



# SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### ORDER PAPER

**No.1**

**1**

**WEDNESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2012**

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#### **PRAYERS**

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#### **PROCLAMATION**

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#### **OBITUARIES**

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#### **CONGRATULATORY REMARKS**

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#### **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012**

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

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#### **STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

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#### **PETITIONS**

1. The humble petition of the Trustees of the Immanuel Christ Gospel Church.  
(Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)
2. The humble petition of the Trustees of the Redeemed Christian Church of God Winners Sanctuary.  
(Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)
3. The humble petition of the Trustees of the Grace Community Baptist Church.  
(Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)

#### **PAPERS**

1. 2013 Estimates of St. Vincent and the Grenadines  
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)

## **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, the Public Service, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:  
  
Could the Honourable Prime Minister give an update on the present situation with regard to the Canadian Visa Requirement imposed on nationals of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, particularly with regard to any reply to the Prime Minister's letter to the Government of Canada on this issue.
  
2. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, the Public Service, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:
  - a. Could the Honourable Prime Minister please indicate whether there will be any salary negotiation with the Civil Service for the period 2012 – 2014; and
  - b. if so, when is such negotiation likely to take place.
  
3. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, National Security, Legal Affairs, Grenadines Affairs and Seaports:  
  
Within recent weeks vessels bringing cargo into the country intended to be delivered directly to Bequia were required to discharge the cargo in Kingstown for inspection by the Customs Department, resulting in additional shipping cost to stakeholders. Will the Prime Minister please state;
  - a. why this was done; and
  - b. whether this new procedure of requiring cargo shipped to Bequia to be discharged and inspected in Kingstown will continue.
  
4. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Sports:  
  
Given the many concerns that have been raised in recent years about the safety of yachts in our harbours and bays, including Admiralty Bay, Bequia and in light of the approach of the 2012-13 tourism season when many yachts are expected to come to our shores;  
  
Will the Honourable Minister please state what will be done to protect the yachts in our waters so that they would continue to come here and so that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines would continue to be a premiere yachting destination.
  
5. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries:
  - a. Has the Minister abandoned efforts to make the fisheries center in Bequia and elsewhere compliant with EU requirements for handling seafood intended for export to EU markets; and
  - b. if not, what is the status of the efforts to meet the said requirements.
  
6. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, the Public Service, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:
  - a. Will the Honourable Prime Minister please state whether a Coroner's Inquest has been conducted into the death of Customs Guard Mr. Othniel White;
  - b. if not, will one be conducted and if so, how soon; and
  - c. please confirm whether Customs Guard White was on lawful duty when he boarded the ship.

7. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:
- The teaching and learning process at the Union Island secondary school has been disrupted during the past months, as well as the safe and stable environment has been compromised. Will the Honourable Minister please state:
- whether the problems at the Union Island Secondary School have been fully investigated;
  - have all problems been successfully solved;
  - is the Minister satisfied with work that has been done to ensure the best environment for teachers and students at the school.
8. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Development, Information, The Public Service, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:
- Of the EC \$184.9 million allocated to economic affairs "... from which inevitably, flows jobs directly ..." how much was expended as at October 31st 2012;
  - of the \$100,660,983 approved under the caption other receipts of the capital receipts how much has been realized to date; and
  - which of the two factors viz, insufficient institutional and effective capacity of the public and private sectors and the delayed availability of the capital monies has more adversely affected poverty reduction and job creation.
9. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Development, Information, The Public Service, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:
- what is the exports f.o.b. for the first six (6) months of the year 2012;
  - what is the imports f.o.b. for the same period;
  - as our balance of trade continues to widen what is the most current figure available; and
  - how has our exports and output of beers, beverages, flour and galvanized sheets been performing.
10. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown) to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Development, Information, the Public Service, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:
- What is the estimated level of unemployment in St. Vincent and the Grenadines as at October 2012;
  - how does unemployment in Central Kingstown compare with the national average; and
  - how many active manufacturing employers are there in St. Vincent and the Grenadines as at October 31st 2012.
11. The Honourable Roland Matthews (North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:
- Now that the English Gutter in Troumaca has claimed it first property.
- Will the Minister please state what actions will be undertaken in the interim to check the rapid erosion of this gutter so as to prevent other properties from being washed away.
12. The Honourable Roland Matthews (North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism:
- The Almond Tree Restaurant at Richmond in North Leeward along with several buildings intended to be used as cabanas were part of a tourism project designed to provide sustainable livelihood for persons in the North Leeward area.

Will the Honourable Minister please give an updated status of this project seeing that the restaurant has been closed for over three (3) years and the cabanas are incomplete and overwhelmed by vines, trees and other wildlife.

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

Several persons whose homes were damaged by hurricane Tomas are still experiencing difficulties getting their lives back together. Including in this situation is an elderly and legally blind couple from Troumaca whose house still shakes whenever the wind blows. Will the Honourable Minister please state:

When will assistance be given to this elderly couple and other persons whose homes were affected and have not yet received any help from the state.

14. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson (South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

The York River, although generally seasonal in nature, has proven to be a menacing torrent whenever it rains heavily. A number of residents who live along its banks in the Bolomey area in

Campden Park, have had their property constantly eroded to the point where they can actually collapse if the situation continues.

Will the Honourable Minister please state if and when river defense work will commence to protect residents from the erosive power of the river.

15. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson (South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

The road network from the Apostolic Faith Church in Bottom Questelles to the T Junction commonly called Merlene Hill is in a terrible state of disrepair, causing great difficulty to motorists and pedestrians alike.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when will repair work be done to that piece of road.

16. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson (South Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism and Sports:

- a. Will the Honourable Minister please explain the role and function of the National Sports Council and the Sports Department; and
- b. outline what plans are in place to host the Windward Islands Games next year.

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

The river that runs between Calliaqua and Villa is virtually clogged up with silt upon which grass and shrubs grow. Rodents reside in the overgrown grass and shrubs and are creating a health hazard for the residents of the bottom town area of Calliaqua. Moreover, the high level of silt has now made the river bed shallow, consequently when there are heavy rains and high tides the river banks are easily overwhelmed thus causing heavy flooding in that area of Calliaqua, will the Honourable Minister please state;

- a. Whether there are any plans to remove the high level of silt from the river bed and if so;
- b. When will work commence to effect such removal.

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

The Lewis Punnett Home in Glen is in a serious state of disrepair, will the Honourable Minister please state;

- a. Whether there are any plans to improve the physical infrastructure of the Lewis Punnett Home, and if so;
- b. When will work to carry out the improvement commence and the extent of the work to be done.

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

It is almost three years since the male section of the Mental Health Center was gutted by fire, will the Honourable Minister please state;

- a. Whether there are any plans to repair that section, and if so;
- b. When is work likely to commence to effect repairs and improvement to that section.

### **ORDERS OF THE DAY**

(Government Orders are marked thus\*)

### **MOTION**

#### **1\*. 2013 ESTIMATES OF ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES**

To be moved by Dr. the Honourable Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister/Minister of Finance.

**WHEREAS** Section 70 (1) of the Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines provides that the Minister for the time being responsible for finance shall cause to be prepared and laid before the House of Assembly before, or not later than thirty days after, the commencement of each financial year estimates of the revenues and expenditure of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for that financial year;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 70 (2) of the Constitution provides for the approval of the estimates of expenditure by the House;

**AND WHEREAS** the Government had additionally decided to prepare estimates on a triennial basis.

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House of Assembly do adopt the Estimates for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Honourable House note the projections for the financial years ending 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015.

### **BILLS**

- 1\*. Appropriation Bill, 2013.  
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)

1<sup>st</sup> Reading

## **RESOLUTION**

The Honourable Minister of Finance to move:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this Honourable House do authorise the Minister of Finance to borrow by means of fluctuating overdraft or otherwise from CIBC First Caribbean International Bank or the RBTT Bank Caribbean Ltd. or the Bank of Nova Scotia, or the Bank of St. Vincent Grenadines Ltd., money to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate thirty-five million dollars, during the period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2013 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013 for the purpose of meeting the current requirements of the Government.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Honourable House do authorize the Minister of Finance to raise a bond for a sum not exceeding thirty million dollars to pay outstanding amounts due to VINLEC and the NIS.

## **APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

## **ADJOURNMENT**