



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.11

22

THURSDAY 11TH AUGUST 2011

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SITTINGS HELD ON TUESDAY 24TH MAY 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

PETITIONS

1. The humble petition of the Trustees of the Berean Baptiste Church.
(Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Information, Lands, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:

At a previous Parliamentary sitting the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance had confirmed that the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines had been paying the costs for

the Cuban workers at the Argyle International Airport site at the level of \$360,000 per month and that such costs will be reimbursed by the Government of Venezuela.

Can the Honourable Prime Minister please indicate;

- a. how much money has so far been reimbursed by the Government of Venezuela; and if not
- b. what is the amount outstanding as at June 30th 2011; and
- c. what is the current monthly cost.

2. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Information, Lands, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:

Could the Honourable Prime Minister please indicate the fiscal outturn for the period to June 30th 2011 as compared with the period to June 30th 2010.

3. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Industry:

The CEO of the Tourism Authority in response to a question I asked about a payment of \$75,000 made by the Authority to a Management Company, indicated that the payment was for the production of a music video aimed at promoting St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Management Company has confirmed that they were only paid US\$15,000.00 (EC\$40,000.00).

Could the Honourable Minister please state to whom the other \$35,000.00 was paid for what purpose.

4. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs:

Now that the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has agreed to the free movement of its nationals among member countries, will the Honourable Minister please explain:

- a. how have the travel procedures among the OECS countries changed for OECS nationals; and further
- b. what checks and balances are in place to ensure security.

5. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

The main building and surroundings of the Bequia Anglican Community High School have been in a deplorable condition for several years and this needs urgent attention. Will the Honourable Minister please state;

- a. whether the Minister is aware of the deplorable condition of the school building and the need to fence the school compound;
- b. what will be done to improve these conditions and to ensure better security of the compound; and in particular
- c. whether the property will be fenced soon.

6. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

- a. Which financial institution now holds and administers the existing student loans that were issued by the former National Commercial Bank;
- b. how are these loans performing; and
- c. are students able to access loans currently as previously accessed through the former National Commercial Bank.
7. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:
- In light of the recent Common Entrance Examinations just over half of the children who took the exams passed and while some schools performed well in that they exceeded the national average in terms of passes, other performed dismally with fewer than 1/3 of the students passing the exam. In light of this, will the Honourable Minister please state;
- a. whether the Ministry is satisfied with the results of those exams;
- b. whether she accepts that the failing schools can improve to meet or exceed the national average; and
- c. what is being done to ensure that the failing schools improve quickly so as to benefit students currently attending them.
8. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:
- With reference to the Book Loan Scheme;
- a. the names of persons/business houses with whom contracts were signed and the value of each contract between 2005 and 2010; and
- b. whether or not the Ministry can state if all books were received and distributed in accordance with all contracts signed.
9. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:
- Can you please state;
- a. whether the Primary Program for teachers at the Teachers College for the academic year 2011 – 2012 has been cancelled;
- b. if in the affirmative, what is the reason;
- c. when will the program be offered.
10. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (West Kingstown), to ask the Hon. Minister of Education:
- The Kingstown Government School at Stoney Ground has for some time now been negatively affected by the presence of three small shops attached to the north western corner of the building.
- The negative impacts include:
- i. The blockage of natural light and of circulating air, thus making some class rooms extremely uncomfortable.
- ii. The establishment of dead ends in the limited yard space, creating shelters for undetectable wrong doing from students and undesirable visitors.
- iii. Severely limiting the available yard space in the enclosed area for recreational use by the students. This is compounded by the heavy traffic in the adjacent road, which requires the fenced compound to remain closed during school hours.
- a. Would the Honourable Minister please state, if and when the Ministry would move to have the units removed from the school compound; and
- b. it must be noted that only one of the three shops is used sporadically and the occupants are willing to cooperate.

11. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:

The south eastern corner of the Kingstown Government School at Stoney Ground is regularly flooded and hence encourages the breeding of mosquitoes. It also often leads to the younger children falling in pools of mud and filthy water from the wash rooms.

The solution lies in the blasting of some exposed boulders, filling and grading of the space with suitable material and grassing or concreting of the area as deemed suitable.

Several of the parents are prepared to make a contribution to this needed improvement.

Would the Hon. Minister please state if her ministry would sanction this work and assist by providing the materials needed to ensure the many students have an improved environment.

12. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing Information Settlements, Physical Planning, Lands and Surveys:

The residents of Lowman's Bay, Buddy Gutter have been treated very unkindly by a lack of basic amenities, especially access road. Just before the last general election, the Ministry of Housing started the long awaited construction of a road to the area occupied by persons removed from the perimeter of the power plant.

The work thus far was poorly executed and came to a halt very early in the year. The result at this time is the establishment of swamps and high grass making it impassable to anyone and dangerous to kids.

Would the Honourable Minister please state;

- a. is there any intention to continue and finish the road, and if so when will it happen;
- b. would the children get any relief on this before school reopens;
- c. would there be a minimum attempt to clear a tract through the high grass that would allow slightly easier passage now.

13. Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Planning, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please explain the Balance Sheet effect on National Properties Ltd consequent upon the sale of the former National Commercial Bank to what is now Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

14. Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

Like so many other parts of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, our roads are in a deplorable condition, in some cases returning to their dirt state.

Will the Honourable Minister state what programs and timetables, if any, exist for the following roads;

- a. Back road (in the area of Star-liff Pan Yard) in Old Montrose;
- b. The road leading into Cauldric Fraser's residence in Green Hill;
- c. The Trigger Ridge road just from the junction of Monroe's shop all the way up to Estan DeFrietas' residence;
- d. The Largo Heights main road just outside of the area referred to as Big Yard;
- e. The Kingstown Park road starting at Glo Jo's (Stapleton's) business place including the hill between the Cato's residence;
- f. All of the Fenton road and the link road with Belair.

15. Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Planning, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

Especially now in the rainy season, but generally all year round; those residents of Largo Height who have to cross the Largo Height river at several points to get home experience great pain, anguish and inconvenience. Some residents have initiated the construction of river crossing using community help.

What material help if any, in the form of cement, blocks, aggregate, steel, or poles can the government provide now or before the end of this budgetary period to relieve these very poor and hard working people of their sufferings.

16. The Honourable Roland Matthews (North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries:

Will the Honourable Minister please state in relation to the Land Reform Program at the Rabacca Farms in the North Windward Constituency;

- a. the number of farmers who were given leasehold under the program and are still in possession of those leaseholds; and
- b. the annual volume of production and annual value of such production for bananas, arrowroot and cassava between 2005 and 2010 on the said farm at Rabacca.

17. The Honourable Roland Matthews (North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works Urban Development and Local Government:

The North Leeward Highway especially in the areas of Richmond, Cumberland and Belle Isle is in a very hazardous condition due to the excessive over-hanging of trees, bushes and the blocking of drains. Will the Honourable Minister please indicate;

when work will begin to clear the verges, drains and excessive over-hangings in an effort to create employment for the poor and indigent people of the constituency.

18. Honourable Nigel Stephenson (South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, the Family, Persons with Disability, Youth, Sports and Culture:

What work has been done on the preparation for the National Stadium given the fact that there is an allocation of \$100,000 for same in the 2011 Estimates.

19. Honourable Nigel Stephenson (South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

Given the fact that it is impossible to walk on the stretch of dirt road in Campden Park, (Coconut Range) from Keitha Delpeche's to Vin Durham's residence when it rains; will the Honourable Minister please indicate;

- a. whether or not any work will be done to concrete that road; and
- b. if so, when;
- c. when will repair work commence on the piece of road above the Brewery in Campden Park.

20. Honourable Nigel Stephenson (South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

Given the vulnerability of property when it rains heavily in the Pembroke area adjacent to the Buccament River and the poor state of the road. Will the Honourable Minister please indicate,

- a. whether or not the government has any intention of paving the road and construct appropriate drains; and
- b. if so, when can residents expect work to commence.

21. The Honourable Vynnette Frederick (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Industry:

The Ministry of Tourism boasted of a website and online applications which would increase visitor arrivals to St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Indeed over 45,000 hits were registered on the site up to August 2nd 2011. Despite generating such interest NOT ONE PERSON who visited the site was able to book and PAY FOR any booking for the thirty-five (35) hotels listed on www.discoversvg.com.

Can the Honourable Minister state when the requisite regulatory framework to allow for online transactions with local tourism companies will be in place.

22. The Honourable Vynnette Frederick (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Telecommunication:

Given the recent finalisation of yet another ICT strategy and action plan. Will the Honourable Minister please detail;

The current human and infrastructure capacity within the government IT Unit to implement this ambitious agenda.

23. The Honourable Vynnette Frederick (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

Given the fact that Laptops have been distributed to school children. Can the Honourable Minister please state,

Where can they find and access the updated curriculum modules which streamline ICT in the education learning process for each subject area.

24. The Honourable Anesia Baptiste (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, the Family, Persons with Disabilities, Youth, Sports and Culture:

At the first ever Caribbean Regional Colloquium of Women Leaders of Agents of Change recently concluded in Trinidad and Tobago. Statistics released by the OECS Inter-American Commission on Women placed St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the top of a list of most OECS countries in having highest number of reported rapes and recorded female homicides over the last ten (10) years. Will the Honourable Minister please state,

- a. what are the programs actively in place in the Ministry to address these growing ills in our society;
- b. whether or not the department is committed to the bi-partisan approach and collaboration in addressing the matter of sexual and other violence against women;
- c. what kind of public awareness drive, if any, does his department have in place to address the loss of values associated with gender equality and the protection of women, so as to work to decrease the incidents of crimes against women in our society.

25. The Honourable Anesia Baptiste (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Industry:

In light of the July 20th press statement made by the Chief Executive Officer of the SVG Tourism Authority in which he answered a question posed by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition's question thus finally, the last question raised by the Honourable Leader of the Opposition concerning the sum of \$75,000.00 to an artist management company in Barbados had to do with the sponsorship of the music video for the "Beast Let Go" performed by Gamal "Skinny Fabulous" Doyle. As many persons here will remember, this cost was disclosed at the launch at this initiative right here in this building. Will the Honourable Minister please indicate;

- a. whether, according to Section 23 of SVG Tourism Authority Act 2007, the then Board of Directors of the Tourism Authority ever included in its annual business plan proposal for the Financial year 2010, the use of the "Beast Let Go" video as a promotional tool for the Tourism Authority;
 - b. whether, in accordance with Section 24 of the SVG Tourism Authority Act 2007, the then Board of Directors of the Tourism Authority ever approved and implemented the expenditure of EC\$75,000.00 or \$40,000.00 for the sponsorship of the same video;
 - c. whether the sponsorship of the video was implemented without the then Board of Directors' knowledge and approval; and
 - d. whether the then Board of Directors were merely informed of the implementation after the fact.
26. Honourable Anesia Baptiste (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Planning, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

In view of the fact that the Kuwait-fund site on the world wide web records St. Vincent & the Grenadines as having one active loan project with them, namely the ET Joshua Airport, whose project description states: "To improve the existing airport to be capable of handling an annual traffic of 360,000 passengers; by increasing the area of the passengers terminal, constructing a cargo terminal, to improve the air-side facilities, and to procure modern nav-aid equipment." And considering that the site's update on the project's status indicates that a consultant was appointed but contractors were not appointed, and seeing that the expected completion date on the Kuwait-fund's site is December 2006, would the Honorable Minister of Finance please tell Vincentians:

- a. Whether contractors have been appointed for the project and if not when will they be appointed;
- b. whether any of the above mentioned objectives listed in the project description have been achieved and if not when will they be achieved;
- c. how much money has been drawn down so far from the Kuwait-fund for this project and what aspects, if any, of the project, have been completed using it; and
- d. what is the new expected completion date of the project.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

MOTIONS

1. 2011 Supplementary Estimates for St. Vincent and the Grenadines

To be moved by Dr. the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister/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 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. 14 to 16 of 2011, have been prepared and laid in the House of Assembly;

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Honourable House do approve the Supplementary estimates Nos. 14 to 16 of 2011.

2. MOTION ON PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

To be moved by the Honourable Senator David Browne and seconded by the Honourable Senator Elvis Charles.

WHEREAS the private sector has played, and continues to play, a most significant role in the development of the economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

AND WHEREAS the private sector, in harmonious tandem with the cooperative and State sectors, constitutes the hub of any strategic path for economic development in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

AND WHEREAS the ULP Government has as its established policy and practice of facilitating further private sector development in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, especially, but not exclusively, for the domestic private sector.

BILLS

1.	Supplementary Appropriate (No.14) Bill, 2011 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
2.	Supplementary Appropriation (No.15) Bill, 2011 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
3.	Supplementary Appropriation (No.16) Bill, 2011 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
4.	Economic Diversification Loan Authorisation Bill, 2011 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
5.	Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2011 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
6.	National Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2011 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
7.	Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Bill, 2011 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
8*.	Architects Bill, 2011. (Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government)	Select Committee Report
9*.	Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2011. (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Electoral Affairs)	Select Committee

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| 10. | Christian Pilgrim Faith Incorporation Bill, 2011
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 2 nd Reading |
| 11. | Gospel Halls of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Incorporation Bill, 2011
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 2 nd Reading |
| 12. | Faith Pentecostal New Covenant Ministries Incorporation
Bill, 2011
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 2 nd Reading |
| 13. | Our Lady of Guadeloupe Home Incorporation Bill, 2011
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 2 nd Reading |
| 14. | Green Hill Pentecostal Church Incorporation Bill, 2011
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 2 nd Reading |
| 15. | St. Peters Spiritual Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2011
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 2 nd Reading |
| 16. | Good News Bible Church St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Incorporation Bill, 2011
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 2 nd Reading |

RESOLUTION

Designating the Year of 2012 as the “International Year of Cooperatives”

WHEREAS in St. Vincent and the Grenadines there are eighteen (18) active cooperatives with 60,000 members; and

AND WHEREAS co-operatives in St. Vincent and the Grenadines generate business approximating 60% of the total national employment and make a substantial contribution to the economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines with assets in excess of EC\$305 million; and

AND WHEREAS for the past 200 years co-operatives, credit unions, mutuals and other forms of social business have strengthened and sustained local and national economies; and

AND WHEREAS cooperatives are a major economic force in developed countries and a powerful business model in developing countries, protecting 100 million jobs and the livelihoods of a billion members worldwide; and

AND WHEREAS the economic activity of the largest 300 cooperatives in the world is equal to that of the 10th largest national economy; and

AND WHEREAS United Nations Resolution 64/136 adopted by the General Assembly on December 18, 2009, designates the year 2012 as the “**International Year of Cooperatives**”; and

AND WHEREAS the theme of the International Year of Cooperatives is “**Cooperatives Enterprises Build a Better World**”; and

AND WHEREAS cooperatives are the businesses of the people and for more than a century have been a vital part of the world economy; **NOW, THEREFORE:**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines:

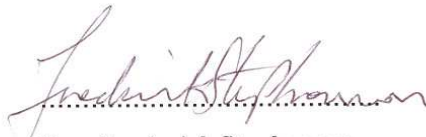
1. **DESIGNATE** the year 2012 as the “**International Year of Cooperatives**”;
2. **CONGRATULATE** cooperatives and members of cooperatives in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and around the world on the United Nations’ recognition of 2012 as the “International Year of Cooperatives”;
3. **RECOGNISE** the vital role properly-regulated cooperatives play in the economic and social well-being of St. Vincent and the Grenadines;
4. **SUPPORT** the establishment of a National Committee for the 2012 International Year of Cooperatives to be comprised of representatives from

each relevant Government agency, all co-operative sectors, and other major stakeholders;

- 5. **RECOGNISE** the importance of facilitating a favourable climate for cooperative development, raising the profile of cooperatives and demonstrating the manner by which cooperatives build local wealth, generate employment and provide competition in the marketplace; and
- 6. **ENCOURAGE** highlighting the positive impact of cooperatives and developing new programmes for domestic and international cooperative development.

Dated the 5th day of August, 2011.

To be moved by:


.....
Hon. Frederick Stephenson

To be seconded by:


.....
Hon. Elvis Charles

ADJOURNMENT