



# SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### ORDER PAPER

No. 8

15

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THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2010

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PRAYERS

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ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

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OATH OF OFFICE – DEPUTY SPEAKER

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OATH/AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE– HONOURABLE  
MEMBER

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OBITUARIES

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CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

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CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SITTING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup>  
FEBRUARY 2010.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

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STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

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PAPERS

House of Assembly Paper No. 1 of 2010.

Report of the Director of Audit on the Public Accounts of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007.

(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)

## **QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS**

1. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

The Rockies road particularly in the area leading to the Community Centre and beyond is in a total state of disrepair. This has created great difficulty for pedestrians and vehicles alike.

Can the Honourable Minister please indicate when would this road be repaired.

2. 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:

Have the corrections and other changes, if any, to the poverty assessment report prepared for the government in 2009 been completed and, if so, when will the entire report be made available to the public.

3. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Gender Affairs, Non-Governmental Organisations Relations, Youth and Sports:

In light of the fact that the development of sports is dependent on the availability of playing fields with related amenities, can the Minister please state:

- a. Whether the playing field at Clifton, Union Island would be upgraded in 2010 to facilitate development of sports in that community; or
- b. if not, whether an alternative site has been located for a playing field, where it has been located and how soon it will be developed.

4. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Culture, Labour and Electoral Matters.

In the context of Electoral Affairs, is it true that:

- a. There is a reduction in population size;
- b. There is a decrease in the population density;
- c. The population density in Kingstown in 2001 was lower than 1991; and
- d. Is the decrease in the birth rate in St. Vincent and the Grenadines using most current and authoritative statistics.

## **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

(Government Orders are marked thus\*)

### **MOTIONS**

1. **Motion on Poverty Reduction in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.**

To be moved by the Honourable Julian Francis and seconded by the Honourable Rochelle Forde.

**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.

### **BILLS**

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| 1*. | The Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Amendment) Bill, 2010.<br>(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading |
| 2.* | Finance Bill, 2010.<br>(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |
| 3.  | Community Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2010.<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading |
| 4.  | Full in the Spirit Pentecostal Church Incorporation Bill, 2010.<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)                                     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading |

### **ADJOURNMENT**