



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.16

45

TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER, 2019

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON
OCTOBER 10TH AND 11TH, 2019**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

PETITIONS

PAPERS

- 1. House of Assembly Paper 18 of 2019**
SR&O No. 21 of 2019
Finance Administration (Contingencies Fund)
Regulations
(Honourable Camillo Gonsalves/Minister of Finance)
- 2. House of Assembly Paper 19 of 2019**
SR&O No. 22 of 2019
Finance Administration (Monitoring and Oversight of Statutory Bodies)
Regulations
(Honourable Camillo Gonsalves/ Minister of Finance)
- 3. House of Assembly Paper 20 of 2019**
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Bureau of Standards
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2016
(Honourable Saboto Caesar/Minister of Agriculture)

4. House of Assembly Paper 21 of 2019

Zero Hunger Trust Fund
 St. Vincent and the Grenadines Annual Report
 (Honourable Camillo Gonsalves/Minister of Finance)

5. House of Assembly Paper 22 of 2019

Annual Report of the Financial Services Authority 2018
 (Honourable Camillo Gonsalves/Minister of Finance)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

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

Over the years, a number of divers have been affected by the Bends. Recovery of a person affected requires prompt treatment which includes the diver being placed into a hyperbaric chamber for recompression. No such facility is available in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and it is costly to travel overseas for treatment.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) Whether the Government is considering providing such services in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and if not, why not.

2. The Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs, Grenadines Affairs and Energy:

For years now the Paget Farm Police Station has been in a state of disrepair and the police and Magistrate Court have taken over the Paget Farm Community.

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please state:

- (a) If the Government intends to build a new Police station or repair the existing one; and
 (b) When will the centre be returned to the people to be used as originally intended and not for police and court services.

3. The Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs, Grenadines Affairs and Energy:

Recently, the dry dock at the Ottley Hall Marina collapsed while the Mustique Ferry, MV Endeavour was being serviced there and is not functioning.

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please state:

- (a) What is the problem with the Dry Dock;
 (b) When will it be repaired; and
 (c) What is the estimated timeframe and cost of the repair.

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

Fort Murray at Clifton, Union Island is a major attraction to locals and visitors alike. Presently the fort is in a dilapidated condition. Will the Minister please state:

- a. Whether there is any development plan for the Fort; and
 - b. When can visitors to the Fort expect better conditions.
5. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government.

Can the Minister please provide an update on the current situation in regards to the erosion of the Windward Bay into Salt Whistle Bay, Mayreau.

6. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education, National Reconciliation, Ecclesiastical Affairs and Information.

What is the status of the once-touted one laptop per child program and specifically how has the program affected teaching and learning in our schools.

7. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation:

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate the following:

- (a) The total estimated acreage of land planted or invested in fruits and in sorrel.
 - (b) Please provide an approximation by crop type that are planted in the following. And;
 1. Mango
 2. Soursop
 3. Passion Fruit
 4. Sugar Apple
 5. Papaya
 6. Citrus (Grapefruit, Orange, Tangerine, Lime)
 7. Golden Apple
 8. Guava
 - (c) Whether from the available data there is a sufficiency of soft fruit to justify and sustain an export market of processed fruits.
8. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Planning.

Assuming there is a sufficiency of soft fruits, citrus and plants like sorrel available for the Export Market would the Minister:

- (a) Consider an investment guided by the appropriate study into establishing a Manufacturing Plant for the export of all processed soft fruits and available plants amenable to value added activity.
- (b) Does the Honourable Minister have any reasonable estimate of such an export potential if indeed there is one.
- (c) What is the potential employment opportunity in the agro manufacturing activity, directly and indirectly. And;
- (d) Can provision for this find its way into the 2020 Estimates.

9. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth.

The Opposition in the Parliament has raised in this Honourable House support for the Social, Spiritual Redemption Charter. The attempt was however unsuccessful.

To the extent that the subject of rape as a serious aspects of crime is now raising its ugly head for solutions. Will the Honourable Minister be prepared to:

- (a) Have a fresh look at this Charter with specific inclusion of rape as a category of crime as a subject for the attention of this Parliament.
- (b) How best can the Minister of National Mobilisation engage and obtain the assistance of our faith based organisations in reducing this scourge on our society.
- (c) What other if any independent plans does the Ministry have in mind to address the rape epidemic. And;
- (d) Does the Minister and his Ministry accept that the current state of rape and its violation of our women to be of crisis proportion.

10. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance:

The country poverty assessment was launched with much fanfare in SVG in February 2018. The IMF's latest report put unemployment among youths here, in St Vincent and the Grenadines, at about 46 percent. Would the Minister please explain:

- (a) Why the country Poverty Assessment Report which should have been published in March 2019, as promised by the government, is still not published or revealed.
- (b) How much was spent in undertaking the assessment. And;
- (c) When can, we, the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines, expect the report to be made public.

11. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Works:

For several weeks now work started on the retaining wall on the south side of the road to Edinboro from Nine steps to the old pan yard and for reasons unknown and for some time now work has been at a standstill.

There is some evidence of failure of part of the roadway due to the excavation work, rainfall and uncontrolled traffic. Would the Minister please state:

- (a) Whether his Ministry is aware of the potential danger posed to motorists and pedestrians alike.
- (b) Whether arrangements are being made to allow for single lane traffic and proper signage, including night lighting, to prevent further failure, accident, or any other catastrophe. And;
- (c) How soon can the work be resumed especially given the current rainy season and the potential for disaster.

12. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs, Grenadines Affairs and Energy:

The Freedom of Information Bill was passed in the parliament of St Vincent and the Grenadines in October 2003. Since then it received Royal Assent from the Governor- General, Dr Frederick

Ballantyne, on the 15th December 2003. The Freedom of Information Act 2003 (the Act) is yet to come into force.

Would the Honourable Prime Minister please explain:

- (a) Why this is so.
- (b) Whether there are plans to bring the Act into force. And;
- (c) If not then why not? And if in the affirmative, when can we expect it to come into force.

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

Since December 2018 legislations to declare a period of Amnesty for marijuana cultivation and possession was passed in the House of Assembly. To date the amnesty period has not yet been declared. Will the Minister please indicate:

- (a) When will the amnesty be declared and how long will be the period.
- (b) Is everything in place, as outlined in the amnesty legislation, to accommodate the amnesty. And;
- (c) What advice have been given to those farmers who are presently cultivating marijuana and those who have stored marijuana and are waiting on the amnesty and it's possible benefits.

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

In light of the fact that licenses have been issued to several groups, individuals and companies to commence medical cannabis cultivation; will the Minister please state:

- (a) The date when license holders will commence the cultivation of medical cannabis.
- (b) How many individuals groups and companies have begun cultivation of medical cannabis.
- (c) How many acres of land are currently under cultivation of medical marijuana. And;
- (d) When will the first harvesting of medical marijuana commence and what is the expected sales target in terms of Eastern Caribbean Dollars.

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

The reduction of the food import bill has been a major priority of the Ministry of Agriculture for many years. The 2019 Estimates noted several initiatives with the hope of meeting this objective. Will the minister please state:

- (a) The annual cost of the food import bill for the period 2013 to 2018.
- (b) The revenue for food export during the corresponding period. And;
- (c) Explain if and how initiatives such as the Montreal Greenhouse Facility and others are contributing to lessen the Food Import Bill.

16. The Honourable Kay Bacchus Baptiste, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture:

Some repairs were recently done at the Arnos Vale Netball/ Basketball Court (June 2019).

Will the Honourable Minister of Sports please say:

- (a) Was this contract advertised for tenders? If so When.
- (b) Was it given to the lowest tender.
- (c) If the contract was not put out for tenders why not.
 - I. Who was given the contract.
 - II. What was the sum awarded for the contractor.
 - III. Who was that contractor. And;
 - IV. Was the full sum awarded spent if not will the balance be refunded to Government.

17. The Honourable Kay Bacchus Baptiste, (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture:

St Vincent cricket venue at Arnos Vale was heralded by cricket commentators as one of the best in the Caribbean. The people of St Vincent and the Grenadines spent 65 million dollars to refurbish and upgrade the Arnos Sporting Complex for the World Cup in 2006

Will the Honourable Minister of Sports please say:

- (a) Why has this facility fallen in such a state of disrepair.
- (b) Why have we not been awarded a premier cricket match since 2013 (WI vs. Pakistan). And;
- (c) Will the facility be upgraded to meet international standards so that cricket loving patrons can enjoy the contemplated match earmarked for us in 2021 if we get up to the required international standard.

18. The Honourable Israel R. Bruce, (Opposition Senator), to ask of the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs, Grenadines Affairs and Energy:

There has been a very high rate of adjournment of civil matters in the Magistrate Courts resulting in persons having to return to court so often without having their matters heard. From all indications this had much to do difficulties faced by or with court appointed bailiffs not being able to serve summons.

- (a) Will the Honourable Prime Minister request a comprehensive report from the office of the Chief Magistrate on this issue.
- (b) Will the Honourable Prime Minister be opened to the idea of permitting litigants to choose their own bailiffs to effect service of these summonses. And:
- (c) Can the Honourable Prime Minister give an undertaking to commission such a report to be delivered to him within the next four (4) months and have same brought before this Parliament.

19. The Honourable Israel R. Bruce, (Opposition Senator), to ask of the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:

Over the past 12 years, several promises were made to the people of Chapmans that lands were secured for the purpose of a cemetery. To date there is no cemetery in Chapmans so that the people can put their love ones to rest. Will the Honourable Prime Minister please state:

- (a) If he is aware of any lands already purchased by the government for the purpose of a cemetery in Chapmans. And;
- (b) If yes, from whom were these lands purchased, at what cost and when was this transaction completed.

20. The Honourable Israel R. Bruce, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

Being mindful of the need to ensure that our school children get to school on time and that our school busses give maximum returns;

- (a) Is the Honourable Minister aware that the children from the areas of Lauders, Higher and Lower Lowmans, Greggs, and Hadley's Village from time to time have to walk long distances in order to get to school in the Mesopotamia Valley.
- (b) Will the Honourable Minister please explain to this house what are the reasons for this frequent transportation difficulty. And;
- (c) Give this Honourable House a commitment that he will have this problem investigated and rectified soonest.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

1*. Monica Nanton Pension (Declaration) Bill, 2019 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Public Sector)	1 st Reading
2*. Franklyn Haynes Pension (Declaration) Bill, 2019 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Public Sector)	1 st Reading
3*. Carlita Leach Pension (Declaration) Bill, 2019 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Public Sector)	1 st Reading
4*. Consumer Protection Bill, 2019 (Honourable Louis Straker/ Minister of Foreign Affairs)	1 st Reading
5*. Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (Honourable Montgomery Daniel/Minister of Planning)	1 st Reading
6.* Tax Administration Bill, 2019 (Honourable Camillo Gonsalves/Minister of Finance)	Select Committee
7.* Child Justice Bill, 2019 (Honourable Frederick Stephenson/Minister of Social Development)	Select Committee
8.* Plant Breeders' Protection Bill, 2019 (Honourable Saboto Caesar/Minister of Agriculture)	1 st Reading

ADJOURNMENT