



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.7

19

TUESDAY 21ST MARCH, 2023

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTING HELD ON THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY, 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

PAPERS

1. **House of Assembly Paper No. 3 of 2023**
Report on the Audit of the
St Vincent and the Grenadines
PetroCaribe (Special Purpose) Fund
For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. **The Honourable Dr. Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition) to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture:**

It has been announced that Air Canada will end its service to St. Vincent and the Grenadines this summer.
Will the Minister please state:

(a) The reason for the planned termination of Air Canada's service to SVG, and

(b) the implications of the decision travel and tourism in the country?

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

Construction work on the hotel being built at Diamond by the government is ongoing. Will the Minister please state:

- (a) How many workers are employed on the project;
- (b) How many, if any, are foreign workers; and
- (c) Whether Vincentians are being trained to take up permanent jobs at the hotel when it opens.

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

Over two decades ago, the road at Cemetery Hill Bequia that runs below the reservoir and ends near Tantie Pearl's Restaurant was graded but not paved. Similarly, the road along the Paget Farm cemetery that starts near Margery Kydd's home and continues towards the stone quarry, and the road that runs from the parking lot of the JF Mitchell Airport towards the said stone quarry were graded many years ago but not paved. Given the tremendous importance of these roads to the communities they serve and the evident deterioration of the prepared surfaces.

Will the Minister please state whether his government intends to pave these roads to prevent their further deterioration and enable them to properly serve the affected communities and the public at large.

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

The Minister of Finance has declared that 2023 as a roads budget and that over \$50 million has been allocated to upgrade the road network throughout the country. Various roads all through the Grenadines such as the road from the Anglican Church to the Junction at the Farrell's residence in Canouan; Island Paradise to Nicholl's residence in Mayreau and the Murray's Village Road in Union Island, among others.

Will the Minister please state when will work commence to improve the roads in the Grenadines.

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

Will the Minister please give an update of the status of the Canouan School Improvement Project estimated at the cost of \$515,000 which is projected to be completed in 2023.

6. **The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Member for Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister Education:**

Will the Minister please state:

- (a) The core compulsory subject areas that students must cover to sit the CSEC examination;
- (b) How many students of the 26 secondary schools, if any were exempted from writing English Language and Mathematics; and
- (c) Did the Ministry of Education get notification of students' exemption from writing Mathematics and English Language or any other core subjects.

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

Would the Honourable Minister please state:

What if any policy is in place for the discharge of patients from the MCMH.

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

The short link road from Edinboro to upper New Montrose has been estimated to cost \$30,000 by your predecessor.

Given the importance of this road and the inconvenience caused by the long delays in the repairs to the main Edinboro road;

Will the Minister please state if:

This vital link road will be included in the work program of your Ministry for 2023.

9. **The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask the Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Local Government, Gender Affairs, Family Affairs, Housing and Informal Settlement:**

(a) Is there a verifiable system in place to prioritize requests for home help;

(b) Would the Honourable Minister please explain what if any are the requirements for gaining this assistance; and

(c) In light of recent malfunction known to the Minister are any efforts on the way to improve this aspect of the service delivery of the department.

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

In recent times there has been an increasing number of amputees struggling to go about their normal lives.

Will the Honourable Minister of Health please state:

(a) How many amputations were done within the last 5 years; and

(b) What steps, if any has the government taken to assist amputees to improve their mobility.

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

Several months ago there was a shipment of building materials that arrived here for the purpose of assisting with the reconstruction of homes for persons affected by the volcanic eruptions.

Will the Honourable Minister please:

(a) List the type of materials that were purchased;

(b) Give the cost of the materials; and

(c) Indicate how much materials have been distributed.

12. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, Member of Parliament for South Leeward, to ask the Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Local Government, Gender Affairs, Family Affairs, Housing and Informal Settlement:

There is a seasonal stream which flows from the mountains between Chauncey and Rillan Hill and parallels the lower end of the Clare Valley Low Income Housing Project. In the rainy season that unassuming stream becomes rejuvenated as there is an increased volume of water which effects erosion and encroaches very close to the property of some homeowners.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) whether there is a need to erect a retaining wall to protect those properties from river erosion; and
- (b) If yes, please state when that wall will be constructed.

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

The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 2023 reflects an amount of \$120,000 to commence preparatory work for the drafting of a new National Economic and Social Development Plan. The existing plan which covers the period 2013-2025 offers a vision for improving the quality of life for all Vincentians and is anchored on the achievement of over-arching goals which include among others: High and sustained levels of economic growth;

Can the Honourable Minister please indicate whether this goal has been achieved by the existing plan.

14. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, (Member for East Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Public Service, Consumer Affairs and Sports:

The 2022 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure reflect an amount of Four million, one hundred and fifty thousand (\$4,150,000) for work on the Diamond Sporting Facility for: construction of roadway, parking, drains, fence, site and storage rooms, concession stand and covering of Bleachers.

Can the Honourable Minister please state:

- a) Which of these activities were completed in 2022 and at what cost; and
- b) What factors or circumstances contributed to the delays or non-completion of any of the activities.

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

Parliament approved a total of one million, three hundred and ninety thousand dollars (\$1,390,000) in the 2023 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Offering National Support for Internship Training and Employment (On-Site). This project aims to promote skill development among the youth for job placements within the private sector.

Can the Honourable Minister please:

- a) Explain how this project will be implemented;

- b) What are the qualifying criteria for an individual to be considered for the project; and
- c) Explain the selection process including how many persons are being targeted for the project and the age limit if any.

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

Farmers have relied on the Ministry to assist with the provision of seedlings to assist in meeting food security needs of this country.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (a) Whether there is currently a shortage of seedlings to supply to farmers in need; and
- (b) If yes, can the Minister please indicate how soon can farmers expect to access regular supply of seedlings meeting their vegetables production.

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

Several farmers have been complaining about the high import duties of farming equipment at the custom.

Will the Honourable Minister state:

- (a) Are there plans in place to remove or reduce duties /VAT on farming equipment; and
- (b) If yes, how soon can farmers commence receiving the benefit of any such concession/ reduced duties on these equipment.

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

For years now the culverts intended to facilitate the proper draining of runoff water in the area of the residence of both Len Fergus and Denniston Payne in Diamonds, have been blocked for a long time now causing the water to run onto the road and causing damage to road and the bridge in that area.

Will the Honourable Minister please give:

- (a) An undertaking to this House to have this issue checked with a view to rectifying same;
- (b) If yes, how soon will the Minister guarantee that this will be undertaken before the rainy season commences; and
- (c) Will the Minister also give an undertaking to report his findings to this House with an indication for remedial works to be undertaken on these culverts.

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

The Arrowroot plant located in Owia has been damaged by heavy ashfall from the Volcanic eruptions in 2021 as well as Hurricane Elsa.

Can the Honourable Minister state:

- (a) If there are any plans in place to renovate this structure; and
- (b) If yes, how soon would work be done and what would the renovated plant be used for.

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

Can the Minister explain if there are any plans in place to provide any financial assistance this year to Arrowroot farmers who cannot harvest their crops.

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

The temporary bridges constructed in Noel and Overland seem to be completed.

Could the Honorable Minister explain what is preventing the opening of these bridges to the general public.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

MOTION

1. Post-Secondary and Tertiary Education in St Vincent and the Grenadines

PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTION ON POST-SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

WHEREAS the advances in post-secondary and tertiary education in St. Vincent and the Grenadines since March 2001 have been phenomenal and unprecedented, assessed in terms of all objective matrices.

AND WHEREAS the policies of the Unity Labour Party (ULP) have been vital to the achievement of these phenomenal and unprecedented advances.

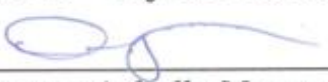
AND WHEREAS the ULP government is, currently, further enhancing access to quality education at post-secondary and tertiary levels as reflected in the Approved Estimates of Expenditure for 2023 and the Appropriation Act of 2023, and in the plans for the next decade.

AND WHEREAS the advances in post-secondary and tertiary education are aligned to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to the appropriate purposes of higher education for the individual, the family, the economy, and the society in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House do endorse the ULP government’s transformational policies and achievements in respect of post-secondary and tertiary education, and accordingly approve their continuance and improvement.

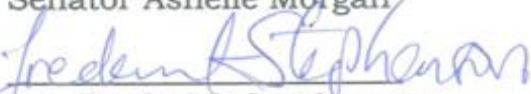
Dated the 10th day of February, 2023.

To be moved by:



Senator Ashelle Morgan

Seconded by:



The Hon. Frederick Stephenson
Minister of the Public Service, Consumer Affairs & Sports.

2. Motion on Crime Calling for A Broad-Based National Approach to Address the Problem of Crime

WHEREAS one of the most pressing problems we face today is the epidemic of crime sweeping our country and becoming more prevalent in our communities, including theft on farms, and on our streets;

AND WHEREAS crime affects everyone, directly or indirectly, and undermines our personal safety and peace of mind and economic activity;

AND WHEREAS the first duty of any government is to protect the lives and livelihoods of its people by promoting safety and security throughout the country;

AND WHEREAS last year was one of the most violent periods in recent memory with a record number of forty-two homicides in a year;

AND WHEREAS the police lack the tools to fight crime effectively and many officers feel unsupported and demoralized in part because their creditable efforts are not recognized or rewarded by improved working conditions, training, and promotions;

AND WHEREAS unemployment has increased and poverty has worsened moving from 30.2% of the population in 2008 to over 36% in 2018 and against this backdrop, criminality projects an emboldened face in our country;

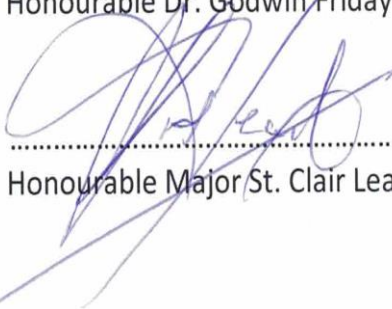
AND WHEREAS many young people drop out of school without a certificate or skills and are unable to find jobs or other opportunities for personal advancement;

AND WHEREAS there is a need for positive community-oriented programs that would steer vulnerable young people away from crime towards socially positive behavior;

AND WHEREAS the Leader of the Opposition in a national address on crime recognized the urgency of the problem, outlined measures to address it and, as the Opposition has done over the years, signaled a willingness to cooperate with government, civil society organizations and other social partners in pursuing a national response to the problem of crime;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House acknowledge the worsening problem of crime, recognize the need for urgent solutions and, accordingly, support a broad-based approach that includes the Government, the Opposition, religious organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant partners to address the problem of crime in our country.

Proposed by: 
Honourable Dr. Godwin Friday

Seconded by: 
Honourable Major St. Clair Leacock

BILLS

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|--|-------------------------|
| 1* Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill 2023
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 2* Anti-Terrorist Financing Bill, 2023
(Honourable Minister of National Security) | 1 st Reading |
| 3* Insurance Amendment Bill, 2023
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 4* Chief Engineer (Amendment) Bill, 2023
(Honourable Minister of Transport and Works) | 1 st Reading |

ADJOURNMENT