



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.8

14

TUESDAY 16th MARCH, 2021

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27TH JANUARY, 1ST, 2ND, 3RD, & 4TH FEBRUARY, 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

PETITIONS

PAPERS

1. **House of Assembly Paper 3 of 2021**
St Vincent and the Grenadines Postal Corporation
Financial Statements for the year ended
December 31st, 2019
(Honourable Julian Francis)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

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

There is an outbreak of COVID 19 at the Mental Health Rehabilitation Centre in which over 100 patients and staff members have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Will the Minister cause to be done an urgent independent investigation of the outbreak to determine why it happened, and include reference to the conditions and management systems in place at the centre.

2. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:
 - (a) What is the Government's plan for the vaccination of the population of SVG against the COVID 19 virus.
 - (b) And specifically, what is the target number of people it intends to offer vaccination; and
 - (c) Does it have enough vaccines for all who intend to be vaccinated.

3. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture.
 - (a) Has the government signed an agreement with Holiday Inn resorts in connection with the proposed hotel at Diamond; and if so
 - (b) What are the main components of the agreement; and
 - (c) What role, if any, is Holiday Inn playing in the design, construction and financing of the project.

4. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Member for the Southern Grenadines) to ask the Honourable Minister of Education and Reconciliation:

COVID- 19 pandemic has forced the closure of schools for an undetermined period of time and the move towards the implementation of E- learning. Will the Honourable Minister please state:

What protocols have been put in place to prepare teachers and students to safely return to school.

5. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Member for the Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education and Reconciliation:

CXC has signalled the move towards E–examination since 2017. Are we ready for the implementation of E-testing in St. Vincent and the Grenadines for CAPE, CSEC and CCSLC;

If in the negative, what are the challenges that hinder such implementation and how will they be addressed.

6. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Member for the Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education and Reconciliation:

A lot of instructional time has been lost as a result of the closure of schools because of the pandemic and the implementation of E-learning in our schools.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

 - a. How much instructional time has been lost; and
 - b. How the lost time will be made up.

7. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning Information Technology:

In 2020, Parliament approved a significant increase to the Budget; the Appropriation was referred to as a "Stimulus Package". Over the same period, there was independent international and regional assistance from agencies, countries and institutions, such as the: IMF, CDB, ECCB, Taiwan and the WHO to name a few.

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate:

- a. The full list of contributors to our COVID- 19 pandemic mitigation.
 - b. What was the cash or in-kind amount of these contributions.
 - c. How much of this was spent in 2020 and what were the subject headings; and
 - d. Is any of these moneys left to be spent; If yes, what are the individual totals.
8. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour:

As the Ministry of Agriculture aggressively pursues its 2021 Strategic Plan that impacts our COVID- 19 mitigation measures.

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate:

- a. The capital projects that are likely to be completed this year.
 - b. The sustainable jobs surrounding these investments.
 - c. The progress to date on a soft fruit processing plant comparable in size to our hotel plants investment or even the level of what is referred to SME.
 - d. What are the sustainable employment opportunities related to C, if such considerations are contemplated; and
 - e. How much progress has been made in identifying and listing the cluster of agricultural produce such as sour sop, ginger, turmeric and nutmeg, to name a few that could be identified for value added, marketing and development.
9. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:

As we ramp up our vaccination phase of our COVID- 19 mitigation response, it is announced that thirty-nine (39) health facilities will be mobilized. Unfortunately, Central Kingstown remains the only constituency without a dedicated health facility.

- a. Is there any rethinking of this policy of leaving Central Kingstown as the only constituency without a clinic or health centre.
 - b. What circumstances more compelling than a pandemic would inform a change of policy.
 - c. How soon can Central Kingstown have a polyclinic to serve one of the largest constituencies in the country; and
 - d. Can any consideration be given to use the Sharps Community Centre for COVID- 19 mitigation measures specifically COVID- 19 vaccinations.
10. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (Member for South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Gender Affairs, Family Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Settlement:

After years of lobbying this Government to repair the Community Center in Vermont it was done and locked away since.

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate when the people of Vermont will have use of the facility.

11. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (Member for South Leeward) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands, and Physical Planning:

With the La Niña Phenomenon likely to influence our weather pattern this year, bringing rainfall deep into the dry season, there is the possibility that there will be a prolonged rainy season for 2021.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

Whether there is any plan for river defense work in the Yorke river of Campden Park and if yes, when will that work begin and if no, why not.

12. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, (Member for East Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands, and Physical Planning.

The Constituency of East Kingstown possesses the most roadways into commercial Kingstown from the windward side of the island. The roads in the constituency are in the worst state of disrepair in the country in living memory.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. Are there any immediate or short-term plans to rehabilitate any of the roads in East Kingstown and if so when and what is the nature of the rehabilitation; and
- b. If not, why not.

13. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, (Member for East Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Gender Affairs, Family Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Settlement:

What are the Government's plans for Community Development and Local Government in the constituency of East Kingstown.

14. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, (Member for East Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture:

With the COVID vaccine now providing some hope for the reopening of various aspects of our economy including travel to and from St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. What is the status of LIAT.
- b. What is the latest with regards to the severance payment for former Vincentian LIAT workers; and
- c. Will the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines be making a compassionate payment to the former Vincentian LIAT workers as has been done by the Antigua Government.

15. The Honourable Israel R. Bruce (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Gender Affairs, Family Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Settlement:

During the month of October, 2020, a number of houses in Hadley's Village, Chapmans, Greggs, Higher Lowmans and other areas were damaged due to a storm. To date, most of these homeowners are still awaiting promised assistance to replace their partly or entirely damaged roofs.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. Exactly how many homes in South Central Windward were damaged as a result of this storm;
- b. How many of these homeowners have since received assistance to aid in repairing their roofs; and
- c. What was the quantum of assistance given, if given, what was the quantum to repair their damaged homes.

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

Vincyfresh has in past played an active role in the marketing of farmers produce. However, it now appears that it is experiencing some difficulties.

Will the Honourable Minister please provide:

- a. The financial statements if any for Vincyfresh for the period 2015 to 2020.
- b. Indicate whether Vincyfresh is facing financial difficulties.
- c. If so, what are the plans of the government to keep it financially viable; and
- d. Are any members of staff being laid off, if so how many and how is this affecting the company's overall operations.

17. The Honourable Israel R. Bruce (Opposition Senator) to ask of the Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Airports, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs and Local Development:

There are numerous complaints that Bascombe Cemetery in Greggs has little more space remaining to respectfully lay the remains of loved ones.

- a. Is the Honourable Minister aware that such is the current state at Bascombe Cemetery.
- b. If yes, what are the plans to secure another parcel of land in Greggs for the use of a cemetery; and
- c. If no, how soon will a solution be found.

18. The Honourable Shevern John (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands, and Physical Planning:

The public road leading to the cemetery in Fancy was cut in 2015 after the Rock Gutter tragedy:

- a. Is the Honourable Minister aware that the road was never completed, and that it becomes almost impassable when it rains in the area; and
- b. Will the Honourable Minister please state whether the Government has any plans in place to pave or otherwise complete that road, and if so within what projected time frame?

19. The Honourable Shevern John (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands, and Physical Planning:

There is a retaining wall stabilising the road near to the Dickson Primary School, which is failing, and which poses a potential hazard to students and teachers at that school, as well as to the general public:

Is the Honourable Minister aware of the condition of that retaining wall; If so, will the Honourable Minister please state whether the Government has any plans to stabilise or otherwise rectify that retaining wall, and within what time frame.

20. The Honourable Shevern John (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands, and Physical Planning:

Sand mining has been taking place in the seaside area known as Drip in the Rabacca Area.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. Whether any environmental or similar study has been carried out to assess the desirability or otherwise of mining sand in that locality; and
- b. Whether the Government has taken any steps to prohibit or regulate the mining of sand in that locality, and if so,
- (c) what are those steps and how effective or otherwise have they been, and if not, why not.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

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| 1. Finance Bill, 2021
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 2. June Russell Pension (Declaration) Bill, 2021
(Honourable Minister of Public Service) | 1 st Reading |
| 3. The Banking (Amendment) Bill, 2021
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 4. The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (Amendment) Bill, 2021
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 5. Automaticity of Payment (Specified Regional Institutions) Bill, 2021
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 6. The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Zero Hunger Trust Fund
(Amendment) Bill, 2021
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |

ADJOURNMENT