



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No. 12

34

THURSDAY 5TH AUGUST 2010

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SITTINGS HELD ON 28TH AND
31ST MAY 2010.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

PAPERS

House of Assembly Paper No. 2 of 2010.

Report on the Referendum for Constitutional Change held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Wednesday, 25th November, 2009.

(Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Culture, Labour and Electoral Matters)

PETITIONS

1. The humble petition of the Trustees of the Christian Pilgrim Faith Church.
(Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)
2. The humble petition of Good News Bible Church St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
(Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)
3. The humble petition of the Trustees of the Saint Peter's Spiritual Baptist Church.
(Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

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

What is the fiscal outturn for the period ending June 30th 2010 as compared to the same period in 2009.

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

What was the level of the Central Government's overdraft at the National Commercial Bank (NCB) as at the 30th June 2010.

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

The roads in the East Kingstown Constituency are in a state of disrepair. In particular those roads in Rockies especially that area in front of Leonet and Jasmin Anderson's shop and that stretch going up to the Rockies' Community Centre and beyond.

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate how soon will these roads be fixed to lessen problems for commuters and to reduce the constant expenditure for vehicular repairs.

4. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilization, Social Development, Gender Affairs, Non-Governmental Organizations Relations, Persons with Disabilities, Youth and Sports:

The hard court at Clive Tannis Playing Field is used for sporting activities such as basketball and netball tournaments and various cultural events and it has benefited from the improvements made over the years through the efforts of the Bequia Basketball Association but still has no roof over the seating area to protect patrons from rain or sun.

Will the Minister look into conditions at the facility and start measure to build a roof over the stands at the hard court very soon.

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:
 - a. How much money has been borrowed so far by or on behalf of the IADC as bridging loans to finance the IADC's operations concerning the construction of the international airport;
 - b. what if anything has been provided as security for these loans; and
 - c. in light of the slowdown in the sale of Crown lands over the past couple of years or so, how is the debt being repaid and, in particular, how much does it cost the government and the IADC on a monthly basis in interest and principal payments required to service the loans.

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

In light of the recent announcement by the Chief Executive Officer of the Bridges, Roads and General Services Authority (BRAGSA) that over \$8 million have been allocated for road maintenance in 2010 including road for roads in the Grenadines,

Will the Honourable Minister please state which roads in Bequia will be repaired as part of the programme and, in particular, whether the road at Gelizeau, above Cletus Stowe's home, that was graded years ago will finally be paved and the necessary retaining wall built so as to stop erosion damage to adjoining properties.

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

The unpaved village road at Barbruce, Canouan has deteriorated over the years and the residents of the area have continually complained about the situation especially when it rains: Can the Honourable Minister state:

- a. whether the government plans to provide paved roads to service the residents in this area; and
- b. if so, when will work commence.

8. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism:

Since March 22nd 2007, the Honourable Minister of Tourism had made a promised to the Member of Parliament for the Southern Grenadines with the result of an audit which was to be conducted by the Ministry of Transport and Works into the Tourism Bureau Project at Clifton, Union Island. Can the Honourable Minister please indicate,

- a. whether the audit report is available and when will this report be made public; and
- b. what is the estimated cost for the completion of the project.

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

The Poverty Report on St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2008 indicated that 30.2% of the population was deemed to be poor and an additional 18% though not poor were vulnerable. In view of the economic downturn reflected in negative growth in 2009 and which has continued into 2010:

What is the current estimate of our poverty and vulnerability line.

10. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Gender Affairs and Youth and Sports:

- a. What is the status of the Redemption Sharpes Playing Field;
- b. how much funds are outstanding to contractors;
- c. when will work resume on this playing field;
- d. what is the total estimated cost of this project; and
- e. is any further work expected on the playing field itself during this year.

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

- a. What is the current debt service to recurrent revenue from latest available statistics; and
- b. what is the debt service to recurrent expenditure from the same statistics.

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

The Auditor General Report of 2007, page 48 of 102, section 2-77 noted that an amount of \$10,085,474.17: SD 2205 Accountant General loan monies recorded on the Certificate of Balances 2007 which was issued by the National Commercial Bank (NCB); appear not to be recorded in the accounts of Government.

What explanation was provided to the Accountant General as identified by the Auditor General.

13. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:

- a. Would the Honourable Minister please state what is the status of the outstanding repairs to the leaks in one of the operating theatres at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital (MCMH); and
- b. when can we expect the repairs to be completed.

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

The people of Ottley Hall have been promised the construction of the road from Ottley Hall to the Leeward Highway via Gunn Hill for many years. This is an important alternative route in and out of Ottley Hall. It requires the construction of a few hundred yards of road.

Is it likely that this road will be built any time soon.

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

The gap in the link road between middle road and bottom road in Edinboro has been open for quite a while. With the construction of the new secondary school there, the completion of this link road would considerably ease the traffic and make life easier for the residents and school population alike.

Would the Honourable Minister please state if there are any plans to construct the relatively short piece of road, for which the retaining walls have been built long ago and which simply requires filling and surfacing.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Government Orders are marked thus*

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.

BILLS

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| 1. | Firearms (Amendment) Bill, 2010.
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 2 nd Reading |
| 2. | Economic Diversification Loan Authorisation Bill, 2010.
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 3. | Children (Care and Adoption) Bill, 2010.
(Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development,
Gender Affairs, Non-Governmental Organisations’ Relations,
Persons with Disabilities and Youth and Sports.) | 1 st Reading |
| 4. | National Parks (Amendment) Bill, 2010.
(Honourable Minister of Tourism) | 1 st Reading |
| 5. | Community Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2010.
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | Select Committee Report |
| 6. | Full in the Spirit Pentecostal Church Incorporation Bill, 2010.
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | Select Committee Report |

ADJOURNMENT