



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.12

39

MONDAY 17th OCTOBER, 2022

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON TUESDAY JULY 26TH AND TUESDAY AUGUST 30TH, 2022

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

PAPERS

1. **House of Assembly Paper 10 of 2022**
National Insurance Services
Financial Statement
For the year ended December 31st, 2021
(in Eastern Caribbean Dollars
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Minister Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs and Information

The Ottley Hall Marina and drydock facility is in urgent need of repair. Does the government plan to lease or redevelop the Ottley Hall Marina and drydock facility so that the drydock will be able to receive and service ships.

2. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of the Public Service, Consumer Affairs and Sports

The pavilion at Clive Tannis Playing Field at Port Elizabeth was damaged by strong winds earlier this year and the roof sheeting was broken and raised up in some areas so that it poses a danger to people, especially as it might be blown off by wind.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a) Whether an assessment of the damage has been completed; and
- a) When the necessary repairs will be done.

3. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask of the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys and Physical Planning:

The road at Bluff Point in Bequia is broken.

Will the Honourable Minister please provide an update on the plan to fix the road.

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

The release from the Ministry of Education of the May/June 2022 Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) Examinations stated that 1493 students were registered for the examinations. It further stated that 1364 school candidates from 26 secondary schools sat papers I and II of the said examinations.

Will the Honourable Minister please give an explanation for the difference between the numbers of students who were registered and those who actually sat the examinations.

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

The percentage pass rate provided by the Ministry of Education of preliminary results of the May/June CSEC examination showed that 10 of the 26 secondary schools received a pass percentage ranging from 60.91% to 96.00%. While the data did not present the pass percentage of all 26 secondary schools, the release commented on the slight improvements by some schools.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a) How many schools received percentage passes below 50%;
- b) Of the number stated above, how many of these schools were below the 50% pass over the last Five (5) years;
- c) Has any investigation been conducted to assess the situations at these schools;

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

Teachers and students of the Mary Hutchinson Government School, in Ashton Union Island have returned to the classrooms for the new academic school year in cramped, hot and unsatisfactory environment. Budget 2022 had made provision for a temporary structure to be constructed to improve the teaching and learning environment.

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate

- a) The estimated time for the completion of the temporary structure; and
- b) What is hindering the completion of the structure.

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

It was recently stated that growth in excess of 5% is expected in 2023. Will the Honourable Minister please disaggregate the growth and indicate the rate in the following sectors: Tourism, Agriculture, Manufacturing and Construction;

What is the contribution of remittances to GDP.

8. Major The Honourable St. Claire Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment

The government has announced the building of a new hospital in Arnos Vale but certain services will remain at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital.

- (a) Will the Accident and Emergency services continue at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital; and
 (b) What special provision will be put in place for Central Kingstown now that the hospital services will be moved even further from the constituency.

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

In dollar terms, what is the amount of the increase for Grades 1 to 8 and Grades C, B2, B1, A3, A2 and A1.

10. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment.

Government has signalled its intention to use part of the old E. T Joshua Airport for the construction of a new hospital.

Would the Honourable Minister please indicate;

- a) Has any drainage study been done of the construction site;
 b) What are the risks of flooding at the site; and
 c) What mitigation measures are proposed for the effects of flooding on the hospital site.

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

The repairs to the old fort road bridge leading to Fort Charlotte has been in the pipeline for a very long time. You indicated that the design consultancy was done by a foreign consultant.

Would the Honourable Minister please state what is the status of this very small project and when is it expected to be completed.

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

Now that we are in the middle of the rainy season, the condition of a number of roads in the South Leeward constituency lay bare the neglect of the government.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when the following roads will be repaired?

- a) Bolomy Road from the Bureau of Standards to Pompey shop in Campden Park; and
 b) Coconut Range Road above Elsa Daniel to Dodo Young;

13. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (Member for South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing, and Informal Settlement.

The Atlantic hurricane season is at its peak and St. Vincent and the Grenadines can be adversely affected by weather phenomena ranging from Tropical Waves to Hurricanes.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a) What has the government done to ascertain the integrity of our housing stock; and
- b) Outline the government plans to assist underprivileged homeowners to strengthen resilience to mitigate against leaking roofs and replacement of roofs in a worst-case scenario.

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

With almost three quarters of the 2022 fiscal year completed, can the Honourable Minister please

- a) Report on the fiscal outturn for the year to date;
- b) What has been the implementation rate (overall and by sectors, for both recurrent and capital) of the budget to date; and
- c) What factors have affected the implementation rate both positively and negatively.

15. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, (Member for East Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade:

As the newly appointed Minister of Foreign Trade, you have inherited a huge responsibility of enhancing your government's and by extension St. Vincent and the Grenadines' trading position.

Can the Honourable Minister please indicate:

- a) What is this country's Balance of Trade and what factors have contributed to this position;
- b) What has been done and will be done to improve our Balance of Trade; and
- c) When will the long-promised Export Strategy be completed and published.

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

Your government has indicated its intention to increase salaries for public servants come 2023. This raises the question of wages and salaries for non-public servants who are also feeling the brunt of rising prices.

Can the Honourable Minister please indicate:

- a) Whether the government will address the issue of wages and salaries for private sector workers. If not, why not.

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

There is a portion of wall overhanging the property occupied by Ms Pearla Sampson and her children in New Adelphi, South Central Windward. This wall is likely to collapse at any time. The threat is further compounded by runoff water from the public road.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a) If he is aware of these issues affecting this family and if, yes;
- b) Are there any immediate plans to remedy this drainage issue and to reinforce the cliffhanging wall; and

- c) Will the Honourable Minister be prepared to lend material assistance to the family if they can provide the labour to help in resolving these issues.

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

During the torrential downpours in the month of August 2022, several landslides affected different parts of the country including of Hadley's Village. The concrete footpath leading to the Browne's residence saw the underbelly falling away.

- a) Will the Honourable Minister give an undertaking to have the said site visited with a view to assess the damage sustained to that portion of road and report his findings; and
- b) Having conducted this visit, will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House as to how he proposes to address that problem in the short term.

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

Windward Islands Banana Development Export Company rebranded itself as Winfresh on or about the year 2009. Earlier this year, Winfresh UK entered into Administration

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) What is the latest status report on Winfresh UK; and
- (b) What has become of the piece of prime estate that the Company owned at Stanstead.

20. The Honourable Senator Shevern John, (Opposition Senator), to ask of the Honourable Minister of Education and National Reconciliation.

- a) Will the Honourable Minister please give a summary of the number of students from the Special Needs School who have successfully completed the main stream school system during the last ten (10) years; and
- b. Will the Honourable Minister please state what provisions were made for the successful transition of the students who were placed into the main stream Secondary Schools this school year from the School for Children with Special needs, especially at the Georgetown Secondary School.

21. The Honourable Senator Shevern John, (Opposition Senator), to ask of the Honourable Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs and Information.

Could the Honourable Minister please state:

- a) What method is used for the distribution of police transport to the various district stations throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and
- b) Are there any plans by the government to ensure that each police station has a transport on site to assist with officers to move easily throughout the villages that they have responsibility for, so as to respond quicker to reports made.

22. The Honourable Senator Shevern John, (Opposition Senator), to ask of the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment

Nurses working on evening duties, nights and public holidays experience difficulties catching transport on time and are sometimes left for long hours on the road to get to work or to their homes.

Could the Honourable Minister please state:

- a) What measures are in place to ease this transportation problem for these front-line workers.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

BILLS

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| 1*. Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 2*. Gemma Adams Pension (Declaration) Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Public Service) | 1 st Reading |
| 3*. Strengthening Health System Resilience Project (Loan Authorisation) Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 4*. Excise Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 5*. Customs Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 6.* Medical Laboratories Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Health) | Select Committee |
| 7.* Electronic Communications Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Information) | Select Committee Report |
| 8.* Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (Honourable Minister of Finance) | Select Committee Report |

RESOLUTIONS

VALUE ADDED TAX (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2022

To be moved by the Honourable Minister of Finance.

WHEREAS under section 58 of the Value Added Tax Act, Chapter 445, the Minister may make regulations for any matter that in the Act requires or allows to be prescribed by regulations or for any matter that is necessary or convenient to be prescribed in order to better carry out or give effect to the purpose of the Act;

AND WHEREAS under section 58 (3) of the Act regulations made under the Act are subject to an affirmative resolution of the House of Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly approve the draft Value Added Tax (Amendment) Regulations 2022

ADJOURNMENT