



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No. 11

31

MONDAY 31ST MAY 2010

PRAYERS

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.

BILLS

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| 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