SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No. 8 **13**

TUESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2009

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF SITTINGS HELD ON 3RD FEBRUARY 2009.

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, Labour, Information, the Public Service, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:

   Given the significant exposure to CLICO and related companies of the National Insurance Services (NIS) of some $62.0 million in an NIS investment portfolio of approximately $250.0 million at the end of 2007.

   Will the government agree to reduce that exposure to more manageable or less risky levels as investments mature.

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

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please state the payments due from Government for goods and services provided but not paid as at the end of December 2008.

3. 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:

What is the status of the Mustique Community Center that is to be built by the Mustique Company under the terms of the current agreement with the Government and in particular, when is it likely to be built.

4. Dr. The Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Planning, Sea and Airports, National Security, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:

For several years now, a large section of the Grenadines Wharf in Kingstown where the ferries dock has been in a state of disrepair, posing a grave danger to the travelling public and the ferry operators, will the Honourable Prime Minister please state:

a. Why the damaged portion of the wharf has been left in a state of disrepair for so long; and

b. When the wharf will be repaired.

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

In light of the serious concerns recently raised by the Honourable Prime Minister about the tardiness in fixing potholes in the streets in Kingstown and given the alacrity with which your Ministry has responded in fixing the streets affected:

a. Can we expect that the main road to Paget Farm near the Sugar Apple Inn, which was badly damaged by heavy rains several years ago and which matter I have on numerous occasions raised in this Honourable House, will receive much needed attention immediately; and

b. When will the road be repaired.

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

Students from the island of Canouan have been faced with various problems in accessing secondary education on the mainland, Bequia and Union Island, the residents have thus expressed the need for the introduction of secondary education on the island to aid accessibility.

Could the Honourable Minister please state what is the status of the construction of the proposed secondary school on the island.

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

a. Can the Honourable Minister indicate whether the situation surrounding two (2) cruise lines that ply the Mayreau route namely the Pullmunter and the Windsurf which have reportedly pulled out of that route and filed for bankruptcy can be confirmed.

b. If in the affirmative, what measures if any, does the government propose to put in place to minimize the negative impact on the people of Mayreau and the rest of the Southern Grenadines.

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

a. What is the result of the study conducted by the Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) to assess the water situation in the Grenadines; and

b. If the results are acceptable, when will implementation of the findings begin to ensure that the residents of the Grenadines be provided with adequate water supply at all times.

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

The current international financial crisis and the role of Commercial Bank credit has brought into even sharper focus the subject of liquidity. It has been reported and indeed held at Banks in the Eastern Caribbean have excess liquidity. A recent view by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) officers is that this liquidity has dissipitated.

a. What is in fact is the accurate state of Affairs:

b. Is it still true that there is much more credit available than there are investment requests; and

c. What really is constraining borrowing in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

10. Major the Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Information, the Public Service, Legal and Grenadines Affairs:

A recent report in a regional newspaper reports unemployment in Grenada as approaching 30%. The Grenadian economy is supposedly marginally better than that of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

a. What exactly is the current rate of unemployment in St. Vincent and the Grenadines;

b. What are the government's projections for the years 2009 and 2010;

c. Which sectors, categories of workers and age groups are more vulnerable to the unemployment factor; and

d. What is the unemployment rate for Central Kingstown by gender and how does it compare to the rest of the country.

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

a. Please explain the Energy Savings Model currently employed at the newly constructed NIS building and that proposed for the nearly complete National Library and National Commercial Bank; and

b. How is the policy being translated or replicated into other public buildings.

12. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

Work to build a retaining wall on the bank of the North River beyond the Stoney Ground Bridge has resulted in the closure of that part of the road without adequate warning and signage. Would the Honourable Minister please state:

a. What is the estimated time for completion of this work;

b. What is being done to prevent the erosion of the base of this wall by the river action; and

c. What plans are there for the training and lining of the North River.

13. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:

a. What action if any has been taken to prosecute persons reported to be engaged in illegally removing supplies from the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital; and

b. What steps are taken or are to be taken to prevent such recurrence.

14. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:

Many of the vehicles used in the collection and transportation of solid waste under the control and direction of the Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) are in a serious state of disrepair. In addition to frequent breakdowns, these vehicles continue to pour toxic and obnoxious liquids on the streets as they move. Would the Honourable Minister please state;

What is the procedure for awarding contracts to the private solid waste haulers and if there are any standards of performance with associated consequences for failure to achieve them.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

MOTIONS

1. Motion on Integrity Legislation

To be moved by the Honourable Arnhim Eustace/Leader of the Opposition.

WHEREAS for many years successive administrations have promised to bring Integrity Legislation before this Honourable House for consideration and approval

AND WHEREAS no such legislation has been approved

AND WHEREAS there is a growing perception by the general public that corruption is increasing;

AND WHEREAS that perception can be minimized by the passing of Integrity Legislation for Parliamentarians which would lead to better governance;

AND WHEREAS the New Democratic Party is of the view that such legislation is urgently needed to govern the conduct of parliamentarians

AND WHEREAS it is also necessary to have integrity legislation to govern the conduct of certain categories of public officers

BE IT RESOLVED that the government brings urgently to this Honourable house Integrity Legislation to govern the conduct of parliamentarians not to dissimilar from the draft integrity bill attached to this resolution.

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that similar legislation be brought before the house to govern the conduct of certain categories of public servants.

2. Motion on Housing

To be moved by the Honourable Senator Forde.

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*. Banana Industry Bill, 2009.
(Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) — Select Committee Report

2*. Finance Bill, 2009.
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) — 1st Reading

3. Seventh-day Adventist Church of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Region (Incorporation) Bill, 2009.
(Honourable Mr. Speaker)
1st Reading

ADJOURNMENT