed the centre has been under repairs for many years now. The community needs this facility.

- (a) Will the minister please state if there are plans to complete the Petit Bordel Community Centre.
- (b) What is the total cost to complete this centre.
- (c) When will work commence and when will it be completed.

16. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, Member of Parliament for South Leeward , to ask the Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Government:

Residents of Pembroke have complained for years about the poor state of the road and the flooding of property due to the lack of a proper drainage system.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when residents can reasonably expect the provision of a proper concrete road and drainage system that would make their lives more comfortable.

17. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, Member of Parliament for South Leeward , to ask the Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Government:

The rock in the Shuffler| Dry Rock area of Campden Park was understandably cut back to facilitate the widening of that portion of the South Leeward Highway . The area has become unsafe because of the occurrence of landslides and rock fall.

In light of the fact that we are in the rainy season, will the minister please indicate what plans, if any, are in place to make the area safer to motorists and pedestrians and when such work is expected to start.

18. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, Member of Parliament for South Leeward , to ask the Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Government:

The Vermont Community Center has been in a deplorable condition for a number of years and it would seem that the very existence of the Center is unknown to the government since even the electricity bill is in a resident's name.

Will the Minister please give an update on the condition of the Center and say when efforts will be made to rehabilitate the Center.

19. The Honourable Dr. Julian Ferdinand, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth:

- (a) How many persons are presently receiving public assistance from the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- (b) How many of these were added since January 2016.
- (c) What is the total monthly expenditure in this regard.
- (d) Can you please provide a breakdown of the number of citizens receiving such assistance on a constituency basis.

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

Recently, there has been a 1% increase on VAT imposed with the purpose "to help offset the cost of natural disasters within the State," can the Honourable Minister of Finance please state:

- a. How much money has been collected thus far this year.
- b. How much is anticipated to be collected by the end of the year.

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

It is estimated that 200 million Eastern Caribbean dollars has been collected from Petro Caribe. Can the Honourable Minister of Finance please state whether any of this money has been set aside and used for difficult times. If so, how much.

22. The Honourable Marcia Barnwell, Opposition Senator, to ask the Minister of Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, Industry, Internal Trade, Information and Labour.

In 2016 a levy of 2% on mobile telephone calls and on international calls was imposed and to be paid directly into the Zero Hunger Trust Fund. More recently there an additional 2% levy was imposed on outgoing mobile calls and on data for the same purpose. Can the Honourable Minister of Telecommunications please state:

- a. How much money has been collected from the 2% telecommunication tax imposed in 2016 to July 2017.
- b. How much money has been collected thus far from the 2% levy on incoming calls and data.

**MOTIONS**

**1. Motion on Transportation of School Children**

**Moved by the Honourable Senator Carlos James and seconded by the Honourable Senator Deborah Charles.**

**PRIVATE MEMBER’S MOTION ON TRANSPORTATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN**

**WHEREAS** the commendable public policy of the Government is to ensure, through a public-private partnership, that transportation, by land and sea, is provided for students attending secondary schools and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Community College.

**AND WHEREAS** this said public policy has been elaborated in sound and worthy practice to the benefit of the students and their parents.

**AND WHEREAS** despite the commendable efforts of the Government and the success of the said public policy there are still inadequacies and areas of weakness which must be addressed satisfactorily.

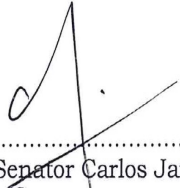
**AND WHEREAS** the Government has proposed enhancements to, and improved regulation of, the transportation and road traffic systems, particularly but not only, for the students.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House endorse the following relevant proposals of the Government:

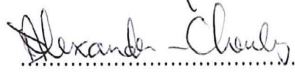
- (i) The purchase by the Government for on-leasing to Vincentian entrepreneurs for operation as school buses ten 25-seater buses/coaches;
- (ii) That the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Laws be amended to provide improved regulation of the quality of road transportation; and
- (iii) That the students from the Grenadines who attend secondary schools or the College on St. Vincent be accorded an ever greater level of support with their transportation.

Dated the 12<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2017.

Proposed by:

  
 .....  
 Hon. Senator Carlos James

Seconded by:

  
 .....  
 Hon. Deborah Charles

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**  
(Government Orders are marked thus\*)

**BILLS**

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|-----|---|-------------------------|
| 1*. | Andreas Wickham Pension (Declaration) Bill 2017<br>(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |
| 2*. | Whaling Industry (Regulation) (Application to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) (Repeal) Bill, 2017<br>(Honourable Saboto Caesar/Minister of Fisheries) | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |
| 3*. | Occupational Safety and Health Bill, 2017<br>(Honourable Camillo Gonsalves/Minister of Labour)  | Select Committee        |
| 4.  | The Arnos Vale Covenant Assembly Incorporation Bill, 2017<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)   | Select Committee Report |
| 5.  | The Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries Incorporated<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)   | Select Committee Report |
| 6.  | The Church of Christ at Richland Park Incorporation Bill, 2017<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)  | Select Committee Report |
| 7.  | The Lighthouse Chapel International Incorporation Bill, 2017<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)  | Select Committee Report |
| 8.  | The Word of Life Deliverance Ministries Incorporation Bill, 2017<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)  | Select Committee Report |
| 9.  | The Pillar of Truth Ministries Inc Incorporation Bill, 2017<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)   | Select Committee Report |
| 10. | The Universal Church of the Kingdom of God Inc Incorporation Bill, 2017<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)   | Select Committee Report |
| 11. | Faith Hope Deliverance Ministries Incorporation Bill, 2017<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)  | Select Committee Report |
| 12. | Vincy Table Tennis Foundation Incorporation Bill, 2017<br>(Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports & Culture)  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading |

**ADJOURNMENT**