



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.12

33

THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2011

PRAYERS

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**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SITTINGS HELD ON
THURSDAY 11TH AUGUST, 2011.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

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PAPERS

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Supervisor of Elections Report
(Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of Finance)

House of Assembly Paper No. 4 of 2011.

National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority
Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2010
(Honourable Minister of Tourism)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Information, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:
 - a. What arrangements have been put in place to repay the private sector for goods and services supplied to Government which was at the level of \$30 million as at September 30th 2010; and
 - b. what is the current level of arrears to the sector as at 31st August 2011.

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

In recent times holders of special executive Annuities of CLICO insurance have had their payments stopped while CLICO restructures.

Can the Honourable Minister indicate the number of Vincentians who are now exposed and the total value of their exposure.

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

The Government has taken over the liabilities and assets of the now defunct Banana Growers Association.

Could the Honourable Minister state the value of the assets and liabilities taken over from the BGA and give the basis of the valuation utilised.

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

Given that the United Nations General Assembly has, in an overwhelmingly majority vote, recognised the National Transitional Council as the sole representative of Libya at the UN:

Will the Minister please state what is his Government's position with respect to the interim government in Libya led by the National Transitional Council and how he intends to proceed in respects of this country's relations with Libya.

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

Considering the enormous difficulties being encountered by our fishermen in finding reliable markets for their fish and in light of the assurances given by this government that export of fish to European Union markets, principally Martinique, would have resumed after EU inspectors had reviewed the fisheries centers in the country, will the Minister state;

- a. what is the status of the EU inspections of the fisheries centers in the country, including the new one at Owia;
- b. what still needs to be done to meet the requirements of the inspectors;
- c. when will our fishermen be able to export fish directly to EU markets, especially Martinique and;
- d. what assistance if any in that regard can they expect to get from your government.

6. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works: Will the Minister please state;
- why the work to repair the Friendship main road near Sugar Apple Inn has been stopped again;
 - whether there is any intention to complete the repair soon and if so, state the new completion date;
 - whether the road to the Fort Hamilton (Point Hill) tourism site will be fixed for the upcoming tourist season; and
 - when will the main road to Mt. Pleasant, Bequia which is badly broken in places and is dangerous to the travelling public be repaired.

7. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

The presentation of the Annual CXC results at various secondary schools contributes to a false sense of assessment of the performance of a large number of these schools. Some schools which indicated e.g. a 56% pass rate on closer examination have only a 10% achievement measured from the point of intake.

- what comparative records are available of our schools;
- what is the Ministry's revised assessment of the state of performance; and
- is the Ministry generally satisfied with the intake output ratios of our schools.

8. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Information, Land, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

For many years now the profit from the sale of imported sugar has been used either to settle state debt or as a subsidy.

- what percentage of current profit from sugar now gives to our farmers;
- what is the total sum contributed since the subsidy was started; and
- how was the funds allocated to the farmers and to what categories.

9. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Security, Air and Seaport Development:

There was a recent homicide in Redemption Sharpes notwithstanding their professionalism and acts of bravery members of the local constabulary were too seriously limited in being able to retrieve a body from a toilet soak a way on Tuesday 13th September. In the end it was the commendable intervention of the community itself that made the difference. It is conceivable that retrieval situations from pit latrines can be for the saving of lives.

- how soon can this country expect a proper First Respondent Unit to be put in place under the command of an Officer of the local Forces; and
- when will the requisite equipment resources and proper authority be given for emergency situations when split decisions must be made.

10. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, National Security, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

What is the total cost of the Ottley Hall Inquiry from its commencement to the present time, broken down under the following headings:

- Payment to Commissioner;
- payment to lawyers to the Commission;
- payments to other professionals; and
- administrative and other costs.

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

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 Honourable 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 Health and the Environment:

The Unity Labour Party Administration has been making and continues to make claim that each year one hundred nurses are trained locally.

Would the Hon. Minister please state:

- a. What was the inception year and how many have been trained to date;
- b. of those trained, how many have been employed locally or elsewhere; and
- c. how many were taken on for the batch due to be graduating this year, and how many of this batch will be sitting the regional examination.

13. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

The advent of the rainy season has brought into focus the impending danger of the "German Gutter" and also the English Gutter in Troumaca. After years of unchecked erosion the banks of these gutters have worn away significantly and are posing an immediate threat to the homes of residents.

- a. will the minister please indicate what plans are in place to deal with these two gutters; and
- b. if in the affirmative, what urgent plans include relocation of the houses in close proximity to the affected area.

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

The failure of the Ministry of Agriculture to maintain its schedule of spraying bananas in a timely manner has resulted in the almost complete devastation of the banana industry by the outbreak of the black sigatoka disease throughout St. Vincent. Will the Minister please state:

- a. what efforts are being made to assist affected banana and plantain farmers financially due to the devastation of the industry by the outbreak of the disease;
- b. what plans are in place to revitalize the industry;
- c. when can we expect the recommencement of exports; and
- d. will the Minister give the assurance that systems will be put in place to ensure that future problems will be minimised and better managed.

15. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Physical Planning, Lands and Survey:

The government had declared a freeze on the sale of crown lands in certain areas since about 2001, pending the outcome of an investigation.

- a. will the minister please state what has been the findings of this investigation;
- b. has the sale of crown lands recommenced in all areas of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and
- c. what has been the average annual income realised from the sale of crown lands since the recommencement of sale.

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

- a. please indicate if there is any plan to construct the Indoor Sports Complex at the Anglican School Annex which was a campaign issue; and
- b. if yes, when can we expect work to commence.

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

In light of the fact that an entire portion of the old Butt Gut Road in the vicinity of Queensbury has collapsed, making it impassable to both pedestrians and vehicles.

- a. will the Honourable Minister please state whether that alternative road to Vermont will be restored; and
- b. if so, how soon can we expect work to commence.

18. 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 when will work begin on the construction of the Vermont/Francois bridge.

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

Given the fact that (ECCO) the Eastern Caribbean Collective Organisation for Music Rights in St. Vincent and the Grenadines now has the sole right to collect royalties on behalf of all member artistes of the organisation:

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate whether the Rome Convention and the WIPO Performance and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) have been signed and ratified.

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

In November 2009 a policy framework and development strategy for cultural and creative industry development was tabled for the consideration of stakeholders. In light of the fact that we are approaching two years since this document was presented can the Ministry indicate the following:

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate whether the strategy has been implemented.

21. 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 recent reports of sexual and other domestic violence and abuse of our women, some of which continue to result in female homicides, in light of the fact that the government has made

provisions of about EC\$192,000 for the establishment of a Crisis Centre whose main objectives are to address the above issues: Would the Honourable please indicate;

- a. if the long awaited Crisis Centre has been launched;
- b. if this much needed institution is operational; and
- c. if the answer to the above is “no”, how soon can Vincentians, especially our women and children who continue to be victims of domestic violence, have access to the crisis centre and its services.

22. 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:

There are a large number of complaints of elderly and ailing constituents whose family members are unable to access public assistance for their loved ones. They say that when they address their requests to the Social Welfare department they are often instructed to see their area representatives and that they are subsequently unsuccessful because they are known to the area representatives as supporters of the Opposition New Democratic Party. In light of these complaints, would the Honorable Minister please state:

- a. if it is a policy of the Social Welfare Department to instruct Vincentians to see constituency representatives before they can be considered for public assistance;
- b. if the answer is in the affirmative, please state why;
- c. if support of the Unity Labor Party is a condition for receiving public assistance; and
- d. whether it is true that even citizens with letters of recommendation from Medical Doctors are turned down due to their political affiliation with the Opposition Party.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

MOTIONS

1. 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

1. Immigration (Restriction) (Amendment) Bill, 2011
(Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of Finance)

1st Reading

2.	Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2011 (Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
3*	Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2011 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
4*	National Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2011 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
5*	Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Bill, 2011 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	Select Committee Report
6*	Architects Bill, 2011. (Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Urban Development and Local Government)	Select Committee Report
7*	Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2011. (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Electoral Affairs)	Select Committee
8.	Christian Pilgrim Faith Incorporation Bill, 2011 (Honourable Mr. Speaker)	3 rd Reading
9.	Gospel Halls of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Incorporation Bill, 2011 (Honourable Mr. Speaker)	3 rd Reading
10.	Faith Pentecostal New Covenant Ministries Incorporation Bill, 2011 (Honourable Mr. Speaker)	3 rd Reading
11.	Our Lady of Guadeloupe Home Incorporation Bill, 2011 (Honourable Mr. Speaker)	3 rd Reading
12.	Green Hill Pentecostal Church Incorporation Bill, 2011 (Honourable Mr. Speaker)	3 rd Reading
13.	St. Peters Spiritual Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2011 (Honourable Mr. Speaker)	3 rd Reading
14.	Good News Bible Church St. Vincent and the Grenadines Incorporation Bill, 2011 (Honourable Mr. Speaker)	3 rd Reading

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