



# SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### ORDER PAPER

**No.8**

**19**

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**THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2022**

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**PRAYERS**

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**DECLARATION OF QUALIFICATION**

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**OATH/ AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE**

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**OBITUARIES**

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**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS**

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**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON  
THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> AND 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2022**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

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**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

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**REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES**

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**PAPERS**

1. **House of Assembly Paper 6 of 2022**  
Value Added Tax (Amendment) Regulations 2022  
Statutory Rules and Orders  
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

**QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS**

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

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

If any and what tax and duty free or other concessions were given to Rayneau Construction and Industrial Equipment Ltd in relation to the development and operation of its quarry at Richmond.

2. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Culture:

The hotel project at Peter's Hope which occupies land once owned by the government was once lauded as a major tourism investment. However, it has not delivered what was promised.

Considering that a previous Minister of Tourism said in this Honourable House that it would be completed by June 2020.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) Whether the project as proposed is dead or still alive; and
- (b) If alive and still supposed to be going ahead, when will it be completed?

3. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Airports, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs and Local Government:

Prior to the last general election in 2020, work began to repair the JF Mitchell Airport roof as part of planned repair of the airport.

Will the Honourable Minister please explain:

- (a) Why the repair work is delayed and not yet completed; and
- (b) When will the repairs be completed.

4. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Member for Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Airports, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs and Local Government:

The M.V Fair Chance en route to Grenada capsized off the coast of Trinidad on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2022. Two (2) of the seven (7) crew members were rescued, while five (5) were unaccounted for.

The bodies of Four (4) of the missing five (5) crew members of which two (2) are Vincentian nationals have since been recovered.

Will the Honourable Minister please state if assistance is being offered by government, to the families of the crew members found, to bring their loved ones remains at home.

5. 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:

I have witnessed the agonizing experience of many Vincentians in the constituency of Central Kingstown at the hands of fire.

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please state:

- (a) What if any are the qualifying requirements for this form of disaster assistance from NEMO;
- (b) How many mattresses and kitchen utensils are in the inventory of NEMO;
- (c) Is there foodstuff still available from NEMO for disasters such as fire; and
- (d) What constitutional arrangements are in place for fire victims and how can they access this help.

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

Notwithstanding the infrastructural improvement in the Fenton Mountains; there is still several miles of road that needs to be constructed or rehabilitated.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) When can farmers in the Fenton Mountains predominantly from Green Hill, Sharpes and Belair get improved access to their lands;
  - (b) Is there a strategic master plan for developing the Fenton lands and what is the estimated cost; and
  - (c) Please provide the status of these developments to the extent they are available.
7. 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:

Will the Honourable Minister confirm that a reclassification exercise of salaries for Policemen was carried out in the Police Force and subsequently implemented as recommended.

- (a) Were any of these Police Officers considered since then to be overpaid;
  - (b) When would the aspect of Performance Evaluation suggested by the Durrant Report be implemented to avoid suspicion of favouritism and improve the sense of objectivity.
8. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Airports, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs and Local Government:

There are numerous black plastic water tanks stored at the Ottley Hall Marina and shipyard.

Will the Honourable Minister please say:

- (a) How many of the tanks are there;
  - (b) To whom do they belong;
  - (c) for what purpose were they acquired; and
  - (d) Why they have not yet been used.
9. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:

Is any investigation being conducted into the circumstances surrounding the death of a twenty-year-old lady who reportedly died of a burst appendix after repeated visits to the hospital and being discharged with prescriptions for pain relief.

- (a) If not, when would such inquiries be done and when would the nation be told of the findings.

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

The residents of Rose Place who are being relocated to accommodate the port project are experiencing hardships because of lack of activities and high unemployment in the area of Lowmans Bay.

- (a) What if anything is being considered to ease the unemployment situation particularly among the younger population; and

(b) Has any consideration been given to easing their plight with utility bills they have to face largely for the first time.

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

The Veryvine road in Francois has been a recurring decimal in the budget for many years to be repaired and to date no work has been done.

(a) Will the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works please state when that road will be done; and

(b) When will the Francois village road be fixed.

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

There are two pieces of road in Clare Valley that are in need of repair; the road that turns right of the Wesleyan Holiness Church and College Corner to the primary school.

Will the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works please state when those roads will be fixed.

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

The eruption of La Soufriere volcano has caused many people to evacuate from their homes. Some are still resident at the Questelles Learning Resource Center and the Rillan Hill Community Center.

Will the Honourable Minister of Housing please state why these evacuees are still at those shelters and when they will be able to return to their respective homes.

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

Can the Honourable Minister please indicate and explain the government's fiscal outturn for the first quarter (January to March) of 2022.

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

The Honourable Prime Minister informed this country back in 2020 that his government will be acquiring lands at Richmond Hill belonging to Dr Wayne Murray and his wife to provide for tenants who are currently occupying the land. Can the Honourable Minister please explain:

(a) The status of the said land acquisition process including the amount of money paid/to be paid to Dr Murray;

(b) Whether the tenants will be allowed to own the plots of land which they will be occupying; and

(c) If the government will be assisting the tenants with building homes on the newly acquired lands.

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

There are three billboards currently standing in East Kingstown displaying ULP candidates from the 2020 General Elections (Two at Frenches Gate displaying Ralph Gonsalves, Camillo Gonsalves and Saboto Caesar (candidates for North Central Windward, East St. George, and South Central Windward respectively), and one at Roseau playground depicting Luke Browne, ULP candidate for East Kingstown.

Based on information obtained from the Physical Planning Department: these billboards should have been removed a long time ago after the elections were held. The billboards at Frenches Gate were burnt on two separate occasions following which on both occasions they were replaced.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) Why are the billboards still being publicly displayed;
- (b) Does the Unity Labour Party intend to remove them and if so, when;
- (c) Why were the burnt billboards replaced and was any new application made to the Physical Planning department to replace them; and
- (d) Considering that the Physical Planning Department has the authority to remove the billboards, why hasn't the department removed them.

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

Since 2019 the Government entered into contractual agreement as part of its national Agricultural and Feeder Roads Project. Under that project the Greggs-Lowmans Road was scheduled to be fixed. Almost three (3) years later we are yet to see the fixing of the said road, will the Honourable Minister please tell this Honourable House:

- (a) Whether or not there are difficulties between the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the company Kuwait Dynamics Limited for Contracting K.S.C.C which was contracted to undertake the rehabilitation of this road amongst others, as part of the national project;
- (b) Why is it that this phase of the NAFRP has not been completed;

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

In recent times a number of workers from the Orange Hill, New Grounds and Dumbarton Agricultural substations were moved to employment at another facility in St Vincent and the Grenadines will the Minister kindly indicate:

- (a) What are the Honourable Minister's plans, if any, to replace those workers who have been moved into employment at the alternative facility;
- (b) Tell us the implications of such reallocation of staff on the various Agricultural Stations as it regards productivity and meeting the requirements of our farmers on the services rendered at these stations; and
- (c) How soon does the Honourable Minister plan to remedy this situation so that farmers can rely consistently on the services provided at these stations.

19. The Honourable Shevern John (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour:

The eruption of the La Soufriere volcano and the passage of Hurricane Elsa resulted in the total destruction of the physical structure of the Arrowroot Factory located in Owia. Due to this destruction, it is impossible for farmers to harvest their crops for the 2022 year.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) What is the position of the Board of Directors of the Association and when was the last meeting of the Board of Directors;
- (b) Please explain the status of the proposed new factory at Orange Hill;
- (c) Please state if arrowroot farmers will be given any compensation to mitigate their losses this year and what is the measure that will be used to determine the compensation given; and
- (d) What is the status of the interest of Vincy Fresh in the Arrowroot Industry after its acquisition of 51% a couple years ago.

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

- (a) Could the Honourable Minister please give an update on the renovation of houses in the Red Zone that were affected by the natural disasters; and
- (b) What plans are in place to assist those persons whose roofs did not cave in from the natural disasters, but who are suffering the rusted effects from the ash and thus have leakage to contend with.

21. The Honourable Shevern John (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Settlement:

What support programmes are in place to assist students with special needs to gain employment after they have left school.

# **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

(Government Orders are marked thus\*)

## **MOTIONS**

1. Motion on Concerning Opposition to the Development and Operation of a quarry at Richmond in North Leeward.

**To be moved by Dr the Honourable Godwin Friday and seconded by Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock**

### **Concerning Opposition to the Development and Operation of a quarry at Richmond in North Leeward**

**WHEREAS** the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has entered into an agreement with Rayneau Construction and Industrial Equipment Ltd (“Rayneau Construction”) for the development and operation by Rayneau Construction of a quarry at Richmond in North Leeward and for that purpose has leased 58.8 acres of land to Rayneau Construction for a period of thirty years;

**AND WHEREAS** in January 2022, without warning to farmers, heavy equipment drove through farmlands in Richmond to gain access to the quarry site, and Rayneau Construction began work developing the quarry;

**AND WHEREAS** the quarry will cause significant changes to the landscape and other environmental changes that may seriously affect people, fauna and flora in the surrounding areas and, accordingly, it is necessary and in keeping with generally accepted standards that, prior to the commencement of such a project, an assessment of its impact on the environment and people be done;

**AND WHEREAS** no Environmental Impact Assessment was conducted in relation to the quarry project in Richmond being developed by Rayneau Construction;


**AND WHEREAS** under the agreement, lands for the quarry operations have been leased by the Government to Rayneau Construction for \$12,000 per year and Rayneau Construction will pay the Government a fee of only \$2 per tonne of aggregate sold by the quarry;

**AND WHEREAS** the failure to have any consultation with the people living in the surrounding areas prior to the commencement of the project, the absence of an Environmental Impact Assessment of the project, and the nature of the financial arrangements agreed to by the government for the operation of the quarry have all led to a public outcry and widespread opposition to the project and in calls from many, including villagers from the surrounding areas to stop the quarry, to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment, and to review the financial terms of the agreement;

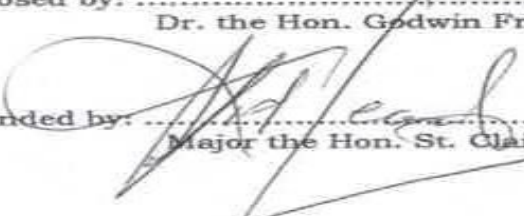
**AND WHEREAS** the Government and Rayneau Construction have not halted the project and, notwithstanding the public outcry against it, work on the development of the quarry continues at a rapid pace;

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the development of the quarry at Richmond by Rayneau Construction be halted immediately pending satisfactory consultation with residents including farmers, business people, fisherfolk and public sector workers, a satisfactory Environmental Impact Assessment of the project, and a satisfactory review of the financial arrangements between the Government and Rayneau Construction concerning the project.

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April, 2022



Proposed by: .....  
Dr. the Hon. Godwin Friday



Seconded by: .....  
Major the Hon. St. Clair Leacock

## **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.



## **BILLS**

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| 1.* Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2022<br>(Honourable Minister of Finance)   | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |
| 2.* Customs Duties (Amendment) Bill, 2022<br>(Honourable Minister of Finance)    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |
| 3.* Excise Tax Amendment Bill, 2022<br>(Honourable Minister of Finance)          | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |
| 4.* Electronic Communications Bill, 2022<br>(Honourable Minister of Information) | Select<br>Committee     |
| 5.* Virtual Asset Business Bill, 2022<br>(Honourable Minister of Finance)        | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |
| 6.* Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Bill, 2022<br>(Honourable Minister of Finance) | Select<br>Committee     |

## **ADJOURNMENT**