



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.6

8

THURSDAY 24th MARCH, 2022

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON
MONDAY 13TH DECEMBER, 2021 AND 10th, 11th, 12th and 14TH
JANUARY, 2022**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

PAPERS

1. **House of Assembly Paper 1 of 2022**
Director of Audit of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Bureau of Standards
For the year ended December 31, 2017
(Honourable Minister of Finance)
2. **House of Assembly Paper 2 of 2022**
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2019
(With comparative figures for 2018)
(Honourable Minister of Grenadines Affairs)
3. **House of Assembly Paper 3 of 2022**
Carnival Development Corporation
Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2018
(Honourable Minister of Tourism)
4. **House of Assembly Paper 4 of 2022**
SR&O No. 32 of 2021
COVID-19 (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order, 2021
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security)

5. **House of Assembly Paper 5 of 2022**
Marriage (Amendment) Regulations 2022
(Honourable Minister Prime Minister/Minister of Legal Affairs)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

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

The Government recently sent a large delegation of officials and other persons to Dubai.

Will the Minister state:

- (a) How many persons in all were in the SVG delegation to Dubai;
 - (b) What is the overall cost of the trip; and
 - (c) Whether our government or another government or agency paid for the members of the delegation to travel to and stay in Dubai?
2. Dr the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys and Physical Planning:

The commencement of work at the quarry being developed in Richmond, North Leeward has caused great concern and reaction among the residents in the neighbouring communities of Richmond, Fitz Hughes and Chateaubelair and from many other people throughout the country.

Considering this, will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) What efforts have been made to inform these communities of the effects of this quarry project; and
 - (b) What studies, if any, have been carried out to assess the environmental and social impact of the quarry project.
3. Dr the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys and Physical Planning:
- (a) What is the estimated quantity of a quarried rock and/or aggregate that will be produced annually at the quarry being developed at Richmond in North Leeward; and
 - (b) At current prices, what is the estimated value of the rock and/or aggregate that will be produced at the quarry annually.

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

The context in which schools operate has undergone numerous rapid and drastic changes because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, the ability of teachers, students and staff to be tested and receive timely results is of paramount importance to the success of schools.

Will the Minister please state:

- (a) What is the policy or procedure for managing ongoing risks, conduct classes safely and meet the needs of students, teachers and staff during the academic school year 2021 – 2022; and

(b) How many cases of the COVID-19 virus have been reported in schools among students, teachers and staff.

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

CXC has reported that absenteeism for CSEC and CAPE is on the rise in the region. The figures for St. Vincent and the Grenadines show that there was a total of 814 non-attendance for subjects at CSEC Examination 2021, with English A and Mathematics mostly affected.

Will the Minister please state:

(a) What are the reasons for the absenteeism of students for St. Vincent and the Grenadines from CSEC and CAPE examinations; and

(c) What measures have been put in place to assist students to prepare for exams.

6. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Member for Southern Grenadines) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Surveys and Physical Planning:

This year, Budget 2022 allocates \$500,000 to conduct technical studies and designs to upgrade the road network throughout the islands of the Grenadines.

Will the Minister state:

(a) If the technical studies have commenced and if in the affirmative;

(b) What is the estimated time of the completion of the study; and

(c) When is the possible commencement for the upgrading of the road network in the Grenadines which include:

- i. The entire road from Bluff Corner to the J.F Mitchell Airport in Bequia
- ii. Barbruce Village Road in Canouan
- iii. Island Paradise to Gloria Nicholls in Mayreau
- iv. Murray Village Road in Union Island.

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

On page 13 of your 2022 Budget report "...Rising from the Ashes to the Challenges...", you reported that "...the Government has negotiated, allocated, accessed and begun spending over 300 million in resources...".

(a) What is the precise amount of the "over 300 million dollars" negotiated, allocated and accessed;

(b) Have all these cash amounts been deposited into the Consolidated Fund, any other Fund or Special Account;

(c) In the event that there are Special Accounts; is the Accountant General a signatory;

(d) How much of these cash amounts constitute 2022 Revenue; and

(e) Please advise how much of these resources were distributed or expended in 2021 and so far in 2022. Please provide a detailed list of the disbursements.

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

When one examines the Capital Receipts in the Estimate of Revenue and Expenditure; specifically Capital Revenue and Other Receipts with the line item type of funds in the Capital/Technical assistance Estimates Summary table, one will observe that there is no relationship between one and the other.

The subtitle Other Receipts disappears all together and the revenue figure becomes a balancing amount.

Will the Minister please explain:

- (a) The financial accounting or administrative reasons for this practice;
- (b) Does the manipulation of these financial records compromise in any way the integrity or credibility of the Estimates;
- (c) Why are Senior Public Servants allowed to continue this practice of misleading the Honourable House and when will it stop; and
- (d) How much of the 265 million dollars for Other Receipts appropriated for 2022 can be reasonably realized and to what capital activity not approved by the Parliament will it be applied.

9. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport Works, Lands and Surveys and Physical Planning:

In Central Kingstown, there are a number of areas that requires urgent attention in the form of civil works, for public health, public safety, sports and community convenience. When will civil works be executed to:

- (a) The broken drain adjacent to the Largo Height playing field that causes all the storm water to flow under and into the playing field causing it to swamp and limit footballers of the area;
- (b) A retaining wall outside of the prison at Mc Kies Hill embankment going around the corner of the late Moulton Mayers residence leading to the prison gate;
- (c) The perennially blocked and unsightly drain coming out of Paul's Avenue exiting at the area of Digicel Shop and into the Back Street drain; and
- (d) Community river crossings in Largo Height that separates the village as well a bridge to connect Largo Height with Green Hill and also provide an escape road for the Largo Height police Station in the event that the entrance from garden gate collapses in an emergency.

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

Before the last general elections work began on the road into Edinboro beginning at the Cemetery. The works came to a halt after the elections and have not resumed since.

- (a) Would the Honourable Minister explain the reason for the stoppage; and
- (b) And when the work will be restarted with a view to completion.

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 narrow bridge leading to Forte Charlotte have been in the estimates of expenditure since 2008. It appears in the current estimates with funding from the Republic of Taiwan.

Could the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) the progress to date of this small but important project and when is it slated for completion.

12. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Airports, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs and Local Government:

Given that the new Port Kingstown Project does not envisage the beach front in Rose Place forming part of the immediate port project;

Could the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) If the fisher folk of Rose Place be accorded a facility for the docking of their boats there in Rose Place; and
- (b) If not, why and what alternative arrangements are to be made for them to dock their boats.

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

Repairs to the Campden Park Clinic appears to have been completed since there is no visible work going on site and it has been closed up for several months.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) When the facility will be reopened so that the people of Campden Park can access medical care.

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

The road in Vermont next to John Anthony's residence and the Malcolm family has been in a state of disrepair and desperately needs attention.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) When that piece of road will be repaired.

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

There is a piece of dirt road located West of the construction that's ongoing at the Campden Park Technical Institute. Parts of that road have been eroded so badly that it has become a ridged track which can disappear in the next rainy season rendering it impassable.

Will the Honourable Minister please say:

- (a) Definitively when some kind of work will be done on that road to make it more accessible to residents.

16. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, (Member for East Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Security, Legal Affairs and Information:

There is a long-standing feud between Russia and Ukraine which has escalated over the past few weeks resulting in Russia invading Ukraine with Military Troops on February 24th, 2022. Considering that St. Vincent and the Grenadines recently concluded its term on the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member.

Can the Honourable Minister please explain:

- (a) What is St. Vincent and the Grenadines' position with regards to Russia's invasion of Ukraine; and
- (b) The impact of this development on the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

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

The Promoting Youth Micro Enterprise (PRYME) Project which was launched in Budget 2020 and whose objective is to provide entrepreneurial opportunities for start-up young entrepreneurs, is now into its third year.

Can the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) How much money has been disbursed annually under this project since its inception and what is the total amount disbursed thus far;
- (b) How many persons applied for grants since the start of the project and how many persons have received grants;
- (c) How many businesses have been established under this project; how many are still in operation and how many have closed; and
- (d) To date, what has been the biggest challenge to the successful execution of the PRYME Project?

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

The constituency of East Kingstown is traversed by roads which accommodate transportation into Kingstown proper. In fact, it is impossible for vehicles to enter downtown Kingstown from the windward side of the island without passing through a road in East Kingstown. Budget 2022 includes a project (# 552007) Road Rehabilitation and Repair Programme II for general road works across the country to be executed by BRAGSA.

Can the Honourable Minister please indicate;

- (a) Whether there is a structured process and what is the process of determining which roads are repaired; and
- (b) Can BRAGSA kindly do an assessment of the roads in East Kingstown with a view to having at least some of them repaired under this project this year.

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

Over the past few years, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Minister have taken pride in live animals being sold to businesses in Grenada. Recently, local butchers have been complaining about the shortage of animals to slaughter and so satisfy their local customers. Mindful of the impact of the shortage on small to medium size businesses and the impact on job creation possibilities.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) If his Ministry has given considerations to bring a halt, if even temporary, to the shipment and sale of live animals to Grenada so as to give our local butchers and small business operators an improved opportunity;

- (b) What production mechanism has the ministry put in place to facilitate this shortfall in livestock to meet the needs of our local butchers and dependent small business operators; and
- (c) What are the current considerations of the Ministry to increase the fight against praedial larceny as a measure to also address this shortfall.

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

The Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines has granted license to a quarry company with origin in St. Lucia to set up operations in the North Leeward area. This has caused a great deal of concerns by residents and citizens alike.

Will the Minister please inform this Honourable House as to the following:

- (a) What is the total size of agricultural lands that will become unavailable to farmers in that area due to the granting of the license for quarry operations;
- (b) How many farmers will be directly affected as a consequence of this decision by the government;
- (c) To what extent has this loss of agricultural lands affect the contribution of the agricultural sector to the economic outlook of the farmers of the said area and that of St Vincent and the Grenadines over the entire period of the lease agreement; and
- (d) Has the Minister made arrangements for alternative plots of lands to these farmers and what incentives would they be given to compensate for all or any loss as a consequence of this adjustment, not on a one shot basis but over the period of this lease.

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

In the year 2021, the Honourable Minister gave an undertaking in this Honourable House to send a technical team to the Bottom Lowmans area from Gru Gru River all the way up to Bishop Roban's Church, in South Central Windward, to assess the said road with a view of improving same.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) Whether or not this technical team of engineers was sent to undertake the assessment of that piece of road;
- (b) If yes, will the Honourable Minister please tell this Honourable House, what are the findings and recommendations of this technical team; and
- (c) If no, can the Honourable Minister tell us why not and as such what are his immediate plans in resolving this road issue for the people of Bottom Lowmans.

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

- (a) What assessment has been done in the last 3 months on the impact of young people mental and physical health after their return to the red zone; and
- (b) What strategies are implemented to assist persons in the red zone who are struggling with mental health issues.

23. The Honourable Shevern John (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Public Service, Consumer Affairs and Sports:

Could the Minister explain:

- (a) what are the plans for the development of playing fields in the North Windward constituency.

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

London road is a popular road that links Caratal and Dickson. The people of Dickson use this road to get to their homes daily. Presently there are no street lights in this area.

Will the Honourable Minister tell us when will this area be lit to improve the security for the people of Dickson.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

RESOLUTIONS

COVID-19 (MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS) ORDER 2021, (NO.32 OF 2021)

To be moved by the Honourable Prime Minister

1* **WHEREAS**, section 2 (2) of the COVID-19 (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2020, No.5 of 2020, provides that the Minister may by Order amend the Schedule to the Act, to provide for the modification of any existing law and such law shall, unless a contrary intention is indicated, be deemed to be amended from the date of the publication of the Order in the Gazette; and

WHEREAS, by section 2 (3) of the Act and Order made by the Minister under section 2 (2) shall cease to have effect if a resolution confirming the Order is not passed in the House of Assembly within two months of the commencement of the Order;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2021, No.32 of 2021, was made on the 12th day of November 2021 and published in the Gazette in accordance with section 2 (2) of the Act; and

WHEREAS, under section 2 (3) of the Act, the period of two months referred to in section 2 (2) of the Act for the passing of a resolution confirming the Order was extended by the COVID-19 (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Extension) Order 2021, No.41 of 2021, and further extended by the COVID-19 (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Extension) Order 2022, No.9 of 2022:

NOW BE IT RESOLVED, that this Honourable House approve the COVID-19 (Miscellaneous Amendments) Order 2021, No.32 of 2021.

MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2022

To be moved by the Honourable Prime Minister

2* **WHEREAS** under section 54 of the Marriage Act, Chapter 236, the Governor-General may make regulations, which shall be laid before the House of Assembly for approval, for carrying into effect the Act, and in particular for all or any of the purposes specified in section 54 of the Act;

AND WHEREAS the Minister responsible for Legal Affairs has submitted to the House the draft Marriage (Amendment) Regulations to amend the Marriage Regulations, Chapter 236;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Assembly do approve the draft Marriage (Amendment) Regulations 2022.

BILLS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1.* Leroy Jackson Pension (Declaration) Bill, 2022
(Honourable Minister of Public Service) | 1 st Reading |
| 2.* Elvis Daniel Pension (Declaration) Bill, 2022
(Honourable Minister of Public Service) | 1 st Reading |
| 3.* Antoinette Jardine Pension (Declaration) Bill, 2022
(Honourable Minister of Public Service) | 1 st Reading |
| 4.* Janice May-MacDonald Pension (Declaration) Bill, 2022
(Honourable Minister of Public Service) | 1 st Reading |
| 5.* Teachers' Pensions (Amendment), Bill, 2022
(Honourable Minister of Public Service) | 1 st Reading |
| 6.* Business Names Registration Bill, 2022
(Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of Legal Affairs) | 1 st Reading |
| 7.* Electronic Communications Bill, 2022
(Honourable Minister of Information) | 1 st Reading |
| 8.* Virtual Asset Business Bill, 2022
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 9.* Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Bill, 2022
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |

ADJOURNMENT