SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No. 17 **54**

WEDNESDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2009

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SITTING HELD ON 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD SEPTEMBER 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

1. **Motion on Housing -** Continuation of Debate.

WHEREAS the Unity Labour Party emphasised in its Manifesto for the 2001 General Elections that "housing is a basic human need" and accordingly elaborated its housing policy of providing, or ensuring the provision of, affordable housing of an acceptable quality to all Vincentians.

AND WHEREAS since 2001 the ULP Administration has implemented a veritable Housing Revolution through the following initiatives, among others:

(i) Restructuring and modernising the state-owned Housing and Land Development Corporation (HLDC) as the principal vehicle through which the nation's housing policy is fashioned and implemented.

(ii) Turning "Dead Property into Live Property" through the legal transfer by way of deeds for persons in occupation of state-owned lands at very low prices.

(iii) Passing the Possessory Titles Act to simplify certain land transfers in the private sector for those in "adverse possession" in excess of 12 years.

(iv) Putting together a coordinated and well-staffed Ministry encompassing Housing, Lands, Surveys, Physical Planning, and Informal Human Settlements to elaborate and implement housing policy more efficaciously in conjunction with HLDC and the private sector.

(v) Building hundreds of low-income houses at several places including Petit Bordel, Peter's Hope, Ottley Hall, Green Hill, Diamond, Brighton, Sans Souci and Colonarie.

(vi) Building a middle-income housing project at Clare Valley.

(vii) Commencing shortly a three-hundred "No Income Housing" Programme at several sites all over St. Vincent and the Grenadines, financed by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

(viii) Building houses at several places including Rose Hall, Langley Park and Byera (Manning Village) for persons whose houses were destroyed or severely damaged by storms and hurricanes.

(ix) Increasing significantly the distribution of building materials to the poor.

(x) Enhancing the tax benefits available for companies engaged in the construction of homes.

(xi) Providing 100-percent mortgages through the state-owned National Commercial Bank for all public servants, teachers, nurses, policemen/women, to the extent of some $50 million since October 2001.

(xii) Supporting the secondary mortgage market in the sub-region.

(xiii) Elaborating a Building Code and strengthening the Planning Laws on housing.

(xiv) Sorting out the NDP disaster at the Colonial Homes Project at Diamond and Gibson Corner, by way of the Justice Joseph Commission of Enquiry and follow-up action at a cost in excess of $8 million.

(xv) Devising special loan programmes through the NCB for housing repairs.

(xvi) Ensuring that the HLDC, the construction industry, and the Technical College work closely with each other to enhance quality training for technical construction employers.

(xvii) Engaging regionally through the Heart Trust of Jamaica the training and certification of skilled tradespersons so as to facilitate, among other things, the freedom of movement of skilled artisans within CARICOM.

(xviii) Providing water, electricity, roads, surveying, and land-titling to several informal human settlements.

(xix) Implementing a strict aliens land-holding licence policy to ensure that the patrimony of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is not alienated willy-nilly to foreigners.

(xx) Providing much more opportunity for tertiary education to train young Vincentians in all fields which touch upon housing construction including architecture, land surveying, engineering, construction management, and quantity surveying.

(xxi) Assisting private entrepreneurs in sourcing building materials of quality at the lowest possible prices.

(xxii) Taking the lead in the sub-region to push for a more coordinated and scientific approach to the construction sector.

AND WHEREAS the ULP government is seeking ever more opportunities to enhance in practice its many-sided housing policy.

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House endorse the housing policy of the ULP government and its several laudable initiatives and urge the government to continue steadfastly its magnificent work in the area of housing for the benefit of Vincentians as a whole.

BILLS

1*.	Referendum (Alteration of the Constitution) Bill, 2009. (Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Culture, Labour and Electoral Matters)	1st Reading
2*.	Rehabilitation of Offenders Bill, 2009. (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance)	Select Committee
3.	Hope Evangelism Outreach Ministries Incorporation Bill, 2009. (Honourable Mr. Speaker)	Select Committee

ADJOURNMENT