



# SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### ORDER PAPER

**No.13** **4**  
**2**

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THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

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#### PRAYERS

#### OBITUARIES

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#### CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

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#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER AND TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER, 2023

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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 No.13 of 2023**

Supplementary Estimates No. 1 of 2023  
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

**2\* House of Assembly Paper No.14 of 2023**

Supplementary Estimates No. 2 of 2023  
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

**3\* House of Assembly Paper No.15 of 2023**

Supplementary Estimates No. 3 of 2023  
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

**4\* House of Assembly Paper No.16 of 2023**

Supplementary Estimates No. 4 of 2023  
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

**5\* House of Assembly Paper No.17 of 2023**

Supplementary Estimates No. 5 of 2023  
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

**No.13** **4**  
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## **QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS**

1. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Leader of the Opposition, to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry & Labour:

In the absence of an Agricultural Census;

- a. How does the government assess the status of farming including animal husbandry in the country?
- b. When will such a census be done?

2. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Leader of the Opposition, to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture:

With the advent of the 2023/24 tourist season and the return of visiting yachts to our bays, will the Minister please state what, if any, measures are being put in place to enhance yacht tourism and to ensure the safety of yacht visitors in our waters?

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

How much money was paid out by the NIS as non-contributory pensions during the past 20 years?

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

Page 51 of 133 of the Report of the Director of Audit on the Public Accounts of the Government of St. Vincent & the Grenadines for 2019, Table 1.19 shows for the years 2015 to 2019 the difference between the Revised Estimate and the actual amount to a sum in excess of three quarters of a billion dollars with only one year 2019 achieving 50% pass mark.  
Will the Minister please state:

- a. How with such a low capital program have we been able to achieve any real economic growth more so development?
- b. What is the economic and budgeting reason for a gap of over 820 million dollars in your projections of other capital receipts between the same years?
- c. With these actual records what is the basis for the current brag of growth of 5% for 2023 when more than 200 million dollars of capital receipt will not be realized?

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

Vinlec's Annual Report shows the following growth of Industrial Customers in St. Vincent in 2015 to be 22; 2016 to be 23; 2017 to be 23; in 2018 to be 24. On the surface that appears to suggest little or no Industrial growth. Over the same period of time we have hosted successful National Exhibitions.

- a. Which three Forms or Enterprise and their BRANDS have achieved export potential over that same period?

- b. What are the quantities and dollar value of those exports?
  - c. Are we at the stage now that any Export Entity in Agriculture, value added activity or small to medium size Manufacturing can sustain a single twenty-foot container of goods or commodity on a monthly basis?
6. The Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock, Member for Central Kingstown, to ask the Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs and Local Government:

In the areas of South River aka Heritage Square where the rivers converge; there is a veritable island of silt/debris/" build-up" that is unkempt and unsightly to this emerging cultural meeting place, business as well.

  - a. Is there anything that can be done to improve the appearance?
  - b. Are there any infrastructural plans to improve the area for the hosting of Events as an ongoing basis?
7. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, Member for South Leeward, to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

The Bonadie Hill road can serve as a useful bypass road that links Top Questelles and Lower Questelles thereby reducing traffic congestion between Merlene Hill and WE FM junction. Will the Honourable Minister please state when that very important road will be repaired?
8. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, Member for South Leeward, to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

Questelles Bay has become so popular that it is now referred to as Miami Beach. People from throughout the country converge there for swimming and other social activities which contribute to the congestion of the narrow road used to access this venue.

Will the Honourable Minister please state whether the deep drains which parallel the road, will be covered with steel grills, and if yes, when will such work begin?
9. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, Member for South Leeward, to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

Several huge trucks transport gravel from the quarry at Twenty Hill to Sandals Resort at Buccament Bay on a daily basis. The sheer weight of these trucks has caused serious damage to the unpaved road at Twenty Hill and along the Penniston main road. A part of the road especially in the area close to the Du Bois bus stop has collapsed.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when those roads will be repaired?
10. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, Member for East Kingstown, to ask the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

With three quarters of the 2023 fiscal year completed; will the Honourable Minister please state:

  - a. Report on the fiscal outturn for the year to date?
  - b. Indicate what has been the implementation rate (both recurrent and capital) of the budget to date?
  - c. Highlight what factors have affected the implementation rate both positively and negatively?
  - d. Indicate which sectors have experienced the highest and lowest implementation rates and why?

- 11.** The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, Member for East Kingstown, to ask the Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

The approved Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 2023, allocate under your ministry, a total of \$27 million for the rehabilitation of priority roads nationwide.

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate:

- a. Which roads have been identified nationwide as 'priority roads' for rehabilitative work in 2023?
- b. Which of these roads have been rehabilitated or where work has started?
- c. What challenges have affected the rehabilitation process?

- 12.** The Honourable Fitz Bramble, Member for East Kingstown, to ask the Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

Your government indicated that upon the completion of the construction of the Argyle International Airport, the heavy equipment used for construction would be used on a continuous basis to repair and build roads and other infrastructure in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. A stone crusher is one such piece of equipment. Will the Honourable Minister please indicate:

- a. How many/ what percentage of these pieces of heavy equipment are in working condition and being used?
- b. Where is the stone crusher currently located?
- c. Is the stone crusher operable and being used?
- d. Who owns the stone crusher?

- 13.** The Honourable Israel Bruce, Opposition Senator, to ask the Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Human Settlement:

Over the past few years, the government has placed in the budget an allocation towards a national youth process. Performance indicators have shown that nothing was in fact done.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. What is the current level of functionality of the National Youth Commission.
- b. What are the differences in role of the National Youth Commission when compared with the Prime Minister's Youth Advisory Council.

- 14.** The Honourable Israel Bruce, Opposition Senator, to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry & Labour:

During the National Address to mark our 44th Anniversary of Independence, the Honourable Prime Minister announced the waiver of monies that were to be repaid to the Farmers' Support Company:

- a. Will the Honourable Minister please state; as of September 30th 2023, what is the total amount of money that was loaned under the farmers support company;
- b. What is the rate of delinquency that is currently being experienced by the farmers Support Company on its loan portfolio;
- c. What are considered to be the major factors which contributed and are contributing to such rate of delinquency?

- 15.** The Honourable Israel Bruce, Opposition Senator, to ask the Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

It has been close to 2 years since repair works started at the bridge in Higher Lowmans, just below the Arthur's residence and it is yet to be completed:

- a. Will the Honourable Minister please tell us what are the challenges being faced by the Ministry why it is taking so long to complete these repairs?
  - b. Does the Honourable Minister have an appreciation for the fact that users of this bridge, motorists and pedestrians alike, especially students are exposed to dangers the longer it takes to complete the repairs to this facility?
  - c. If yes, Will the Honourable Minister please give the people of Lauders and Higher Lowmans an undertaking as to how soon it is expected that the repair works will be completed?
- 16.** The Honourable Shevern John, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:
- a. Explain the dental services provided in the areas of North Windward.
  - b. State how these services can be accessed?
  - c. State the proportion of dental practitioners to patients in the areas where services are provided.
- 17.** The Honourable Shevern John, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Education and National Reconciliation:
- a. State the number of Truancy Officers assigned to educational institutions in the North Windward Constituency.
  - b. Explain the duties of the Truancy Officers.
- 18.** The Honourable Shevern John, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Education and National Reconciliation:

The Multi-Purpose Identification (MPID) System, an initiative of the Organization of East Caribbean States (OECS), was launched on February 11th, 2015. In 2018, the government stated that MPID Cards were issued to 4th and 5th Form students under the age of 18 years who did not qualify for a National Identification Card.

Could the Honourable Minister state:

- a. How much funding was allocated to this MPID project for schools?
- b. How effective was this MPID initiative in the schools?
- c. What is the status of this MPID initiative in the schools?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus\*)

MOTION

1\*. 2023 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES OF ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

To be moved by the Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance.

**WHEREAS** Section 70(3) of the Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines provides for the laying of Supplementary Estimates before the House of Assembly if in respect of any financial year it is found that the amount appropriated by the Appropriation Law to any purpose is insufficient or that a need has arisen for expenditure for a purpose to which no amount has been appropriated by that Law; or that any moneys have been expended for any purpose in excess of the amount appropriated to that purpose by the Appropriation Law or for a purpose to which no amount has been appropriated by that Law;

**AND WHEREAS** Supplementary Estimates Nos 1 to 5 have been prepared and laid in the House of Assembly.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House do approve the Supplementary Estimates Nos 1 to 5 for 2023.

BILLS

1* Supplementary Appropriation Bill of 2023 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
2* Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.2 of 2023 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
3* Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.3 of 2023 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
4* Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.4 of 2023 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
5* Supplementary Appropriation Bill No.5 of 2023 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
6* Public Sector Investment Loan (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
7* Criminal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security)	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
8* Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2023 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security)	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
9* Firearms (Amendment) Bill 2023 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security)	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **MOTOR VEHICLE AND ROAD TRAFFIC (SPEED LIMIT) REGULATIONS 2023**

To be moved by Dr the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs and Information.

**WHEREAS** Section 46(5) of the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Act, Chapter 483 of the Laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines provides that the Governor-General may, by regulations, vary, or revoke any of the provisions of the Second Schedule;

**AND WHEREAS** the said section 46 further provides that regulations made under sub-section (5) shall be of no effect unless and until it has been approved by a resolution passed by the House of Assembly;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Honourable House do approve the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic (Speed Limit) Regulations 2023 pursuant to section 46 of the said Act.

### **MARRIAGE (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2023**

To be moved by Dr the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Legal Affairs and Information.

**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 2023 to amend the Marriage Regulations, Chapter 236;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the House of Assembly do approve the draft Marriage (Amendment) Regulations 2023.

## **ADJOURNMENT**