



# SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### ORDER PAPER

**No.14**

**47**

**TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2017**

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#### **PRAYERS**

#### **OBITUARIES**

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#### **CONGRATULATORY REMARKS**

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#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2017**

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

#### **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

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

#### **PETITIONS**

#### **PAPERS**

**1. House of Assembly Paper 6 of 2017**

Financial Services Authority St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Annual Report 2016

Dr. the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves

#### **QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS**

1. The Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, The Public Service, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

Vast stretches of sea water comprise part of our archipelagic country. Thus, there is a critical need for effective territorial patrol and search and rescue capabilities in our coastguard service. This is so considering the many lives that have been lost in mishaps in our waters in recent years, such as occurred earlier this year when six persons were lost while travelling by boat between Canouan and Mustique.

Accordingly, will the Prime Minister and Minister of National Security please state when the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Coastguard Service will be outfitted with an offshore patrol vessel to complement the existing small crafts and enhance territorial patrol capabilities, enforcement of fisheries laws and search and rescue operations in our waters.

2. The Honourable Dr. Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works Urban Development and Local Government:

The main road near the Holy Cross Anglican Church in Paget Farm Bequia becomes badly flooded by rain, which makes it impassable for pedestrians, including students of the Paget Farm Government School, and a serious hazard for vehicular traffic and also the road between the fuel depot and Mrs. Farrell's property at O'car floods similarly. Will the Minister please indicate:

- (a) What will be done to fix the drainage in these areas and mitigate the flooding; and
- (b) When the people, especially those who live in the area and are most keenly affected, might expect relief from this worsening problem.

3. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:

The construction of a medical diagnostic centre in Georgetown was commenced over a decade ago with much fanfare and the promise of better health care services for our people. However, it has not yet commenced operation. Will the Minister please state:

- (a) What is the status of the project, including the reason for the long delay in opening it;
- (b) How much it has cost to this point;
- (c) When it will be completed; and
- (d) What services it will provide to the people

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

Will the Honourable Minister of Finance give the latest available monthly fiscal out turn for 2017 as compared with the fiscal out turn for the same month of 2016.

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

Will the Honourable Minister list the main steps which now need to be taken in order for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to recommence banana export to the United Kingdom and elsewhere.

6. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (East Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Minister of Economic Planning, Sustainable Development, Industry, Information and Labour:

There are several half finished buildings located next to Courts in the Roseau/Walveroo area, which were scheduled to be used for Mas tents. Will the Honourable Minister consider completing these buildings and have them converted to accommodate small business rentals for prospective clients.

7. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Southern Grenadines) to ask the Honourable Minister of Education, National Reconciliation & Ecclesiastical Affairs:

In the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 2017, one of the Ministry of Education's key programme strategies for 2017 was to draft a plan for the offering of part time delivery of Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) by the second quarter of the year.

Will the Minister please state:

- (a) If such a plan had been drafted and approved by the government;
- (b) If in the affirmative, what areas of skills for such competency-based certification consistent with the labour market needs have been approved and;
- (c) And at what levels would these CVQ's be offered?

8. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Southern Grenadines) to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:

What is being done to address the problem with the cemetery at London, Sandy Bay which was damaged by flooding; leaving bodies exposed and therefore posing a health risk and desecration of the deceased.

9. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Southern Grenadines) to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture:

Recent hurricanes caused severe damage to other Caribbean islands that are popular tourist destinations. It is anticipated that this will cause cruise, yacht and other types of tourism to be diverted from those affected areas to other Caribbean destinations. Will the Minister please state:

- (a) What if anything this government is doing to attract some of that business to St. Vincent and the Grenadines and;
- (b) What impact he expects for our tourism industry in the 2017-18 season and immediately beyond, from the diversion of tourists from damaged areas to other destinations.

10. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, The Public Service, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

As I think aloud of how we can improve the aesthetics of the city of Kingstown. I conceptualise a partnership between the business houses and the State to improve both the sidewalks and the facades of the building in Kingstown. This can be achieved through regulation that mandates each house to take responsibility to fix directly in front of or ten yards to the left or right as of their building as appropriate, by constructing and maintaining pavers, tiles or coloured concrete masonry that improves the physical walkways.

Would the Government be amenable to giving an annual tax credit to these businesses to improve these sidewalks and the tiling or facial improvement of their storefronts and show windows.

11. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, The Public Service, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

The sight of hundreds of our nation's school children along with commuters waiting at the bus stop opposite the GHS in the Beachmont area is frightening not just from an employment future but also motoring safety. I dread the day a driver loses control on that highway and careen unto that side walk.

Would the Government be amenable to acquiring the building of I believe the Crosby's that form a backdrop and construct a roadway around that building to re-enter the Main road. The said building will be used as a proper terminal with appropriate amenities so that our nation's youths and citizenry wait for "their ride" in greater order, safety and comfort befitting our society.

12. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, Member of Parliament for Central Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, The Public Service, National Security, Legal Affairs and Grenadines Affairs:

The recent Independence Parade and the continued improved performance of the police band is a timely reminder of the historic contribution that the former organisation named the Police Band Cadets made to the Force and by extension music to St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

- (a) Could the Honourable Prime Minister indicate why the Band cadets were disbanded;
- (b) Has the music requirements of the Force been compromised in any way and;
- (c) Would any consideration be given to returning to the earlier successful practice.

13. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (West Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Government :

You stated in Parliament many years ago that it would take \$30,000 to build the short piece of road between Edinboro and New Montrose. Despite this paltry sum, the road has not yet been done. Yet the need for it has grown significantly.

Would the minister please state if there remains any plan to build this road and if in the affirmative when would it be done.

14. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (West Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Government:

The short piece of road beginning below the residence of the late Brother Ashers of Ottley Hall to Gun Hill connecting road has been on the books for many years. Its usefulness as a link road and an aid to the curbing crime are well established.

Does the government intend to build this road and if so when.

15. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (West Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:

There has been this year, numerous cases of persons dying at the MCMH in circumstances that are to say the least bewildering. Have any of these been seriously investigated.

- (a) If so which case/cases and by whom were they investigated;
- (b) What if any were the principal causes of the fatalities? What if any were the corrective action taken and;
- (c) Is the recent death of the pregnant lady from South Rivers included in any investigation.

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

What is the present situation of the readiness of the Owia Arrowroot Factory to grind rhizomes in the upcoming season and;

Can you assure this House that the Arrowroot Factory will be ready and operational by the 1st week of December 2017 ? If not, then why not.

17. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (North Leeward) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development & Local Development:

Will the Minister please state when the following will be addressed in the North Leeward constituency

- (a) That portion of the Golden Grove road in Chateaubelair, in the vicinity of the playing field, where the road is undermined;
- (b) The bypass road that links Golden Grove to the North Leeward Highway;
- (c) The two portions of the North Leeward Highway at Richmond closest to the boxing plant and the playing field;
- (d) The Sharpes Village road in Chateaubelair, from the bridge at Pan Yard Disco to the recently constructed bridge in Top Sharpes and;
- (e) The drain that overflows and floods the property of Rosie Gills in Fitz Hughes whenever it rains heavily.

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

The forest reserve in St. Vincent and the Grenadines suffered tremendous loss in December 2013 flood. Will the Minister please indicate:

- (a) How many acreage of forest reserve was destroyed in 2013;
- (b) To date how many acreage has been replaced and;
- (c) If there has been no replanting program, what is the reason.

19. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (South Leeward), to ask the Minister of Housing, Informal Human Settlement, Lands and Surveys and Physical Planning:

Residents in Campden Park in the area opposite the Bureau of Standards were facilitated by the New Democratic Party Administration to occupy government land and build houses there. The lands were surveyed by this government more than a year ago and residents have received no further information.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when residents will be given deeds for their respective parcel of land.

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

The athletes of St. Vincent and the Grenadines were promised a National Stadium since 2001. This promise has not materialized.

Will the Honourable Minister please state whether lands for this facility can still be identified and if so name the area and give an indication of when this project will begin.

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

Residents of Clare Valley in the areas known as Bed Rock and Plan encounter serious problems getting to and from their homes because of the terrible state of the roads when it rains.

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Will the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works please indicate what can be done to improve the situation and when residents can expect a better pathway.

### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

(Government Orders are marked thus\*)

### **BILLS**

- 1\*. Occupational Safety and Health Bill, 2017  
(Honourable Camillo Gonsalves/Minister of Labour)

Select Committee Report

## **ADJOURNMENT**