



# SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### ORDER PAPER

No. 9

19

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THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010

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#### PRAYERS

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#### OBITUARIES

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#### CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

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#### CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SITTING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

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#### STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

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#### PETITIONS

1. The humble petition of the Trustees of Faith Pentecostal New Covenant Ministries.  
(Honourable Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs)
2. The humble petition of the Trustees of Gospel Halls of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.  
(Honourable Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs)
3. The humble petition of the Trustees of Our Lady of Guadeloupe Home.  
(Honourable Minister for National Mobilisation, Social Development, Gender Affairs, etc)

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#### 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, Lands, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please indicate the fiscal outturn for the period ended February 28<sup>th</sup> 2010 or if available for the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010?

2. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Information, Lands, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:
- Will the Honourable Prime Minister supply this Parliament with copies of the design drawings and specifications of the Argyle International Airport and the relevant wind data collected from the Weather Station on the site?
3. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Information, Lands, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:
- Will the Honourable Prime Minister reveal the amount of money collected from the dollar levy on citizens going to the Grenadines and the cost of its implementation?
4. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Member of Parliament for the Northern Grenadines to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:
- What is the status of the drainage and land stabilization project at Derrick Hill in Paget Farm;
  - how much will the project cost; and
  - Will all necessary retaining walls, drains and access roads be constructed ahead of the upcoming rainy season to provide protection for property owners affected by the project, including those whose lands have been cut as part of the work involved in the project?
5. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, National Security, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:
- Has the nation-wide property valuation exercise commenced in 2009 as part of the proposed new property tax system been completed; and
  - when will the proposed new property tax system for the country be introduced?
6. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, National Security, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:
- Will the Prime Minister:
- Provide this Honourable House with an update as to the progress, if any, that has been made in relation to the proposed Community Centre in Mustique that is to be built by the Mustique Company in accordance the current agreement with the Government; and
  - state why the project is delayed and is now several years overdue?
7. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:
- What is the program of action for lighting many of the unplanned and planned settlements in Green Hill, Largo Heights and Redemption Sharpes in Central Kingstown with lighted poles, so that householders could get more safely and easily to their homes?
8. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:
- Would the Honourable Minister please advise as follows: Since 2005, a ground breaking ceremony was held for the proposed playing field at Calgary. In 2008, we were advised that the playing will go ahead. To date, no physical work has been done on the site.
- What is the status of this project and what is the scheduled completion date for this exercise?
9. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:

Several families overlooking the Lowman's Power Plant in Great House, Buddy Guppy and Ottley Hall, have been patiently waiting to have an electricity connection to their homes even as they endure the negative environmental impacts from the plant.

Would the Honourable Prime Minister please state when can these persons expect to have this basic need fulfilled?

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

(Government Orders are marked thus\*)

### **MOTIONS**

#### **1. Motion on Poverty Reduction in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. (Continuation of Debate)**

To be moved by the Honourable Julian Francis and seconded by the Honourable Conrad Sayers.

**WHEREAS** the Unity Labour Party government has placed poverty reduction at the centre of its public policy formulation and implementation since 2001.

**AND WHEREAS** at the time of the ULP's election to office on March 28, 2001, the general poverty level in St. Vincent and the Grenadines was at least 37.5 percent of the population and indigence or "dirt poor" poverty was 25.7 percent of the population.

**AND WHEREAS** the Unity Labour Party administration has, over the past eight years, made a most serious dent in both the general level of poverty and the level of indigence through policies, generally favourably to the poor, including targeted strategic interventions.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House endorse the general and specific policies of the Unity Labour Party government in the priority area of poverty reduction.

#### **2. Motion on the Special Registration Period for Voters**

To be moved by the Honourable Arnhim Eustace, Leader of the Opposition and seconded by Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Member of Parliament for the Northern Grenadines.

**Whereas** the Supervisor of Elections of St. Vincent and the Grenadines operates a continuous process of registration which enfranchises all persons;

**And Whereas** the late special registration period for voters has created many difficulties for the democratic process and the Office of the Supervisor of Elections;

**And Whereas** the former Supervisor of Elections Mr. Selwyn Jones in his report on the 1998 elections recommended that "the special 15-day registration period be abolished;"

**And Whereas** the former Supervisor of Elections Mr. Selwyn Jones in his report on the 2001 elections again recommended that "the 15-day registration period be revisited so that there wouldn't be so much confusion days before polling;"

**And Whereas** the former Supervisor of Elections Mr. Rodney Adams in his report on the 2005 elections called for "a revisit of the special registration period" and referred to that period as "nerve wrecking" and went on to call for "a cut-off period during which registration will be suspended prior to the polls being taken;"

**And Whereas** the National Monitoring and Consultative Mechanism (NMCM) chaired by Archdeacon Sylvannus Regisford in his report on the 2005 elections also recommended that "serious consideration be given to the abolition of the 15-day registration period;"

**Be It Resolved** that the House expresses its disapproval of this special registration period to ensure that registration will not take place during the period in which Parliament is dissolved and that registration take place after Parliament is reconvened;

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Representation of the People Act be amended forthwith to give effect to the abolition of the special registration period.

### 3. Motion on Economic Citizenship

To be moved by the Honourable Julian Francis and seconded by the Honourable Conrad Sayers.

**WHEREAS** the former New Democratic Party (NDP) administration introduced in 1998 a programme of selling our citizenship and passports under the so-called honorary or economic citizenship scheme.

**AND WHEREAS** in 2001, shortly after the Unity Labour Party (ULP) was elected to office, the government revoked the NDP programme of selling our citizenship and passports and the very scheme of honorary citizenship itself.

**AND WHEREAS** the ULP government holds that the highest office in the land is that of being a citizen, which office and our country's passports are not for sale.

**AND WHEREAS** the Opposition NDP has indicated its intention to reintroduce the repugnant programme of selling our citizenship and passports.

**BE IT RESOLVED** (i) that this Honourable House denounce the practice of selling our citizenship and passports and the very idea of economic citizenship itself.

(ii) That this Honourable House endorse the policy position of the ULP government in this matter as outlined in the Preamble hereto.

### 4. Motion on the Republic of China (Taiwan) into ICAO and UNFCCC

To be moved by Dr. the Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister/Minister of Finance and seconded by the Honourable Sir Louis Straker:

Relating Taiwan's participation in the United Nations' related agencies and mechanisms such as the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**WHEREAS** in an era of globalisation, issues in disease prevention, aviation safety and global warming, which transcend national borders, require the widest possible co-operation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate response;

**WHEREAS** the Republic of China (Taiwan), a key air transport hub and a densely populated island, needs up-to-date information on aviation standards and norms and is extremely vulnerable to contagious diseases and the abnormal weather events associated with climate change;

**WHEREAS** Taiwan, like all other countries, should be afforded the opportunity to participate in the international organisations and global mechanisms, aimed at promoting health and aviation safety for human and preventing global warming and environmental disaster;

**WHEREAS** on March 10, 2010, the European Parliament passed a Resolution, addressing its position on many outstanding global issues, among which it "strongly supports" Taiwan's participation as an observer in relevant international organisations and activities, such as the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

**WHEREAS** on March 22, 2010, the WHO Director-General invited again Taiwan's Health Minister to lead a delegation to attend the World Health Assembly (WHA) as an observer;

**WHEREAS** if included in the ICAO and UNFCCC as an observer, Taiwan, as a key global production hub of electronic and high-tech industries, can help contribute to international co-operation on funding and technologies for global aviation safety and climate change adaptation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the House of Assembly of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as follows:

1. Taiwan and its 23 million people deserve appropriate and meaningful participation in the United Nation's related agencies and mechanisms such as the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and
2. It should be the policy of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to support Taiwan's continued participation in WHO and to encourage the International Civil Aviation Organisation and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to take action by adopting a comprehensive solution to accommodate Taiwan.

## 5. Motion on OECS Economic Union Treaty

To be moved by Dr. the Honourable Ralph E. Gonsalves, Prime Minister/Minister of Finance and seconded by the Honourable Sir Louis Straker.

**WHEREAS** each of the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines has agreed to broaden and deepen their sub-regional integration system.

**AND WHEREAS** these said Governments have caused to be drafted an OECS Economic Union Treaty and on December 29, 2009, initialed it in Basseterre, St. Kitts, to replace the existing Treaty of Basseterre of 1981.

**AND WHEREAS** the OECS Economic Union Treaty is currently under review in each of the aforesaid countries with a time-table set for signature and ratification by June 18, 2010.

**AND WHEREAS** the Government of Montserrat has signaled its intention to adopt the OECS Economic Union Treaty but it is awaiting the requisite "Entrustments" or permission from the United Kingdom government to proceed fully.

**AND WHEREAS** the Governments of Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands have decided to remain as "associate members" of the OECS and to participate only in the existing areas of functional cooperation.

**AND WHEREAS** the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines intends to seek further amendments to the Draft Treaty particularly in relation to the "Coordination of Foreign Policy" (including the process of appointing Ambassadors/High Commissioners) and the Economic Protocol.

**AND WHEREAS** the Government and Parliamentary Opposition in St. Vincent and the Grenadines have both publicly expressed their support broadly for the OECS Economic Union Treaty.

**AND WHEREAS** it is necessary and desirable for parliamentary approval to be sought, with or without suggestions for further amendment of the Draft Treaty.

**BE IT RESOLVED** (i) That this Honourable House endorse in principle an OECS Economic Union as detailed in the Draft OECS Economic Union Treaty; and

(ii) That this Honourable House provide additional suggestions for consideration by the Heads of Government of the OECS countries for further amendment, if any, to the existing Draft Treaty.

## **RESOLUTION**

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

**WHEREAS**, Section 28 (1) of the Finance Administration Act 2004 provides that the Minister responsible for Finance may, in anticipation of approval of an expenditure in a supplementary appropriation Act, issue a special warrant under his hand authorising the expenditure to be made out of the Consolidated Fund;

**AND WHEREAS**, by virtue of the said section 28 (1) it is stipulated that the aggregate of the amounts which may be authorised by special warrants issued under the said section in a financial year and not approved by a supplementary appropriation Act shall not exceed the amount fixed by resolution of the House of Assembly;

**AND WHEREAS**, it is expedient that a Resolution shall be made to fix a limit on the aggregate amount which the Minister may authorise by special warrant pursuant to section 28 (1) of the Finance Administration Act 2004;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that this Honourable House approve the sum of twenty-five million dollars as the aggregate amount that may be authorised by special warrant in any financial year pursuant to section 28 (1) of the said Act.

### **BILLS**

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|----|--|-------------------------|
| 1. | Audrey King pension (Declaration) Bill, 2010.<br>(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |
| 2. | Police (Amendment) Bill, 2010.<br>(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)                      | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |
| 3. | Limited Liability Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2010.<br>(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |
| 4. | Community Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2010.<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)                         | Select Committee        |
| 5. | Full in the Spirit Pentecostal Church Incorporation Bill, 2010.<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)            | Select Committee        |

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS**

1. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Lands, Information, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:
  - a. When can the management and staff of the Audit Department escape the function in an overcrowded and unsafe condition in the present building to a more deserving quarters;
  - b. where are these new quarters to be located; and
  - c. would they be also provided with the IT equipment currently inhibiting their work?

2. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Lands, Information, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

The question has been raised before in this Honourable House of the appropriate management of names of distinguished National Achievers who have assets or National Monuments associated with their distinguished names. Case in point in the George McIntosh still to be properly decommissioned and latterly the Hugh Mulzac lying in disrepair and virtual dysfunction. This does not do credit to the initial respect accorded to these outstanding Vincentians.

- a. How soon can we correct the seemingly unintentional dishonor;
- b. would replacement vessels be renamed after these gentlemen; and
- c. how soon can these protocols and respect be addressed?

