



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.12

41

THURSDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2012

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON
24th AND 31st JULY 2012**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. The Honourable David Browne (Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance:

The Parliament of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has voted an amount of money to meet the office expenses of the Opposition, included the salary of a Research Officer.

In this regard can the Minister please state the following;

- A break down of the sums paid to the Opposition in the year 2011 to meet the expenses of the Opposition;
- Did the Opposition utilise the money provisioned, as approved by the Parliament;
- If the answer is no, can the Minister indicate what or where the deficiency lies;
- Can the Minister indicate what action is being taken to correct this situation, including any plans to recover any sums spent by the Opposition, but no authorised.

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

Please indicate the fiscal out turn for the period up to 30th September 2012 as compared with the similar period for 2011.

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

Several boxes of Vincentian Passports were recently destroyed at the Government Printery.

Could the Honourable Prime Minister indicate how many Vincentian Passports were destroyed and the reason for destroying these Passports.

4. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Fisheries:

Could the Honourable Minister please indicate the volume and value of the weekly shipments of bananas to the United Kingdom for the period July 1st to September 30th 2012.

5. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Member for the Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Airports and Seaports, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:

- a. Will the Honourable Minister please state the number of projects and programs that received funding from the National Lottery in 2011 and to date in 2012: and
- b. identify each project and program that received funding and say how much money and or material resources project and program each received.

6. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Member for the Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

- a. What percentage of secondary school students have received textbooks under the government's book loan scheme; and
- b. to what extent has the scheme been able to meet the needs of the students for textbooks for the 2012 school year.

7. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Member for the Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture:

Given the dangerous state of disrepair of the pavilion at the Clive Tannis Playing Field in Port Elizabeth:

Will the Honourable Minister assure the Bequia community and the nation as a whole that the facility, particularly the roof and washrooms of the pavilion, will receive the urgent attention required to repair it so that the many people who use it might do so safely and with dignity.

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

The Big Sand area of Union Island has undergone serious erosion over the years and continues to be directly affected by the sea action, thus hampering tourism development and threatening private homes. Recently, restorative work has commenced to try to negate further erosion to the area. Will the Prime Minister please state;

- a. has the sea bed near the Big Sand Hotel been sold to facilitate the restorative work; and
- b. if in the affirmative, how much of the area has been sold and at what cost.

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

The roads in Union Island, especially the main road from Badjan Corner in Clifton to Cross Road in Ashton, Top Road in Ashton from the Ms Adella James' residence to Mrs. Norma Thomas' residence, the Miss Murray Village Road from Park East to Mr. Lambert Baptiste's residence are in urgent need of restorative work.

Can the Honourable Prime Minister please state when restorative work will be done to ensure safety by commuters and pedestrians.

10. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, National Security, Legal and Grenadines:

On this the thirty-third (33) year of our Independence celebrations.

- a. Would any individual or institution be recognized and bestowed appropriately in recognition of their national service;
- b. would more colonial honors be awarded this year to deserving Vincentians; and
- c. what problem, if any, is there in relation to a systematic and transparent process of National Awards.

11. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, National Security, Legal and Grenadines:

- a. Is the Petro Caribe arrangement now fully established;
- b. how much of the fuel price at the pump is offset as a result of this arrangement;
- c. what is delaying the application of grant funds to the fuel surcharge to give Vincentian the much needed relief they have been promised;
- d. of the \$36.1 and \$58.7 million respectively paid by VINLEC for fuel in 2010 and 2011, how much, if any, was actually received by government as grant; and
- e. who pays the fuel bill for the Argyle Airport Project and what is the state of the indebtedness.

12. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, National Security, Legal and Grenadines:

The young people of Kingstown Park and Redemption Sharpes in Central Kingstown have identified the urgent need for hard court facilities for the playing of basketball, netball and tennis. They have also identified private lands and vacant spaces that they feel is suitable.

Will the government be prepared to allocate funds in the 2013 Estimates and Budget to secure such facilities for our young people.

13. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:

In relation to the current outbreak of tuberculosis in the country, would the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. How many persons have contracted the disease;
- b. how many of these have died;
- c. what facilities have been used to isolate infected patients from the general hospital population; and
- d. were any of the prescribed medication available in the hospital for the infected patients.

14. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:

The general population has been for sometime now required to pay for Ultra sound imaging at private facilities at great expense. This is because none of the units at the MCMH is working. Would the Honourable Minister please state;

- a. how many Ultra sound machines are available at all public hospitals and clinics in SVG;
- b. how many of these are currently functioning properly; and
- c. what arrangements are in place for the maintenance and replacement of the units.

15. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (Member for West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:

The general public continues to experience hardship and long suffering at the Accident and Emergency Section of the MCMH. Would the Honourable Minister please state;

- a. Has there been a recent evaluation of the functioning of this or any other component of the MCMH;
- b. is there an effective strategy in place or planned, to properly manage the care of patients at A&E; and
- c. if so, when could we expect any improvement.

16. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (Member for North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, National Security, Economic Development, Airports and Seaports, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

In light of the fact that the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has made its credit/borrowing facility at the ECCB available to the Government of Grenada to pay their Civil Servants the 2% salary increase.

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate to this Honourable House why the Government did not use this facility to assist the Public Servants of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in getting all of or part of the 3% salary increase due to them since January 2011.

17. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (Member for North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing:

In light of the fact that the Government has recently purchased building materials in excess of EC \$7 million.

Will the Honourable Minister please state if any assistance will be given to those persons whose houses were damaged by hurricane Tomas since 2010 and have not yet received any assistance.

18. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (Member for North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry:

Marketing of non banana agricultural produce has become very fragile within recent years causing a lot of farmers to become disenfranchised and leave the sector. Will the Minister please state:

- a. What efforts, if any, are made by the Ministry of Agriculture to stimulate the sub-sector;
- b. has any consideration been given to the re-activation of rural buying depots to purchase agricultural produce; and
- c. if in the affirmative, can the Honourable Minister give a time line and the mechanism for the implementation of the same.

19. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (Member for South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Social Development:

Some repairs were done to the building which was once used as the Roads Division Office located in the yard of the Campden Park Community Centre.

- a. Will the Honourable Minister please state the purpose of that building; and
 - b. please give an update on the status of the Campden Park Community Centre with respect to the restoration of the roof.
20. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (Member for South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Sports and Culture:
- a. will the Honourable Minister please state unequivocally when will work commence to improve the Campden Park Playing Field; and
 - b. give a status report of the Peniston Playing Field and say when the people of the Buccament Valley can have access to that facility.
21. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (Member for South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:
- The nurses at the Clare Valley Clinic were told not to turn up for work when it rains heavily because of the leakage of water into an electrical outlet and the subsequent pool that develops on the floor where the patients are attended to due to the bad state of the roof.
- a. Will the Honourable Minister give an indication as to when that clinic will be safe for both Patients and Healthcare Providers and how he intends to proceed; and
 - b. state when will work commence to refurbish the Campden Park Doctors and Nurses Quarters as indicated in the 2012 Estimates given the poor state that it is in.
22. Dr. the Honourable Linton A. Lewis, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, National Security, Economic Development, Airports and Seaports, Grenadines and Legal Affairs.
- In the light of the recent decision by the Immigration Authority of Canada to impose a Visa restriction on nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines wishing to gain entry into Canada and in the light of the fact that the unreliability of the travel documents of St. Vincent and the Grenadines being mentioned as a determining factor in the imposition of the Visa restriction, will the Minister please state:
- a. How many Vincentian passports were issued to nationals of Venezuela, Cuba, Iran, Syria and Lebanon over the past seven years.
23. Dr. the Honourable Linton A. Lewis, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, National Security, Economic Development, Airports and Seaports, Grenadines and Legal Affairs will the Minister please state:
- a. How many persons were granted citizenship over the past seven years; and
 - b. what were the nationalities of those persons.
24. Dr. the Honourable Linton A. Lewis, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Urban Development and Local Government:
- For over five years the main road from South Wood past the Belmont Seventh Day Adventist Church has been in a deplorable condition and therefore has been a hazard for pedestrians and motorists alike, will the Honourable Minister please state;
- a. Whether there are any plans to improve that road, and if so;
 - b. how many feet of that road are earmarked to be improved; and
 - c. when is work scheduled to commence on that road.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

MOTIONS

1. Motion on Private Sector Development - Continuation

Moved by the Honourable Senator David Browne and seconded by the Honourable Senator Elvis Charles.

WHEREAS the private sector has played, and continues to play, a most significant role in the development of the economy of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

AND WHEREAS the private sector, in harmonious tandem with the cooperative and State sectors, constitutes the hub of any strategic path for economic development in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

AND WHEREAS, the ULP Government has as its established policy and practice of facilitating further private sector development in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, especially, but not exclusively, for the domestic private sector.

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House endorse the ULP government's policy to further enhance private sector development in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and urge the government to engage in the private sector fully in this quest on an on-going basis.

2. MOTION ON THE CRIME SITUATION IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

To be moved by the Honourable Arnhim Eustace and seconded by Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday.

WHEREAS over the last few months, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has experienced an unprecedented series of heinous and barbarous crimes contributing further to a veritable climate of fear throughout this otherwise blessed land of ours;

AND WHEREAS this trend has affected the lives of all Vincentians resulting in a large number of our potentially productive young people being lost to crime as can be evidenced by the number of youth in our prison population, the spiraling number of "homeless youth" roaming the streets of Kingstown and the creation of neighbourhood watch societies in several communities;

AND WHEREAS there is an insufficient number of rural libraries and like facilities, an absence of a girls' home, to complement the Liberty Lodge Boys' home, an inadequate number of rural counselling centers and an absence of a scientific approach to dealing with these social problems;

AND WHEREAS resources need to be made available to address these concerns which continue to impact society negatively and in particular that such assistance be used for increasing community policing, lending assistance to such organs as crime stoppers anonymous, youth organizations, family life and spiritual development programs and for expanding local and domestic security;

AND WHEREAS this unsatisfactory state of affairs has been acknowledged by the Media, Civil Society and the Human Rights Association as manifested by their editorials, statements of condemnation, calls for marches of peace and a request for a return to more Christian values and the need to be "our brother's/sister's keeper";

AND WHEREAS this prevailing climate now sustains an environment of uncertainty, despair and unlawful conduct which threatens the best of our democratic traditions, constitutional privileges and a reasonable sense of decency;

AND WHEREAS given the impact of foreign cultural penetration on small developing countries like St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the state has an obligation to reintroduce the family unit and specifically the basic role of parents in the upbringing of children by a sustained and relentless education initiative for the development of spiritual, ethical, moral and human values through social, cultural and economic interventions;

AND WHEREAS it is universally accepted that there is an undeniable link between the levels of crime and depressed economic conditions and that the issues of drug trafficking, drug use and drug dependency along with poverty alleviation loom large and require the utmost priority;

AND WHEREAS Government spends over \$13,000.00 per annum to maintain a prisoner in the main correctional institution and only \$5.00 on a Girl Guide or Boy Scout (at an organizational level as evidenced in the estimates) among youth who comprise the standard bearers of discipline for a kinder, gentler St. Vincent and the Grenadines;

AND WHEREAS the potential for development of the criminal instinct is highest in disadvantaged, homeless and orphaned youth, -male and female, -it is imperative that the State complements the existing Liberty Lodge Boys Training School with a counterpart female institution, introduce truancy officers in the several constituencies, towns, villages as appropriate to back up a compulsory education initiative while the Ministry of Gender and Social Affairs is charged with the responsibility for tracking homeless and orphaned children and aiding in their rehabilitation.

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House support a Motion to be called: - **THE SOCIAL AND SPIRITUAL REDEMPTION CHARTER** (outlined below) giving tangible effect to a national commitment to a just, equitable, confident, fearless, respectful, proud and God-fearing people by providing resources, giving leadership, employing social and economic strategies to reduce the intolerable violence, providing hope for the Vincentian aspiration, tolerance for divergence, love and respect for the dignity of human life and our commitment to the Supremacy of God in all we say and do in building the kinder, gentler society for the 21st Century.

SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL REDEMPTION CHARTER

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| 1. Initiate Household Sustainability | (Household employment and labour plan)
Each Vincentian household must have at
Least one occupant employed over the next
Five (5) – ten (10) years. |
| 2. Encourage Prayer | (A school prayer and pledge to be recited daily)
To be encouraged in Public Offices. Suggested
Prayer to be crafted by the St .Vincent and the
Grenadines Christian Council in collaboration
with other religious organizations. The Ministry
of Education will be the executing agency. |
| 3. Invigorate Sunday School | (Support a fund for Sunday/Sabbath teaching and
teachers). Agency – The St. Vincent and the
Grenadines Christian Council in collaboration
with other religious bodies and the Ministry of
Education. |
| 4. Strengthen Youth Development Program | It is proposed that Government work with the National
Youth Council to achieve a pro rata contribution of at
least \$1,000.00 per member group base on an approval
program basis. The following organizations should be
given special recognition:
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Cadet Force,
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Boys' Scout,
SVG Boys' & Girls' Brigade,
SVG Pathfinders,
St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross, |

	ISCF – Interschool Christian Fellowship, St. Vincent and the Grenadines 4H Club, National sporting bodies, Service Clubs, Youth Arms, Agency – National Youth Council/Ministry of Youth Affairs.
5. Further Stimulate the Intellectual Capacity of Students	Promote Compulsory Debating Societies in all Government Assisted Secondary Schools. Agency – Ministry of Education, National Youth Council.
6. Effect Qualitative Improvement in National Security	Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, Professionalization, Leadership programs for the Officer Corp, Institute short-term contracts, Recall experienced retired officers, Explore Foreign Assistance Program, Attachments.
7. Grant Amnesty	Firearms (illegal)
8. Provide a Girls' Home	Similar to Liberty Lodge for disadvantaged, homeless and orphaned girls. Agency – Ministry of Social Development.
9. Develop for television	(SVG TV and Karib Cable) Daily value laden family life telecast. Agencies – Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, National Youth Council, SVG TV and Karib Cable.
10. Establish a Sports Endowment	It is proposed that Government work with the ten (10) top sporting bodies to establish for each a \$20,000.00 community based sports program. Agency – Ministry of Sports and the National Youth Council.

BILLS

1.* Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering (Prevention) (Amendment)(No. 2) Bill, 2012 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
2.* Law Revision (Amendment) Bill, 2012 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
3.* Property Tax Bill 2012 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	Select Committee Report
4. Bequia Community Church Incorporation Bill, 2012 (Honourable Mr. Speaker)	Select Committee Report
5. Christian Pilgrim Fellowship Incorporation Bill, 2012 (Honourable Mr. Speaker)	Select Committee Report
6. Prayer and Faith Assembly Incorporation Bill, 2012 (Honourable Mr. Speaker)	Select Committee Report
7. Maranatha Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2012 (Honourable Mr. Speaker)	Select Committee Report

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| 8. Harvest Bible Chapel Incorporation Bill, 2012
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | Select Committee
Report |
| 9. Berean Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2012
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | Select Committee
Report |
| 10. St. Joseph Spiritual Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2012
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 2 nd Reading |

ADJOURNMENT