SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No. 12 **34**

THURSDAY 18TH JUNE 2009

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SITTING HELD ON 28TH MAY 2009.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

PETITIONS

1. The Humble Petition of the Trustees of the Full in the Spirit Pentecostal Church.
(Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Planning, Economic Development, Labour, Information, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

Would the Honourable Prime Minister explain if it is possible from a legal perspective to hold in addition to a Coroner's Inquest an independent enquiry into the police shooting of the three (3) young men of Vermont.

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

What are the main terms and conditions of the US $25 million dollars loan from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) to the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for Financial Sector Reform.

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

At a previous sitting of Parliament, the Honourable Minister indicated that virtually all the workers of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Banana Growers' Association would be absorbed either by the Fair Trade Organisation or the Banana Division of the Ministry of Agriculture:

a. Can the Honourable Minister indicate whether this is still the case, or will some Banana Growers' Association workers be sent home; and

b. if in the affirmative, how many would be sent home.

4. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Planning, Lands and Informal Human Settlements:

In light of the fact that Government-owned lands at Hamilton, Bequia in the area commonly known as Point Hill were recently surveyed, will the Honourable Minister please explain;

a. why the lands have been surveyed;

b. whether the lands have been subdivided and if so into how many lots; and

c. whether the lands will be offered for sale to the public and at what price.

5. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Non-Governmental Relations, Local Government, Persons with Disabilities, Sports and Youth Affairs:

In light of the dilapidated condition of many of the country's sporting facilities and playing fields, will the Honourable Minister please state;

a. whether his Government has any plans for the development, repair or improvement to the country's regional playing fields such as those at Campden Park & Owia, Port Elizabeth; and

b. if so, what are those plans and what is the time frame for implementation.

6. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Culture, Urban Development and Electoral Matters:

a. What changes are being made in respect of the national identification card;

b. why are the changes being made;

c. what actions will they require on the part of our people; and

d. when will the implementation of the changes be completed.

7. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

a. What is the status of the program to increase access to computers in our schools for which this country has received assistance from the government and people of Taiwan;

b. how many computers are in working condition presently in each government-owned and assisted secondary schools and how are they being used for the instruction of the students.

8. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Tourism:

a. Has the Tobago Cays Marine Park presented its financial report to the Government; and

b. if not, when will the report be prepared and submitted.

9. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Labour, Information, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

a. What is the total cost of the recently concluded Vincy Pac Police and Military Exercise;

b. what amount of that cost was borne by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines; and

c. was there any direct or indirect contribution to that exercise by the United States.

10. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Labour, National Security, Information, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

In recent media statements you have indicated your determination to rid this country of a "Ghetto Culture."

a. Please explain what precisely are your intentions;

b. what do you mean by the expression "Ghetto Culture" and "Ghetto" mind;

c. has the Government determined which "Ghetto" communities are to be targeted;

d. without compromising national security, what specific intelligence has guided this new determination to rid the country of "Ghettos"; and

e. can we expect similar aggression in communities where "White Collar" crime has manifested itself.

11. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, National Security, Labour, Information, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

As the economic forecast remains gloomy for growth in the OECS;

a. has the time come for us to shift from our import substitution approach to development such that a more resource based strategy be employed;

b. if in the affirmative, is any consideration being given to regionalizing and internationalizing our efforts by e.g. marrying nutmegs in Grenada with arrowroot in St. Vincent and the Grenadines using our mills and research for a more value added pharmaceutical industry;

c. is there a possibility for us to link with Belize, Grenada and other OECS states using nutmegs, patchouli and citrus for essential oils; and

d. further can we encourage partnership with firms like Coca Cola, already operating here under license with Hairoun to use local and regional fruits in the health drink industry?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

MOTIONS

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 Colonaire.

(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. St. Vincent and the Grenadines Constitution Bill, 2009
   (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) — Select Committee

2. St. Vincent and Grenadines Law Revision (Amendment) Act, 2009.
   (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) — 1st Reading

RESOLUTION

REGISTRATION OF ELECTORS (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2009

To be moved by the Honourable Rene Baptiste / Minister for Urban Development, Culture, Labour and Electoral Matters.

WHEREAS, by section 67 of the Representation of the People Act (Chapter 6 of the Revised Laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 1990 Edition) it is provided that regulations may be made generally for matters relating to the registration of voters;

AND WHEREAS, regulations were made and published in the *Gazette* on the 9th day of June 2009;

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

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Honourable House pass the Registration of Electors (Amendment) Regulations 2009 by resolution of the House of Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT