



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.14

44

TUESDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2011

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SITTINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER & TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

PAPERS

House of Assembly Paper No. 5 of 2011

National Broadcasting Corporation
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008
(Honourable Minister of National Reconciliation, Labour, Information and Ecclesiastical Affairs)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

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

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please indicate the fiscal outturn for the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the period January to October 31st 2011 as compared with the same period in 2010.

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

Can the Honourable Prime Minister please indicate how many firms have shown interest in taking over the Life Insurance Portfolio of British American Insurance Company.

3. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Rural Transformation, Forestry, Agriculture and Fisheries:

Can the Honourable Minister please indicate the precise action to be taken by the Ministry of Agriculture for the next nine (9) months with respect to spraying for Black Sigatoka and other diseases affecting the banana and plantain crops.

4. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Rural Transformation, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

Considering the disastrous situation in the Banana industry resulting from your Ministry's failure to spray banana fields in a timely manner against the Black Sigatoka disease and given that a large quantity of our Bananas have been rejected in the UK because of poor quality resulting from the effects of the Black Sigatoka disease, will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. What have you done or intend to do to try to assure the farmers of this country that you and the Ministry of Agriculture will do what is required to combat the Black Sigatoka disease and improve the quality of the country's bananas;
- b. have you considered resigning as Minister of Agriculture so that someone else may provide leadership in the industry and a fresh start for farmers; and
- c. if not why not.

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

In light of the importance of yachting to our country's tourism industry and given that over the years the problem of illegal yacht break-ins or burglaries in Admiralty Bay and elsewhere in the country has been brought repeatedly to the attention of your Ministry and in light of the unfulfilled promises made by the police and the government to provide security for yachts in our harbours and bays by way of boat patrol, will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. why no regular water patrol was instituted in Admiralty Bay and;
- b. what is being done now to address effectively the problem of illegal yacht break-ins in Admiralty Bay and to reassure members of the yachting community that the government is taking their security and welfare seriously.

6. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, the Family, Persons with Disabilities, Youth, Sports and Culture:

Recognizing the importance of sports facilities to the health and wellness of the people of any community and acknowledging that the community of Paget Farm might benefit from the improvement of the playing field and the hard court at Paget Farm, which have deteriorated badly over the years:

- a. will the Honourable Minister please state what, if anything, will be done to repair that facility;
- b. will he also say whether efforts will be made to improve the surface of the playing field in the park so that the field can be used safely and more effectively for playing sports such as football, rounders and cricket and;
- c. will he further indicate whether he will assist members of the community and organisations such as the Bequia Cricket Association in the establishment of a cricket ground, including a new cricket pitch, in the park to serve the community better.

7. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

Students from Canouan are faced with serious financial and social problems in a quest to access quality secondary education on mainland St. Vincent, Bequia and Union Island. In light of the call by residents for the introduction of secondary education on the island and the promise by the ULP in the 2010 Manifesto to build a secondary school on the island: Will the Honourable Minister please state;

- a. what mechanisms have been put in place to ensure the successful introduction of secondary education in Canouan; and
- b. how soon can the residents and students start benefitting from secondary education on the island.

8. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

The Big Sand area of Union Island has undergone serious erosion over the years and continues to be directly affected by sea action, thus hampering tourism development and threatening private homes: Can the Honourable Minister please indicate;

- a. whether the problem has been investigated to ascertain the reason and possible solutions; and
- b. if any action will be taken soon to assist in the protection of the beach.

9. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, National Security, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:

In your 2010 Budget address as Minister of Finance you identified and had approved by the Parliament of St. Vincent and the Grenadines substantial monies in the sum of \$40.6 million dollars for twenty-one (21) specific capital projects. Almost all of these projects re surfaced in 2011 for Kingstown and its environs. Will the Minister please state what progress if any has been made on the following:

- a. upgrading the Administrative Centre \$1.0 million;
St. Vincent Boys' Grammar School and St. Vincent Girls' High School development projects - \$0.6 million;
E. T. Joshua Airport Rehabilitation - \$4.0 million;
renovation of the Old Montrose Police Station - \$0.6 million;
renovation of the Registry - \$0.4 million;
construction of learning resource centres in West and Central Kingstown – \$2.0 million;
rehabilitation of the Murray's Road - \$2.0 million;
Kingstown clean-up campaign - \$1.5 million;
rehabilitation of the Fort Charlotte Bridge - .
retro filling of the Ministry of Urban Development - \$0.4 million.
a total of just under \$13.0 million dollars of the \$40 million approved.
- b. how much of the 2011 capital budget has been expended to date; and
- c. how much of the category other receipts of the capital receipts has been realised to date.

10. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

As we express thanks for small mercies for the repairs to our roads, is the Honourable Minister in a position to indicate;

- a. the first quarter schedule for 2012 for further road repairs in Central Kingstown;
- b. specifically can any consideration be given to the Bow wood area on the road leading to Mr. Vanloo and Dr. Audain and other residents;
- c. is the time opportune to remind you of the restoration of the Fenton/Belair link road; and
- d. the Munroe Junction in Sharps was repaired through the voluntary effort of residents, will the Honourable Minister seize the initiative to replace this with asphalt mix of an acceptable standard to him.

11. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

Between the villages of Lodge Village and Dascent Cottage there is a river commonly referred to as 'Dam Wall'. An earlier attempt to construct a bridge there was abandoned for reasons not yet explained. This river crossing is still very important to the neighbouring villages. However, when the river flows heavily there is a major inconvenience, disruption and possible danger to your children.

- a. is there any plan to revisit this project;
- b. does the government still intend to construct a bridge to link the villages of Lodge Village, Dascent Cottage with Largo Heights; and
- c. if in the affirmative when.

12. The Honourable Roland Matthews (North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing, Informal Human Settlements, Physical Planning, Lands and Surveys:

The property of Ms. Susan Isaacs of Sharps, Chateaubelair was completely destroyed during the passage of hurricane Tomas. To date she has not received any assistance from the government amidst many promises.

- a. Will the Honourable Minister please state if the government is prepared to assist Miss Isaacs in any way; and
- b. if so, what form of assistance will she receive and when will this be done.

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

The Fisheries facility in Chateaubelair has been out of commission for several years now.

- a. What plan does the Ministry have for this facility; and
- b. does this plan includes re-opening the facility within the first quarter of 2012.

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

For several weeks now the quality of banana fruits exported to the UK from St. Vincent and the Grenadines is way below the required standard.

- a. Will the Honourable Minister please state what percentage of the bananas exported to the UK has been rejected from Load Week 25 through to Load Week 45; and
- b. what is the reason given for the rejection.

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

- a. Will the Honourable Minister please state whether or not there is a relocation cost allocated in the contract for any property in the apparent path of the proposed Vermont/Francois Bridge.
- b. if yes, how much money is it; and
- c. who is the owner of the property in question.

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

Given the enormous volume of water which flows from Top Questelles and channeled into Coconut Range and exits in a distributary along the Campden Park Playing Field, causing damage to property and flooding to the road along the playing field after heavy and persistent rainfall:

- a. Will the Honourable Minister please state what corrective measures will be implemented to remedy the situation; and
- b. when will such work commence.

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

Will the Honourable Minister please state whether strong support for the ULP is a prerequisite for repairing roads in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

18. 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:

In light of the reporting of cases of domestic violence and gender based violence within our society and given the importance of involving men as partners in the fight to end gender based violence, would the Honourable Minister please state

- a. Whether the Gender Affairs Department has commenced its plan to train and network with men as partners in advocacy and action focusing on relationships between violence and gender.
- b. How many men have been trained by this program whose target is December 2011.
- c. How many men will be trained by December 2011.

19. 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.

Would the Honourable Minister of Family and Social Development please state:

- a. Whether a barrister-at-law has been assigned to deal with victims of child abuse.
- b. If yes, when was this assignment done
- c. Whether parenting seminars and family therapy workshops have been completed and how many parents have benefitted to date.

20. 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.

Can the Honourable Minister indicate:

- a. Whether there has been any training and employment of Home Help Care Providers to date for the year 2011.
- b. If so, how many have been trained and how many have been employed.
- c. Has there been any assessment this year of this program among beneficiaries.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

MOTIONS

1.* MOTION ON COCOA SUPPORT PROGRAMME

To be moved by Dr. the Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister/Minister of Finance.

WHEREAS, the Government is seeking even more opportunities to further enhance the development of its agricultural diversification programme so as to provide economic benefits to the farmers and to the Government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

AND WHEREAS, the Government is desirous of creating a substantial amount of new employment in the agricultural sector with the re-introduction of cocoa as a major crop;

AND WHEREAS, the Government as part of its agricultural diversification programme is desirous of giving its full support to the development of the cocoa industry as an export activity and as such is committed to the introduction of an initiative called the Cocoa Support Programme;

AND WHEREAS, the Government is desirous of creating an enabling environment for the commercial success of the Cocoa Support Programme.

AND WHEREAS, the Government entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Armajaro Trading Limited to develop a sustainable cocoa industry in the state of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Honourable House do endorse the said Agreement which is laid before this Honourable House this 22nd day of November 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.

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House endorse the ULP government's policy to further enhance private sector development in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and urge the government to engage the private sector fully in this quest on an on-going basis.

BILLS

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|-----|--|----------------------------|
| 1.* | The International Cooperation
(Tax Information Exchange Agreements) Bill, 2011
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 2.* | Insurance Amendment Bill, 2011
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 3.* | Financial Services Authority Bill, 2011
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | Select Committee
Report |
| 4.* | Immigration (Restriction) (Amendment) Bill, 2011
(Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 5.* | Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2011.
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Electoral Affairs) | Select Committee |

RESOLUTION

- 1.* To be moved by the Honourable Frederick Stephenson and seconded by the Honourable Senator Elvis Charles.**

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-operatives 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 programme for domestic and international cooperative development.

ADJOURNMENT