



# SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### ORDER PAPER

**No.10**

**29**

**TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2012**

---

#### **PRAYERS**

---

---

#### **OBITUARIES**

---

---

#### **CONGRATULATORY REMARKS**

---

---

#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTING HELD ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2012**

---

---

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

---

---

#### **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

---

---

#### **REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES**

---

---

#### **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, National Security, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:  
  
Will the Honourable Prime Minister indicate the status of the overdue 3% salary increase owing to the Civil Service.
  
2. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, National Security, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:  
  
Will the Honourable Prime Minister indicate the fiscal outturn for the period January to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2012 as compared to the same period in 2011.
  
3. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, National Security, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:  
  
Give the present regulations of the NIS:  
  
Will the Honourable Prime Minister state approximately what percentage of contributors in 2010 and 2011 received a lump sum payment as distinct from a pension at age 60.

4. 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, Airports and Seaports:

The J.F. Mitchell Airport at Paget Farm has deteriorated, in that:

- a. the surface of the runway is unsafe for use by small planes;
- b. the perimeter fence is broken down in some places;
- c. the runway apron and the airport entrance are degraded and need resurfacing;
- d. the ceiling around the outside of the main building and in the departure lounge washrooms are badly broken or have fallen away; and
- e. the fire station lacks proper equipment and adequate accommodations for the workers.

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please state whether small planes (smaller than the 19 seat Twin Otter) have been prohibited from landing and taking off there and, further, what his government intends to do to repair the airport, when will the necessary work be done and will it be before the start of the next tourism season.

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

Now that the school year has come to an end and we can look forward to the new school year starting in or about September 2012 when it would be reasonable to expect that staffing requirements will result in the hiring of new teachers and the transferring of teachers to work in different positions and different schools, will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. whether the three teachers who unsuccessfully contested the 2010 general elections for the New Democratic Party and have reapplied for their teaching jobs in keeping with the spirit and intent of the collective agreement between the government and the Teachers' Union will be considered for reappointment in the new school year; and
- b. what efforts you will make to try to ensure that the services of these three highly qualified, experienced and capable teachers are utilized in the teaching service of this country for the benefit of our nation's children.

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

In light of the fact that the La Pompe/Paget Farm main road, particularly in the area called Bluff, is in a terrible state of disrepair and may in fact be unsafe for the travelling public, will the Minister please state:

- a. whether the area near Bluff has been or will be examined to determine it is safe for the public; and
- b. when the road will be repaired.

7. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

The roads in Central Kingstown particularly the Green Hill, Old Montrose, Lodge Village, Redemption Sharpes, Largo Heights main roads remain in a deplorable condition:

- a. how soon will the road about 100 yards from Honourable Senator Charles' residence just adjacent to Michael and Jessica Best be repaired;
- b. can any assistance be given to the pot holes between Kenton Jacobs residence and Josephine Duncan; and
- c. one trucker has volunteered to remove the soil and debris on the road above the Sharpes Playing Field where "Barda" shop is located. Can a front end loader be provided to load the truck to support this voluntary effort.

8. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

At a recent graduation exercise, the Master of Ceremonies in addressing the graduants welcomed them to the army of unemployed.

- a. how many students have graduated from the secondary schools and Community College in 2012;
- b. how many vacancies exist in the government service for these graduates; and
- c. what is the current level of unemployment in St. Vincent and the Grenadines as statistically reported and quite separately politically calculated.

9. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock, ( Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, National Security, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

Even in the most recent World Bank Digest research report the question of institutional balance and affordability by targeted sectors for energy tariff has been raised.

- a. how has the number of domestic electricity consumers changed over the years 1973, 1983,1993, 2003 and currently 2012; and
- b. how soon can consumers expect a reduction in the basic unit cost of electricity to offset the ever rising energy surcharge.

10. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

The people of Edinboro and Ottley Hall remain at risk from being isolated in the event of any obstruction on or failure of the one access road from Kingstown. There is a short piece of road, less than sixty meters, that is required to be surfaced in order to create an alternative route via New Montrose. Given that design work was done by the Ministry of Works prior to 2001, and given the urgent need for and relative small cost of:

Would the Honourable Minister indicate if this road is a part of his Ministry's plan for execution and if so how soon will it be done.

11. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

The people at Gunn Hill in the area closest to Ottley Hall have been experiencing increased incidents of house breaking. The police have a very tortuous route to access this area and there is only a dead end road. There is a short piece of road needed to link this area with Ottley Hall, and so provide easy access for the police who are stationed in that area.

Would the Honourable Minister give consideration to constructing this short piece of road to improve the network and help to fight crime.

12. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, (West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

The Honourable Minister had refused the offer of assistance from parents and constituents in the area of the Kingstown Government School to improve the school compound. The Minister further indicated in August last year in response to a question raised by me in Parliament that her Ministry was about to undertake the work. Nothing has as yet been done and for the current rainy season the situation is worsening.

Would the Honourable Minister reconsider the still valid offer by the parents, residents and their Parliamentary representative to effect repairs to the compound, with in kind contribution from her Ministry.

13. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries: Will the minister please state

- a. whether or not the government through the Ministry of Agriculture is engaged in any conservational or preservation arrangements with any overseas based organization regarding the breeding in captivity of the Amazonia Guildingi - the National Bird;
  - b. if there is, were any national birds exported in the process, if so how many;
  - c. has the Ministry received any monetary contributions or donations for this arrangement and if so how much; and
  - d. what are the terms and conditions under which the National Birds were exported.
14. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries: Will the Honourable Minister please state
- a. what is the present state of the banana replanting exercise throughout all banana planting districts in St. Vincent and the Grenadines;
  - b. approximately how many acres are targeted for replanting;
  - c. what is the estimated cost of the replanting process to the government; and
  - d. how does government intend to fund this cost.
15. The Honourable Roland Matthews, (North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works: Will the Honourable Minister please state when will work begin to rehabilitate the following roads in North Leeward;
- a. the Spring Village road from the main road to Gordon;
  - b. the Sharpes Village road in Chateaubelair;
  - c. the road leading to the Troumaca Bay Beach;
  - d. the Gordon Yard Cemetery road; and
  - e. the Longline bypass road, Coulls Hill, Belmont.
16. The Honourable Vynnette Frederick, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, National Security, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:
- In light of the spate of crimes continuing to plague our nation will the Honourable Minister please indicate the following:-
- a. The reported number of women and girls who have been victims of sexual violence, including rape and murder over the past five years;
  - b. the number of accused persons in these reported matters who were married to, related to, or in common law relationships with the victims; and
  - c. the number of matters falling in these categories, that have been dismissed, or resulted in acquittals and the number of convictions granted.
17. The Honourable Vynnette Frederick, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, National Security, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:
- Given the ranking of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on Tier Two of the Trafficking in Persons Report 2012 issued by the US State Department, part of the recommended strategy to improve the country's ranking involves awareness campaigns and additional training for police officers and social workers. In an effort to implement these useful recommendations will the Honourable Minister please indicate the following:-
- a. Whether any effort has been made by the Ministry to work with the relevant stakeholders to update the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force Training Manual to include modules training all police recruits on how to treat with human trafficking and Domestic Violence reports; and
  - b. if not, will the Minister indicate whether such an initiative will be undertaken and give some indication as to when the general public can expect the changes to be initiated.
18. Honourable Vynnette Frederick, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, National Security and Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

There have been numerous cases where parents have been made to wait for very long periods to receive monies paid to the treasury by spouses and intended for child support and maintenance. There was in place a system for those monies to be kept at the Family Court to be delivered soonest to the recipients, rather than being deposited into the treasury.

Would the Honourable Minister consider reintroducing this system to enable the dependant parents and children to have access to the needed funds; and if in the affirmative, is there a time frame for this to be done.

19. 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:

- a. whether any investor, officer of investor or other person associated with Buccament Bay Resort has been granted citizenship of the State of St. Vincent and the Grenadines;
- b. if so, how many persons were granted citizenship and what were the nationalities
- c. whether they were residents of St. Vincent and the Grenadines prior to becoming citizens and if not;
- d. on what basis were they eligible for citizenship and what were the factors taken into account in determining whether or not citizenship should be granted.

20. Dr. the Honourable Linton A. Lewis, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works, Urban Development and Local Government:

Given the importance of tourism to the economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the dire need to improve access to touristic sites and in the light of the fact that both tourists and locals regularly use the Brighton Saltpond Beach for picnic and other recreational purposes will the Honourable Minister please state

- a. whether there are any plans for the improvement of the road leading to the Brighton Salt Pond Beach;
- b. if so, when is improvement work scheduled to start on the said road; and
- c. what is the estimated distance of road that is earmarked for improvement.

21. 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:

- a. whether all persons living in the Glamorgan area of the East St. George Constituency whose properties were damaged during hurricane Tomas and who sought assistance through NEMO were given assistance towards rebuilding those properties;
- b. if not, how many persons have not been assisted;
- c. whether there are any plans to assist those persons; and
- d. when will such assistance be given.

## **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 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### **SPIRITUAL AND SOCIAL REDEMPTION CHARTER**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Initiate Household Sustainability                       | (Household employment and labour plan)<br>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)<br>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:<br>St. Vincent and the Grenadines Cadet Force,<br>St. Vincent and the Grenadines Boys' Scout,<br>SVG Boys' & Girls' Brigade,<br>SVG Pathfinders,<br>St. Vincent and the Grenadines Red Cross,<br>ISCF – Interschool Christian Fellowship,<br>St. Vincent and the Grenadines 4H Club,<br>National sporting bodies, Service Clubs, Youth Arms,<br>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.<br>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.<br>Agency – Ministry of Social Development.  |
| 9.  | Develop for television                              | (SVG TV and Karib Cable)<br>Daily value laden family life telecast.<br>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.<br>Agency – Ministry of Sports and the National Youth Council.                            |

### **BILLS**

- |     |  |                         |
|-----|--|-------------------------|
| 1.* | Property Tax Bill 2012<br>(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)                | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |
| 2.* | Co-operative Societies Bill, 2012<br>(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)     | Select Committee Report |
| 3.* | Airport Service Charge Bill, 2012<br>(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)     | Select Committee Report |
| 4.  | Bequia Community Church Incorporation Bill, 2012<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading |
| 5.  | Christian Pilgrim Fellowship Incorporation Bill, 2012<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading |
| 6.  | Prayer and Faith Assembly Incorporation Bill, 2012<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading |
| 7.  | Maranatha Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2012<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading |
| 8.  | Harvest Bible Chapel Incorporation Bill, 2012<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)                | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading |
| 9.  | Berean Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2012<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker)               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading |
| 10. | St. Joseph Spiritual Baptist Church Incorporation Bill, 2012<br>(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading |

## **ADJOURNMENT**