SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.7 **8**

TUESDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2012

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 2011 AND 9TH – 13TH JANUARY 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEE

PETITIONS

1. The humble petition of the Trustees of the Redeemed Christian Church of God.
   (Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)

2. The humble petition of the Trustees of the Immanuel Christ Gospel Church.
   (Honourable Minister of Ecclesiastical Affairs)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

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

   A number of electricity consumers have had their homes and some businesses disconnected for lack of payment.

   Could the Honourable Prime Minister please indicate how many consumers have been disconnected as at January 31st 2012.

2. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment

   A number of water consumers have had their homes and businesses disconnected for lack of payment.

   Could the Honourable Prime Minister please indicate how many consumers have been disconnected as at January 31st 2012.

3. The Honourable Arnhim Eustace (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Economic Development, Airport and Seaport Development, Grenadines and Legal Affairs:

   Could the Honourable Prime Minister please indicate the fiscal outturn as of January 31st 2012 as compared with the same period in 2011.

4. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday (Northern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs:

   Given that the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been sending conflicting messages concerning its position in relation to the Falkland Islands in that, on the one hand, it agreed with other CARICOM governments and the UK government at the 2012 UK-Caribbean Forum to support the principle and the right to self-determination for all peoples including the Falkland Islanders and, on the other hand, at the ALBA summit in Caracas in February 2012, it agreed to support Argentina in the dispute over the Falkland Islands and, in keeping with that support, agreed to prevent ships flying Falkland Islands flag from entering our ports:

   Will the Honourable Minister please clarify the government's position in relation to the Falkland Islands dispute and indicate whether the government really intends to prevent Falkland Islands flagged vessels from docking in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ports.

5. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Member of Parliament for the Northern Grenadines to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing, Informal Human Settlements, Physical Planning, Lands and Surveys:

   What is the status of the land use plan that was prepared by the Planning Department concerning government lands at Paget Farm Bequia, near the J.F. Mitchell Airport, with the aim of providing for industrial and commercial activities in that area and, in particular

   a. has the plan been approved by Cabinet; and
   b. does the government intend to proceed with development of the area in accordance with the plan and if so when.

6. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Member of Parliament for the Northern Grenadines to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

   Now that Learning Resource Centres have been built in most constituencies in the country but not yet in the Northern Grenadines, will the Minister state whether the government intends to build a Learning Resource Centre in Bequia where such a facility is urgently needed and if so, when.

7. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines), to ask the Honourable Minister of Social Development, Youth and Sports:

The Clifton Playing field has deteriorated over the years and is in need of improvement to facilitate the development of sports and the health and wellness of the people of Union Island, and given that the government has promised to grade the playing field and improve this facility for the benefit of the community, will the Honourable Minister please state:

a. if any improvement will be done to repair this facility in 2012;
b. whether efforts be made to improve the surface of the playing field to allow safe use of the field for various sports such as soccer, cricket and rounder, and
c. will efforts be made to ensure that the field is cut regularly to facilitate its use by students and the community.

8. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, Member of Parliament for the Southern Grenadines to ask the Honourable Minister of Education:

In light of the fact that the parents of students from Mayreau in the quest to obtain better access to secondary education, defray accommodation and other social costs and reduce the rate of secondary school drop-outs have contracted a local private boat operator to transport children to and from Union Island on a daily basis,

Will the Honourable Minister please state if she will ensure that assistance is given to parents of the affected students so that the students would be able to continue to travel to Union Island daily to attend secondary school, and if so, how soon can parents and students expect such financial assistance.

9. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock, (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

In my last effort to raise assistance for residents of Largo Heights who live along side or have to traverse the river to get to their homes, I requested assistance with crossings (bridges) for these inconvenienced citizens. The Honourable Minister offered then technical advice especially with respect to the civil works. Consistent with a well established public administration approach of basic needs and the tested success of community development champion the late Levi Latham:

Will the Honourable Minister now commit to contribute materials in the form of cement, blocks, aggregate and steel so that through their voluntary effort these said residents can construct another three (3) river crossings this year in a similar manner to the downstream success of others.

10. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

Now that the 2012 Budget is approved is the Honourable Minister in a better position to state,

a. specifically what road improvements are scheduled for Central Kingstown;
b. does the schedule of road repairs include restorations of any of the roads in Largo Heights, Redemption Sharpes and Green Hill that have virtually returned to their original dirt state with minimum gravel; and
c. how soon will relief be given to the farm communities in Green Hill just above Ryan's Shop and those beyond the Liberty Lodge, Bow Wood Mountain Road areas.

11. The Honourable St. Clair Leacock (Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health and the Environment:

Until such time when Central Kingstown can have its own Health Clinic, preferably in Redemption Sharps. Can the Honourable Minister please indicate:

What special window or provision can be provided at the Milton Cato Memorial Hospital so that the residents of Central Kingstown are not disadvantaged by having to join the national queue resulting sometimes in waiting in excess of twelve (12) hours to get attendance.

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

The people of Ottley Hall are in dire need of basic amenities such as road and street lights. Would the Honourable Minister please state what plans are in place to establish proper access roads in the following areas where some street lights have just been placed;

a. the tract leading from the concrete road to the Buddy Gutter area; and
b. the existing tracts leading from the end of that same concrete road to the settlements that spans out from there. This includes two branch tracts from the main tract, one starts at the house now occupied by Ruth St. John and the other ends near to the residence of Elizabeth Martin.

13. The Honourable Daniel Cummings (West Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Social Development, Youth and Sports:

The partially completed playing field at Ottley Hall is one of the few avenues for young people in the area to enjoy sports and games. The field is in need of finishing works and of regular maintenance.

Would the Honourable Minister please state if there are any plans for this work and when it is expected to be done.

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

The area of Rose Place has seen the demolition of a few derelict buildings near to the public bath.

Would the Minister give serious consideration to the purchase of these lots for the purpose of relocating the persons who are living dangerously on the beach in that area.

15. The Honourable Roland Matthews (North Leeward), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

a. Will the Honourable Minister please state if there has been an improvement in both quality and quantity of banana fruits being shipped to the UK so far in 2012;
b. if in the affirmative please give an update of this improvement; and
c. if there has been a decrease please give reasons for.

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

Will the Honourable Minister please state when will the regularisation of lands for persons living on crown lands in North Leeward begin.

17. The Honourable Vynnette Frederick (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Culture:

Given the fact that as far back as 2009 the NCF was described in the SVG POLICY FRAMEWORK AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT in the following terms "The National Cultural Foundation/NCF remains for the most part inactive. Its mandate appears unclear and in fact conflicts with especially the CDC."

Will the Honourable Minister please explain what if any decisions have been taken to revamp, reorganize and revitalize the NCF.

18. The Honourable Vynnette Frederick (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Technology:

Vincyclassroom.com an online resource to benefit teachers, students and parents has been live online since January 2012, registering more than fifteen thousand hits and counting since its go live date, and mobilizing more than 300 local and regional content contributors to the site via its Facebook support group page. Since that time many complaints have been made that the Vincyclassroom website along with some others including YouTube is not accessible on a number of the laptop computers provided for students by the government. Will the Honourable Minister please indicate the following:

a. How many machines have been provided by the government to the population;
b. how many of these machines have been reported as not working to the government;
c. what if anything is being done to improve the citesvg website; and
d. will the government take the opportunity now to endorse the initiative taken by Vincyclassroom.com which has received regional support and mobilized the support of Vincentians across political lines and throughout the Diaspora.

19. The Honourable Vynnette Frederick (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Technology:

The USF LIME initiative to provide wireless online connectivity to schools and other locations around the state is indeed important. Given the popularly held view that LTE technology is capable of facilitating island wide wireless connectivity will the Minister of Technology please indicate;

a. whether free universal wireless connectivity in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a goal which is being pursued by the government;
b. if yes, how far along are the stakeholders in coming on board with the idea;
c. what was the fee paid to LIME for the installation of wireless that facilitates the schools and other sites around the country; and
d. what is the general technical set up per school to provide internet connectivity which was provided by LIME.

20. The Honourable Anesia Baptiste (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport and Works:

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate whether the condition of the road in Upper Cane Hall known as "Guinea Hill Road" which ends on the Dorsetshire Hill road and is used by students and adults to go to and from school and work respectively, will be addressed with a view to providing some improvement for the constituents, in the 2012 work program of the Roads, Bridges and Buildings Authority.

21. The Honourable Anesia Baptiste (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Planning:

On the 4th October, 2011, resident of Buccament Renrick Quashie and his family suffered from the flooding of the River which lies between the Buccament on the Bay Resort and the residents' homes. Even the Seventh Day Adventist Primary School was flooded, resulting in the loss of library books and the closure of school for an entire week. Since then, Mr. Quashie, his wife and his 3 year old daughter, spend sleepless nights, whenever it rains, for fear their home may be flooded again. Will the Honourable Minister please advise the Parliament;

a. whether the planning authorities have as yet received application from the Buccament Resort managers to import material for the completion of the River Defence on the Residents' side; and
b. if yes, has this application been approved and when can the residents expect the defence to be completed, so they may rest easy at nights in their own homes, just as the visitors do in their rooms at the Buccament Resort.

22. The Honourable Anesia Baptiste (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Prime Minister and Minister of National Security:

With the reports of crime and violence against women and children in the public in recent times, will the Honourable Minister of National Security please state:

a. how many of our women folk have been killed and wounded criminally during the period January 2011-January 2012;
b. how many of these deaths and wounding incidents have been as a result of domestic disputes;
c. how many reports of rapes against women and children have been reported over the same period; and
d. how many charges and convictions have been made in all cases over the same period.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

BILLS

1. Public Sector Investment Loan Bill, 2012
   (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) 1st Reading

2. Proceeds of Crime and Money Laundering (Prevention) (Amendment) Bill, 2012
   (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) 1st Reading

3. Interviewing of Suspects for Serious Crimes Bill, 2012
   (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) 1st Reading

4. Co-operative Societies Bill, 2012
   (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of Finance) 1st Reading

ADJOURNMENT