



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No. 10

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FRIDAY 28TH MAY 2010

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SITTING HELD ON 6TH MAY
2010.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

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:

The Domestic Debt Schedule in the 2010 Estimates presented to Parliament shows that the level of accounts payable stood at \$24.5 million dollars as at 31st September 2009.

Could the Honourable Prime Minister state the level of accounts payable as at 30th April 2010.

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:

Could the Honourable Prime Minister please give the amount of revenue collected as of April 30th under the caption "other receipts" on the capital side of the budget.

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3. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:
- Could be the Honourable Minister please indicate whether the Pan Yard Project at Sion Hill and the Mass Band Centre at Walvaroo have been abandoned; and
 - if in the negative what is their present status.

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

- What is the situation with respect to the Friendship Bay Hotel in Bequia, which recently closed;
- what effect will this have on our tourism industry; and
- how many workers have been laid off and can they reasonably expect to return to work anytime soon.

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

Are there any plans to fix the following damaged or dilapidated major roads in Bequia:

- The Friendship main road near Sugar Apple Inn;
- the road to the Fort Hamilton (Point Hill) tourism site; and
- the main road to Mt. Pleasant where it is badly broken in several places and dangerous to the travelling public.

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

Now that the Government has indicated that St. Vincent and the Grenadines will no longer seek a seat on the UN Security Council in 2010 but instead has expressed an interest in seeking a seat in 2020, will the Minister please state

- Whether CARICOM as a body has decided that its members will support Colombia's bid for a Security Council seat in 2010 and, in particular, will St. Vincent and the Grenadines now support Colombia's bid so as to garner support for our own bid for a seat in 2020; and
- whether the countries participating in ALBA have adopted a common position in respect of Colombia's bid and if so, what is that position.

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

- What is the present status of the Fisheries Complex at Clifton, Union Island;
- when will improvements be made to this complex to ensure adequate storage of seafood by fishermen; and
- can the Honourable Minister verify that the improvements to be made will take into account the standards required to enable our fishermen to resume direct export of seafood to European markets such as Martinique and Guadeloupe.

8. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Planning, Information, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

In light of the fact that several workers at the Canouan Resort Development have been sent home and this has affected a number of persons in the country including the residents and business community of Canouan: Can the Honourable Minister please state;

- what is the status of the Canouan Development Project; and

- b. have the developers indicated when the project will become fully operational again, so that it will provide more employment to our people.
9. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

A number of primary school teachers were offered the opportunity to obtain their degrees in various disciplines in conjunction with the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, during the 1st quarter of 2010; successful teachers of the various programs were asked to apply to fill a number of graduate positions within the education system.

- a. Have any new areas of study been introduced to the program;
 - b. how many applications have been received from teachers who have graduated; and
 - c. how many new appointments were given to these graduates.
10. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing:

In 1980, the number of houses in St. Vincent and the Grenadines that were constructed out of concrete amounted to 7,330 or 36% of the households. By 1991 at the next census this figure had almost doubled to 14,883 or 55.1%. In the year 2001 the last concluded census the statistics for concrete houses had reached the impressive total of 21,707 or 71.6% of households.

From the available government records or reasonable estimates what number and percentage of the just over 33,000 households in St. Vincent and the Grenadines today are as we say “wall houses”.

11. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:

The number of households with piped borne water in their houses or their yard in 1980 was 4,337 or 35% of the population. This figure grew to 8,984 in homes or 48% by 1991 and climbed to over 78% in 2001 with an in-house supply of 15,936 and with an over 90% reliability factor.

- a. What is the current estimates of households with piped borne water; and
 - b. how many households are now linked to sewerage systems.
12. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Planning, Information, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

The most recent poverty report on St. Vincent and the Grenadines conducted in the year 2007/2008 indicate that almost half of the country 44.3% to be exact “felt that conditions had worsened compared to the previous year 2006. Unemployment of the poor, at 25.3% is higher than the country’s average and almost half i.e. 50% of our women have their first child before they are twenty (20) years of age. In addition to the above almost half of the country’s workforce i.e. those who work for less than \$600.00 per month can become poor at any time now. They are defined as vulnerable.

- a. Why are so few of the recommendations to reduce poverty been implemented thus far; and
 - b. since local government is proposed as one of the poverty reduction measures why is the Grenadines with the lowest level of unemployment in the state targeted as against say Georgetown and Sandy Bay with 16.5% of the country’s poor and Bottle and Glass in Barrouallie where according to the report “... there are significant levels of poverty...” in excess of the national average.
13. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

For many years, the bridge at Fort Charlotte has been in the capital estimates for rehabilitation. The bridge is now in such a state that it may soon have to be closed to vehicular traffic for safety. Would the Honourable Minister please answer the following?

- a. Has design work for the rehabilitation work been done as yet;
- b. when would work begin on this important project that has implications for the tourism product; and
- c. is there a contingency plan in place in the event of the eminent collapse of the bridge.

14. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

Residents of Edinboro, Ottley Hall and Cox's Heath continue to be exposed to the possibility of being isolated in the event of a mishap on the only road available for access and egress. The bypass road from Edinboro via New Montrose has been promised for many years now. Would the Honourable Minister please say:

- a. What is the status of this project;
- b. has funding been identified; and,
- c. when would work begin on the much needed road.

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 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. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2010.

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

WHEREAS, by sections 51 and 72 of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority Act (Chapter 373 of the Revised Laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 1990 Edition) the Port Authority may make regulations for the control of traffic and the navigation of ships within the limits and approaches to the Port; and for prescribing the dues conditions and charges for any service or facility performed or provided by the Port;

AND WHEREAS, regulations were made and published in the *Gazette* on the 18 day of May 2010;

AND WHEREAS, section 72 (6) provides that all regulations made under the said Act shall be subject to negative resolution of the House of Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Honourable House pass the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2010 by resolution.

BILLS

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| 1. | Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2010.
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 2. | Police (Amendment) Bill, 2010.
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 3. | Community Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2010.
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | Select Committee Report |
| 4. | Full in the Spirit Pentecostal Church Incorporation Bill, 2010.
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | Select Committee Report |

ADJOURNMENT

