



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.1

1

WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY, 2020

PRAYERS

PROCLAMATION

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTING HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER, 2019; 19TH & 27TH DECEMBER, 2019

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

PETITIONS

PAPERS

1. **House of Assembly Paper 1 of 2020**
2020 Estimates of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
(Honourable Camillo Gonsalves/Minister of Finance)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. 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:

The airport at Paget Farm Bequia continues to deteriorate, with the ceiling in the restaurant area having recently fallen down. Will the Prime Minister say whether there is an urgent need to repair that airport and when the necessary repairs will be done.
2. The Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Planning.

The National Lotteries Authority (NLA) recently announced gross revenue of \$70 million for the year 2019. Will the Minister please state:

- a) What portion of that revenue was spent of projects and programs; and
 - (b) What were the major projects and programs supported financially by the NLA in 2020.
3. The Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism Sports and Culture:
- (a) What is the status of the hotel project under construction at Peter's Hope, and in particular why has the work been delayed; and
 - b) And when is the project now likely to be completed.
4. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Planning:
- (a) How much of the almost \$200,000,000 Other Receipts appropriated in the 2019 Estimates and finally Budget was realized;
 - (b) How well does that amount compare with prior years 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015; and
 - (c) How realistic or pragmatic will it be based on historical and empirical evidence for similar amounts to be estimated for 2020.
5. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Planning:
- From the last presentation of Special Warrants before this Honourable House for approval, the Median request is around \$25,000,000.
- (a) Is it reasonable to assume that the amounts for 2019 not yet presented will approximate this figure; and
 - (b) What thus far have been the five principal line items of unforeseen circumstances for 2019.
6. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs, Grenadines Affairs and Energy:
- Section 33 (1) of the Constitution of St. Vincent and the Grenadines refers to the election of Representation and State inter alia "...in accordance with the provisions of this section, be divided into thirteen constituencies ..." and subsequently increased to fifteen as prescribed by the Constituency Boundaries Commission.
- Chapter V of the said Constitution; specifically Section 70- (1), (2) and (3) seems to suggest that provisions would be made in the Estimates of Expenditure for these said constituencies.
- (a) Why are Parliamentary Representatives not consulted in the process of preparing the Estimates for the development of their constituencies; and
 - (b) Is it the policy position of the Government that constituency development accompanied by Parliamentary involvement not be a part of the administrative apparatus and development of SVG.

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

It is a matter of public record that your highly optimistic statements on the success of the geothermal drilling program currently in progress at Bamboo Range, and the prospects for geothermal energy production in general are at odds with the reports that the Vincentian public has heard from the technical experts who are conducting the drilling. Therefore we are requesting the following:

Please advise, based on the technical reports and analyses that have been submitted by the drilling scientists:

- (i) The depth to which the first well was drilled;
 - (ii) Whether the permeability of the first completed well provides suitable flow for the delivery of geothermal power and;
 - (iii) The geothermal power capacity in Megawatts that can be expected to be delivered from that well based on the flow of geothermal steam that has been encountered at the bottom of the well, and
 - (iv) The cost of drilling the first well.
8. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs, Grenadines Affairs and Energy:

Please advise, based on the technical reports and analyses that have been submitted by the drilling scientists:

- (i) The depth to which the second well was drilled;
 - (ii) Whether the permeability of the second completed well provides suitable flow for the delivery of geothermal power;
 - (iii) The geothermal power capacity in Megawatts that can be expected to be delivered from that well based on the flow of geothermal steam that has been encountered at the bottom of the well; and
 - (iv) The cost of drilling the second well.
9. The Honourable Kay Bacchus Baptiste, (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

Many months ago the road in Belair in the vicinity of the Lyttle residence was dug up but has been left in a dangerous condition; impeding proper access to all road users, vehicles and pedestrians alike.

Will the Honourable Minister for Transport and Works please say why has work on this important road ceased and when will this project be completed.

10. The Honourable Kay Bacchus Baptiste, (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government:
- The residents of Ashburton have been complaining about the dire need for a bus stop with a shed at the Ashburton gap so that they may be sheltered from the rain as they await or alight their buses when it is raining.
- Will the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works please say if there are plans to install a bus stop at this gap and if so when.

11. The Honourable Kay Bacchus Baptiste, (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation:

I note that work has commenced on the perimeter fence and a gate with a remote access has been installed at the defunct Owia Fishing Complex.

Will the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries please say:

What is the intention of his Ministry regarding this project which has been left abandoned for many years.

12. The Honourable Israel R. Bruce, (Opposition Senator), to ask of the Honourable Minister of Finance and Economic Planning:

The Director of Audit's Report 2013, at page 86, paragraph 3.65 stated that the REWARD FUND managed by the Police Force was not managed in accordance with the Police Act in that it provides for the fund to be placed on deposit at the treasury, instead, an account is maintained at the BOSVG by the Commissioner of Police, contrary to the Act.

Will the Honourable Minister inform this Honourable House:

- (a) As to whether or not this maladministration of the fund has ceased;
- (b) If yes, when was this maladministration rectified; and
- (c) If no, why not.

13. The Honourable Israel R. Bruce, (Opposition Senator), to ask of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation:

The Government recently decided to purchase some 210,000 eggs from local producers due to a glut in the market. Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) If there was a proper assessment done to determine what led to such glut in the market necessitating Government's intervention;
- (b) Are there plans in place to ensure that we do not have a constant reoccurrence of such glut in the market as such forcing similar interventions; and
- (c) If yes, what are those plans.

14. The Honourable Israel R. Bruce, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth:

The Lauders Community Centre, formerly the home of lauders Table Tennis Club and other community concerts has been in a state of dilapidation for quite a while now.

- (a) Is the Honourable Minister aware of the current state of this facility;
- (b) Will the Honourable Minister please give an undertaking that this facility will be assessed with the view of remedying its current poor state; and
- (c) Can the people of the Lauders Community have a decent community centre where residents can converge and socialize in aid of community building and crime fighting.

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

MOTIONS

1*. 2020 ESTIMATES OF ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

To be moved by the Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance.

WHEREAS section 70(1) of the Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines provides that the Minister for the time being responsible for finance shall cause to be prepared and laid before the House of Assembly before, or not later than thirty days after, the commencement of each financial year estimates of the revenues and expenditure of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for that financial year;

AND WHEREAS section 70 (2) of the Constitution provides for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure by the House;

AND WHEREAS the Government had additionally decided to prepare Estimates on a triennial basis:

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Honourable House of Assembly do adopt the Estimates for the financial year ending 31st December, 2020;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable House note the projections for the financial years ending 31st December, 2021 and 31st December, 2022.

BILLS

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| 1*. Appropriation Bill, 2020
(Honourable Camillo Gonsalves/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 2*. Public Sector Investment Loan Bill, 2020
(Honourable Camillo Gonsalves/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |

RESOLUTIONS

To be moved by the Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance

1*. WHEREAS Section 20 (1) of the Financial Administration Act, Chapter 252, (referred to as the Act) provides that the aggregate of the amounts authorised by Special Warrants issued under that Section in a financial year and not approved in a Supplementary Appropriation Act shall not exceed the amount fixed by Resolution of the House of Assembly:

AND WHEREAS it is now necessary to fix the aggregate amounts to be authorised by Special Warrants to be issued under Section 28 (1) of the Act for the financial year ending 31st December, 2020

BE IT RESOLVED that the aggregate amounts to be authorised by Special Warrants for the financial year ending 31st December, 2020 shall not exceed thirty-five million dollars.

To be moved by the Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance

2*. **BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House do authorise the Minister of Finance to borrow by means of fluctuating overdraft or otherwise from First Caribbean Bank, or the RBTT Bank Limited, or the Republic Bank, or the Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, money to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate fifty million dollars, during the period 1st January, 2020 to 31st December, 2020 for the purpose of meeting the current requirements of the Government.

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

ADJOURNMENT