



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.10

31

MONDAY 25th JULY, 2022

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON
THURSDAY 5TH MAY AND TUESDAY 10TH MAY, 2022**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

PAPERS

1. **House of Assembly Paper 7 of 2022**
National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission
Annual Report 2021
(Honourable Minister of Technology)
2. **House of Assembly Paper 8 of 2022**
National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission
Universal Service Fund 2021
(Honourable Minister of Technology)
3. **House of Assembly Paper 9 of 2022**
Carnival Development Corporation
Financial Statement
For the year ended August 31, 2020
(Honourable Minister of Tourism)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

Since the collapse of Clico International Life Limited (CIL) efforts have been made and discussions held among various parties, including regional governments, to recover policyholders' investments. Those efforts have failed to recover the investments of many policyholders in SVG and very little is now being said by the government about the problem.

Will the Honourable Minister please say what is the status of efforts to recover the investments of SVG policyholders who were hurt financially by the collapse of Clico.

2. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Industry and Labour:

Over two decades ago, SVG exporters were banned from exporting seafood to EU markets, principally in Martinique, pending certain improvements in the handling of the seafood catch in our facilities. The Government of SVG initiated steps to improve the fish handling conditions in our facilities. Yet, SVG fish exporters are still not able to export to EU Markets. Will the Minister please say:

a) Why, in over 20 years, the government has not been able to satisfy the conditions to restart the export of seafood to EU markets, and

b) Whether the government has abandoned efforts to re-enter that market.

3. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Member for Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Public Service, Consumer Affairs and Sports:

The Stephanie Browne Primary School has won the Inter Primary School Athletic Championship consecutively in 2019 and 2022, yet the only playing field in Union Island is inadequate for sporting development.

Will the Honourable Minister please state if and when the Clifton Playing Field will be upgraded to facilitate the development of sports on the island.

4. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Member for Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Industry and Labour:

The Sargassum Seaweed is creating difficulty for fisherfolk, hotel operators, restaurants and other businesses in the Southern Grenadines and other parts of the country.

Will the Honourable Minister please state what is being done to address the problem and relieve the people of the difficulties caused.

5. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Airports, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs and Local Government:

Whenever the Energy Surcharge on the electricity bill surpasses the Basic Unit Cost, it is a reminder of the need to revisit the cost of electricity.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

Is 1973 still a good benchmark for adjusting the cost of fuel to determine the surcharge; and

- a) What other considerations if any can be weighed at this time to give further relief on the light bill.

6. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Security, Legal Affairs and Information:

Your recent receipt of the highest reward from the Cuban Government for which we recognize you raises the question of a National Awards or Rewards for Vincentians for Meritorious Service.

What is stopping us.

7. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask the Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys and Physical Planning:

The main road into Edinboro and Forte Charlotte is falling apart despite so many promises to restore it properly.

Will the Honourable Minister please state the time frame for the repairs.

8. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask the Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys and Physical Planning:

In the community of Lowman's Bay known as Buddy Gutter, the unpaved road between Vinlec's Power Generation Plant and the small stream is the main artery to those persons living on the western bank of the stream.

Although the main road is partially paved, the small steep portion linking these two roads is in need of construction.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) When will the road between Vinlec and the stream be paved; and
(b) When will the short link road be paved.

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

Persons in Kingstown and environs have to be on waiting lists for months and weeks to get basic laboratory and other services at MCMH.

These same persons who are able to travel to Georgetown can immediately receive the same care as they show up at the Diagnostic Centre there.

Will the Honourable Minister please state what is the reason for the backlog at MCMH.

And what if any steps are being taken to address this problem.

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

Bottom Road in Top Questelles served as a useful bypass road during the rehabilitation of the South Leeward Highway and secondary Spring Road. The unusually heavy traffic resulted in damage to part of the road in the vicinity of the late Vin Diamond.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when that portion of road will be repaired.

11. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (Member for South Leeward) to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:

The Campden Park Clinic was recently renovated and rebranded Campden Park Health Center. Since it's reopening many patients turned up seeking medical attention and after waiting several hours were redirected to the Buccament Bay Clinic because there was no doctor.

Will the Honourable Minister explain the clinic's inability to function since its reopening.

12. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, (Member for East Kingstown), to ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

The Ukraine Russian war has significantly impacted global economics especially with regards to production and prices. In fact, World Bank President David Malpass in a June 7th, 2022, press release said: "The war in Ukraine, lockdowns in China, supply-chain disruptions, and the risk of stagflation are hammering growth. For many countries, recession will be hard to avoid". Inflation over the last two months has increased to almost double digits in some advanced economies and even higher in some middle to low-income countries.

Can the Honourable Minister please:

- a) Explain the effects of the Ukraine Russian war on the economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines;
- b) Does the government have a plan (considering the Ukraine Russian war) to cushion the impact of rising prices here in St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and
- c) What's the government's response to the pending recession referenced by the World Bank President.

13. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, (Member for East Kingstown), to ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

The COVID 19 pandemic, eruptions of La Soufriere Volcano and the Ukraine Russian war have all negatively impacted the economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. One indicator of economic performance is employment.

Can the Honourable Minister please indicate:

- a) The unemployment rate in St. Vincent and the Grenadines pre COVID (as at the beginning of 2020) and the current unemployment rate (as of June 1st, 2022); and
- b) What has been done, if anything, to address this troubling issue of unemployment and what have been the results of those actions during the period mentioned.

14. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, Member of Parliament for East Kingstown, to ask the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Security, Legal Affairs and Information:

Over the recent past, St. Vincent and the Grenadines have been hit by a spate of crimes which have been very disturbing to the population. In fact, there were four murders in one weekend back in April 2022;

Can the Honourable Prime Minister please explain.

- a) The government's position on Crime and Violence especially against girls and women in St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and
- b) Whether there is any data showing a connection between crime and violence and poverty in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

15. The Honourable Israel R. Bruce (Opposition Senator) to ask of the Hon Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

There are four roads in New Grounds that are in need of repairs:

- a) The road from the Fergus' residence to Otto Sam's house;
- b) The road from the Fergus' residence to Campbell's house;
- c) The road from Neil Mc Dowall's residence to Mr. Bentick's house; and
- d) The road from Neil Mc Dowall's residence to Lisbon John's house.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when these roads will be fixed.

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

In delivering the Budget 2022 the Honourable Minister gave the nation an undertaking that Budget 2022 will invest \$1.3 Million in a partnership with the Kingstown Cooperative Credit Union (KCCU) that will allow fishers to access affordable loans to purchase fishing boats.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) Has the \$1.3 million dollars been invested so as to allow these fishers to access these loans;
- (b) If yes, how many fishers have benefitted from this loan facility thus far; and
- (c) If no, why hasn't the government after the first 6 months of the year not kept its promise to the fishers of this country.

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

Can the Honourable Minister please state:

- a) What recent assessment has been done on the road network that has been graded off in the village of Crab Island beginning at New Life Baptist Church and throughout the village; and
- b) What plans are in place to construct a proper road for the people in this area and when will it begin.

18. The Honourable Shevern John (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, The Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Human Settlement:

Can the Honourable Minister please state:

- a) What recent assessment has been done of the programs offered to women to seek support following domestic abuse; and
- b) What rehabilitative programs are in place for domestic abuse offenders.

19. The Honourable Shevern John (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Security, Legal Affairs and Information:

One of the objectives of the National Commission on Crime Prevention (NCCP) is the development of Police Youth Clubs throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Could the Honourable Minister please explain:

- a) What is the status of the Police Youth Clubs throughout the country; and
- b) What plans are in place to continue or restructure the Police Youth Club Programs.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

BILLS

1.* Port Modernisation (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
2.* Money Services Business (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
3.* Michelle Beache (Pension Declaration) Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Public Sector)	1 st Reading
4.* Aliens (Land Holding Regulations) (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Honourable Prime Minister)	1 st Reading
5.* Education (Miscellaneous Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Education)	1 st Reading
6.* Medical Laboratories Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Health)	1 st Reading
7.* Customs Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
8.* Excise Tax Amendment Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
9.* Electronic Communications Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Information)	Select Committee
10.* Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	Select Committee

ADJOURNMENT