



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.8

14

MONDAY 26TH MARCH 2012

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON
28TH FEBRUARY 2012**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEE

PAPERS

House of Assembly Paper No. 1 of 2012

Central Water and Sewerage Authority
Financial Statement for the year ended June 30, 2012
(Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

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

Would the Honourable Minister please give the breakdown of the weekly banana exports to the region and outside of the region for the last eight (8) shipments up to the week ending March 16th 2012.
2. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance:

Would the Honourable Prime Minister please indicate whether the EC \$10 million received from Trinidad and Tobago arising from the former NCB investment in CLICO will be used to assist annuity holders who have been affected by the existing crisis.

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

Would the Honourable Prime Minister please indicate the fiscal outturn as at the end of February 2012 as compared with February 2011.

4. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance:

- a. What is the policy concerning searching of passengers travelling from the mainland to the Grenadines via the Grenadines wharf at Kingstown; and
- b. why are passengers regularly subjected to search of their belongings at the wharf.

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

In the recent Budget it was indicated that an average of 15% increase on property taxes payable and for those with substantially higher increases there will be a cap of 25%.

- a. what is the highest rate of increase expected from the new proposed property taxes; and
- b. how long is the 25% cap expected to be in effect so that the full increase will be eventually payable by the owner.

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

- a. Did the European Union (EU) inspectors visit the fisheries centers in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2012;
- b. which centers were inspected during the visit; and
- c. what was the outcome of the inspection, particularly with regards to our ability to export seafood to EU markets.

7. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Trade:

- a. How much scrap iron was exported in 2011 and for the first two (2) months of 2012;
- b. are the records of these exports disaggregated and if so what are the quantities and dollar volume; and
- c. how important in this industry and what are the government's plans for it.

8. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance:

- a. what was the capital adequacy of the NCB before its sale;
- b. was the capital adequacy changed when the government paid the \$100 m on its outstanding debt;
- c. what if any new capital over and above the 51% acquisition was invested in the Bank of St. Vincent by the owner ECFH;
- d. what is the current market share of the Bank of St. Vincent; and
- e. what is the dividend payout and the PE ratio of ECFH over the last five (5) years i.e. 2007 to 2011.

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

The public car park in Kingstown that was constructed by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce has been managed by a private entity for more than one (1) year now. Would the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. in what ways have farmers benefited from this change in management;
- b. what specific group or groups of farmers in which community have so far benefited; and
- c. what has been the total financial contribution to agriculture and/or farmers from this private company to date.

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

Given its importance to the tourism product, would the Honourable Minister please state what is the status of the project to replace/upgrade the bridge leading to Forte Charlotte, and how soon can this work be expected to move to the construction phase.

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

Would the Honourable Prime Minister please state;

- a. the exact terms and conditions under which the car park in Kingstown, built by the Chamber of Industry and Commerce was granted to a private business entity to manage;
- b. was there a requirement to submit audited financial statements and if so where were those audited financial statements submitted; and
- c. in the event that the answers to question (b) are in the affirmative, would the statements be made public and/or tabled in this Honourable House.

12. Honourable Anesia Baptiste (Opposition Senator), to ask the Minister of Social Development:

Would the Honourable Minister please indicate

- a. whether the long awaited Crisis Centre is now operationalised; and
- b. if not, how soon can Vincentians expect it to be in operation.

13. Honourable Anesia Baptiste (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Social Development:

In September 2011, the House passed the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, Part V Section 34 of which mandates the establishment of the National Task Force against Trafficking in Persons. Will the Honourable Minister please state;

What functions of the Task Force have been carried out to date.

14. Honourable Anesia Baptiste (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Social Development:

Would the Honourable Minister please state clearly what are the current training and development programs carried out at the Liberty Lodge Boys' Training Center.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTIONS

1. Motion on Private Sector Development

To be 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 neighborhood 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 counseling 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

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 Kable)
Daily value laden family life telecast.
Agencies – Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education,
National Youth Council, SVG TV and Karib Kable.
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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

BILLS

- 1*. Interviewing of Suspects for Serious Crimes Bill, 2012
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) Select Committee
Report
- 2*. Co-operative Societies Bill, 2012
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) Select Committee
3. Bequia Community Church Incorporation Bill, 2012
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) 1st Reading
4. Christian Pilgrim Fellowship Incorporation Bill, 2012
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) 1st Reading
5. Prayer and Faith Assembly Incorporation Bill, 2012
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) 1st Reading
6. Maranatha Baptiste Church Incorporation Bill, 2012
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) 1st Reading

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| 7. St. Joseph Spiritual Baptiste Church Incorporation Bill, 2012
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 1 st Reading |
| 8. Harvest Bible Chapel Incorporation Bill, 2012
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 1 st Reading |
| 9. Berean Baptiste Church Incorporation Bill, 2012
(Honourable Mr. Speaker) | 1 st Reading |

RESOLUTION

1.* POST OFFICE AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2012

To be moved by the Honourable Maxwell Charles, Minister of National Reconciliation, the Public Service, Labour, Information and Ecclesiastical Affairs.

WHEREAS, the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Postal Corporation Act, Chapter 416 of the Laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stipulates that regulations may be made to provide for the rates of postage and the terms and conditions and method of payment thereof;

AND WHEREAS, regulations were made and published in the Gazette on the 28th day of February, 2012;

AND WHEREAS, section 67 (4) provides that regulations made under section 67 of the said Act shall be subject to negative resolution of the House of Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Honourable House pass the Post Office (Amendment) Regulations 2012, No. 8 of 2012 by resolution of the House of Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT