



# SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### ORDER PAPER

**No.1**

**1**

**TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

**PRAYERS**

**PROCLAMATION**

**OBITUARIES**

**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS**

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON  
THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER AND FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER,  
2023**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

**REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES**

**PAPERS**

**1\* House of Assembly Paper No.19 of 2023**  
2024 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure  
Of St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

**2\* House of Assembly Paper No. 20 of 2023**  
The Fiscal Responsibility Mechanism of  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 2022 Report  
(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 Physical Planning:**

Given that work to repair Bluff Road in La Pompe Bequia has recently started, will the Minister state the scope of the work to be done, its time frame and its cost?

- 2. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Leader of the Opposition, to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:**

What is the status of the quarry operated by Rayneau Construction and Industrial Equipment Ltd at Richmond in North Leeward?

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

Will the Minister please indicate whether the government has issued any special warrants in 2023 and if so, state when each was issued and for how much money in each case?

- 4. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, Member for the Southern Grenadines, to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:**

In times of medical emergency, persons of the Southern Grenadines are transported via the small coast guard stationed at Canouan. Approximately three (3) years a medivac was purchased for such purpose.

Will the Minister please state the reasons for the medivac not being used for the purpose it was intended?

- 5. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, Member for the Southern Grenadines, to ask the Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs, and Local Government:**

Several navigation lights in the Southern Grenadines namely port Mayreau at Salene Bay and Clifton harbour are not working for some time now. At the height of the tourist season, it is essential that these lights are operational for both yachts and local operators' safety.

Will the Minister please state the reasons for these important lights being out of commission?

- i. Can the Minister give the assurance that these lights will be operational to give guidance to those using the waters of the Southern Grenadines?
- ii. Can the Minister give a possible time frame for these lights to be operational?

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

The M&E (Monitoring & Evaluation) report has not been prepared by the Ministry of Health for many years now.

Could the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. Does the government have any plans to re-introduce the annual (M&E) Monitoring and Evaluation report produced by the Ministry of Health.
- ii. Does the government have any plans to re-introduce this vital mechanism for constant improvement?
- iii. If the answer to (a) is no then why not?
- iv. If yes how soon will this be done and further,

What is being done to evaluate the performance of the health sector in SVG.

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

It has been a very long time since work started on restoring the road to Edinboro starting from the Public Cemetery. The work has seen different contractors, and inconveniences to the motoring public and pedestrians.

Would the Honourable Minister please state:

How much has been spent to date on this project and how much is left to be spent?

What is the real expected completion date on this project, given the failure of previous dates to materialize?

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

The repairs to the bridge leading to Fort Charlotte has been given completion dates that have come and gone.

Would the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. What is the status of this project?
- ii. When would work resume and
- iii. What is the new completion date for this small but important project for which funds have been identified for many years now?

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

The community centre in Penniston has been neglected and in a deplorable condition for years now.

Will the Honourable Minister please state definitively when that community centre will be repaired and made available to the people of Penniston?

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

There is a derelict building which constitutes part of the Buccament Government school. It was originally used as a community centre and trade school.

Will the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works please state if there are any plans to restore and retrofit that building and if yes when will such work be done?

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

For more than 10 years I was pleading with this government to fix roads in the Constituency of South Leeward.

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

- i. Bolomy between Pompey shop and the Bureau of Standard
- ii. College corner to the gap at the Clare Valley Government School
- iii. Elsa Daniel to Dodo Young in Coconut Range
- iv. Big Bush in Rillan Hill
- v. Carib Village road from Carmen Greene to Cordelia Gibson.

**12. Honourable Fitz Bramble, Member for East Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Airports, Legal Affairs and Information:**

You mentioned on more than one occasion in the recent past that it's a handful of young men who are committing the homicides in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and that their primary motive is to take care of their high maintenance women. Considering your comments can the Honourable Minister please:

- i. Explain the record number of homicides committed last year, 2022 and this year 2023?
- ii. How many arrests have been made in relation to these homicides?
- iii. Is our country equipped to effectively address the current crime situation in St. Vincent and the Grenadines or do we need to seek external assistance?

**13. Honourable Fitz Bramble, Member for East Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:**

The IMF earlier this year projected St. Vincent and the Grenadines' economy to grow by 6% in 2023.

Will the Honourable Minister please:

- i. Indicate whether we are on track to meet that projection? If no, why not? If yes, how?
- ii. How will this growth, if achieved, improve the quality of life for Vincentians?

**14. Honourable Fitz Bramble, Member for East Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Regional Integration and the Diaspora:**

The border dispute between The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Republic of Guyana has escalated and attracted heightened international attention.

Can the Honourable Minister please:

- i. Articulate and justify St. Vincent and the Grenadines' position relative to the dispute?
- ii. Explain the political and socioeconomic implications of the dispute, if any, for St. Vincent and the Grenadines?
- iii. Indicate how your government is addressing or plans to address these implications?

**15. Honourable Israel R. Bruce, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:**

In 2019 the government indicated that a parcel of land was already purchased to be used by the people of Chapmans, for the purpose of a cemetery so that they can peacefully bury their dead loved ones. However, this is still not in use. The situation remains the same.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. Why the people of Chapmans still cannot make use of the plot of land it said was purchased to bury their loved ones;
- ii. What was the most recent effort made to the lands in question to be used for the purpose for which it was purchased;
- iii. When this cemetery will be ready to be used by the residents to put the remains of their loved ones to rest?

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

The people of Mt Grenan and Fire Bun have to struggle to use what passes for a road that leads from Mt Grenan main road into Fire Bun due to its condition.

- i. Will the Honourable Minister please tell this Honourable House if there are any immediate plans to repair that portion of road leading from the Mt Grenan main road, in the area where Daniel Foye and Joan Ballantyne are living, into Fire Bun?
- ii. If there are such plans, how soon will the people of Mt Grenan and Fire Bun see some improvements to this portion of road?
- iii. If not, why not?

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

Recent heavy rains have caused tremendous damages to many feeder roads in North Windward. The Bowah road, leading to parts of Orange Hill farms needs to be fixed. Will the Minister, please state if there are any plans to fix this road and when will work begin on it.

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

The closure of the Arrowroot Factory in Owia has disrupted lives and livelihood of the many seasonal workers who were employed at the factory.

Could the Minister indicate if these workers, who are no longer employed, will receive any severance pay for the years of service at the factory?

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

(Government Orders are marked thus\*)

## **MOTION**

### **2024 ESTIMATES OF ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES**

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

**WHEREAS** section 70(1) of the Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines provides that the Minister for the time being responsible for finance shall cause to be prepared and laid before the House of Assembly before, or not later than thirty days after, the commencement of each financial year Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for that financial year;

**AND WHEREAS** section 70(2) of the Constitution provides for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure by the House;

**AND WHEREAS** the Government had additionally decided to prepare Estimates on a triennial basis:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House of Assembly do adopt the Estimates for the financial year ending 31st December, 2024;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Honourable House note the projections for the financial years ending 31st December 2025 and 31st December 2026.

**BILLS**

1* Appropriation Bill, 2023 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
2* Public Sector Investment Loan Bill, 2023 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading

**RESOLUTION**

**2024 ESTIMATES OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

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

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House do authorise the Minister of Finance to borrow by means of fluctuating overdraft or otherwise from 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank St. Lucia Limited, the Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines or Republic Bank Limited, money to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate sixty-five million dollars, during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 for the purpose of meeting the current requirements of the Government.

**APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

**ADJOURNMENT**