



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ORDER PAPER

No.6

12

THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY, 2024

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON
TUESDAY 19TH, WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER, 2023 AND 8TH,
9TH and 10TH, JANUARY, 2024**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

PAPERS

1* House of Assembly Paper 1 of 2024

Director of Audit Report on the Public Accounts
Of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
For the year ended December 31, 2020
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

2* House of Assembly Paper 2 of 2024

SR&O No.2 of 2024
National Insurance (Benefits) (Amendment)
Regulations 2024
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

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

Regarding the greenhouse built by the government at Montreal;
Will the Minister please state:

- a) How the building of the greenhouse was financed;

- b) What is the objective of the greenhouse project;
- c) What is being grown or produced at the greenhouse now; and
- d) Whether more greenhouses will be built by the government?

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

The government has promised rapid growth in the fisheries sector of the economy. Considering the condition of the Owia fisheries complex,

Will the Minister please state:

- a) What will be done to repair and enhance the facility; and
- b) What role will the facility play in the government's plan for the fisheries sector?

3. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Leader of the Opposition, to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Airports, Legal Affairs and Information:

The airport at Paget Farm Bequia was shut down for several days in February this year disrupting travel and causing hardship to many people, including hotel operators.

Will the Minister please state:

- a) Why the airport was closed;
- b) What has been done to enable it to reopen; and
- c) Give the assurance that the problem that caused the shut-down will not recur?

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

Budget 2021 made provision for strengthening the capacity to test, trace and treat the public. In that regard provision was made to install containerized laboratories in Canouan and Union Island.

Will the Minister please state the status of this initiative?

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

The Minister of Finance in his 2023 Budget presentation stated that one million dollars was allocated for a hyperbaric oxygen chamber to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Can the Honourable Minister please:

- a) How many cases of decompression sickness have been reported in St. Vincent & the Grenadines during the past ten (10) years?
- b) What is the status of the hyperbaric oxygen chamber?
- c) What assistance is given by the government/Ministry of Health to anyone suffering from Decompression disease who has to travel overseas for medical attention?

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

The area of the Water Front, Ashton, Union Island continues to suffer from the effects of rising sea levels due to climate change. Will the Minister please state:

- a) What short-term measures will be implemented to bring some measure of relief to the fisherfolk and the other business in the area?
- b) What is the estimated time can such work commence?

7. The Honourable Major St. Claire Leacock, Member for Central Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Airports, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs and Local Government:

I have asked many times for help for the people of Largo Height/Old Montrose to get river crossings/bridges, to take them from one side of the village to the other. My request has been unsuccessful. Can the Minister insist even if only by policy and support in principle to:

- a) Have at least three river crossings in Largo Height/Old Montrose constructed?
- b) Visit the area referred to as "Dam Wall" in Old Montrose/Lodge Village to see if the started work near twenty years old can be completed?
- c) Assist in the feasibility assessment of the need for a connecting bridge between Largo Height with Redemption Sharpes or Green Hill.

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

Because I am not privy to the agreement between the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Sandals, if indeed there is one, will the Honourable Minister please indicate:

- a) The amount of Government investment into this important project and detail the areas.
- b) Does the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines have any equity in Sandals' investment in St. Vincent & the Grenadines?

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

Would the Honourable Minister please indicate:

- a) What is the Quantum of Investment of CELAC as a Body in St. Vincent and the Grenadines or if by country the Breakout?
- b) If yes are these monies deposited into the Consolidated Fund or some other designated Fund?
- c) What is the cost to the people of SVG for hosting the CELAC Meeting?
- d) If indeed there is a cost, is this being paid by way of Special Warrant?

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

Will the Honourable Minister please state when the following roads in Vermont will be repaired?

- a) Old Mountain Road
- b) Paradise Road
- c) Maloney Road

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

Many Vincentians journey to Rillan Hill to enjoy the Christmas lights at the residence of Mr. Jimmy Samuel who won that competition on 6 occasions. Will the Honourable Minister please state:

When that portion of road leading to Mr Samuel's house will be repaired?

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

The fiscal Responsibility Mechanism of St. Vincent and the Grenadines 2022 report states "The debt burden remains high and SVG remains at a high risk of debt distress." Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a) Indicate whether this assessment of the public debt is accepted by the government as a reasonable and accurate assessment.
- b) If yes, what measures are being taken by the government to arrest this situation? If no, please present the true picture of our national debt (with regards to high risk of debt distress) as determined by the government.

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

In your 2024 budget address, page 64, you commented that "there are 13,000 more Vincentians working in the formal sector than when we took office". You also recently publicly commented that with the imminent opening of Sandals lots of Vincentians will be hired. Will the honourable Minister please state:

- a) Indicate the size of the labour force in SVG presently and reveal your source of this information?
- b) Tell us how many more people are currently unemployed than when you took office in 2001?
- c) What is the current rate of general unemployment and youth unemployment in St. Vincent and the Grenadines?

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

The National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025 is about to be concluded. One of the objectives of this plan is "To reduce poverty". Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a) Indicate how successful is this plan (National Economic and Social development Plan 2013-2025) with regards to poverty reduction?
- b) What is the incidence of (how many people are living in) poverty and extreme poverty in St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the moment?

15. Honourable Israel R. Bruce, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Industry and Labour.

The government during the budgetary process for the year 2024 indicated that several entities have received Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) Certificates so as to facilitate export of medicinal cannabis. Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a) the names of the entities that have been GAP certified as of December 31st 2023 and;
- b) Indicate on a monthly basis from June 2023 to December 2023, the extent of our export of medicinal cannabis and state the source markets.

16. Honourable Israel R. Bruce, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Airports, Legal Affairs and Information:

During the presentation of his Budget Speech 2024, the Honourable Minister of Finance in addressing the plight of traffickers sending agricultural produce to Trinidad stated as follows.

“The arrangement which had hitherto been fashioned between the Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and the Bank of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (BOSVG) has been peremptorily terminated by the Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago.... The Prime Minister will address this matter fully later in this budget debate.” Mindful of the fact that the Honourable Prime Minister did not participate in the budget debate for the year 2024.

Will the Honourable Prime Minister inform the traffickers of agricultural produce as to what is the status of discussions to resolve this foreign exchange and banking issue for traffickers?

17. Honourable Israel R. Bruce, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Industry and Labour.

The government advanced that it will spend 4.4 million dollars in the year 2024 to purchase and equip 4 modern tuna boats and train fisherfolks to operate these vessels on a commercial basis.

- a) Will the Honourable Minister give an indication to this House on the specifics of the training programme which these fisherfolks will undergo and whether this will be done locally, regionally or internationally or a combination thereof;
- b) How many fisherfolks are expected to benefit from this training in the year 2024 and at what approximate cost and for what length of time;
- c) Has the Ministry commenced sourcing these tuna boats and if so, what is the estimated cost for the purchase, transshipment, and operationalisation of the 4 tuna boats; and
- d) How soon can these fisherfolks expect to commence their training to allow them to exploit our resource rich blue economy?

18. Honourable Shevern John, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:

Families above the Rabacca Dry River are faced with the high cost of transportation at times to transport their sick relatives to the hospital because ambulance service is not available.

Will the Honourable Minister state:

- a) The number of ambulances available to serve the people above the dry river and
- b) If any study has been executed in the past ten years to assess the effectiveness of the fleet, and what were the results of such a study?

19. Honourable Shevern John, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Settlement:

Honourable Minister please state:

- a) The number of reported cases of child abuse for the period 2020 to 2023.
- b) Based on the number of reported cases, what age range has been identified as having the highest cases of abuse?
- c) What programmes are in place to help the parents/guardians who are found guilty of child abuse?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

BILLS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1* Criminal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2024
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security) | 1 st Reading |
| 2* Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2024
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security) | 1 st Reading |
| 3* Recording of Court Proceedings Bill, 2024
(Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of National Security) | 1 st Reading |
| 4* Cordel Matthews Pension (Declaration) Bill, 2024
(Honourable Minister of the Public Service) | 1 st Reading |

ADJOURNMENT