



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.12

37

THURSDAY 22ND AUGUST, 2024

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON
THURSDAY 18TH AND FRIDAY 19TH JULY, 2024**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEE

PAPERS

1* House of Assembly Paper No.8 of 2024

Director of Audit Report on the Public Accounts
Of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
For the year ended December 31st, 2021
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Opposition Leader, to ask the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Consumer Affairs:

Considering the terrible destruction caused by hurricanes in the Caribbean and noting that global warming has been identified as a cause for more frequent extremely powerful hurricanes.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- (i) Whether there is a coordinated approach among Caribbean governments to require the international community to make designated financial and material support available to countries adversely affected by hurricanes;
- (ii) And if so what are the specific elements of that approach and what if anything is our country doing to promote that approach?

2. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Opposition Leader, to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Airports, Legal Affairs and Information:

It has been several weeks since the passage of Hurricane Beryl damaged airports and other public infrastructure in the country. Given the critical importance of airports to internal transportation and to our tourism industry and the apparent light damage done to the JF Mitchell Airport by the hurricane.

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please state:

Why JF Mitchell airport was closed for several weeks after the hurricane passed?

3. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Opposition Leader, to ask the Honourable Minister of Education and National Reconciliation:

Renovation of the Bequia Community High School has taken much longer than originally projected and is still far from complete, resulting in great inconvenience for students and teachers.

Will the Honourable Minister please:

Provide an update on the status of the project and say when it will be completed?

4. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, Member for the Southern Grenadines, to ask the Honourable Minister of Education and National Reconciliation:

What measures are being put in place for the reopening of school in September given that some schools are used as shelters and others remain in disrepair?

5. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, Member for the Southern Grenadines, to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing, Informal Human Settlement, Youth and Sports:

\$12,500,000 was allocated in the Supplementary Estimates 2024 to purchase building materials to repair homes affected by Hurricane Beryl.

Can the Honourable Minister please state:

I. The estimated commencement date of the rebuilding phase of these homes;

II. The procedure involved in successfully accessing aid for the rebuilding phase;

III. Is government conducting assessment of homes in order to allocate materials to persons who are willing to rebuild their homes quickly and if so when would this begin?

6. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, Member for the Southern Grenadines, to ask the Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs, and Local Government:

Over the years, Members of the Opposition have highlighted the need for improvement of the jetties in the Grenadines to accommodate the increased traffic of boats, and many of the shortcomings were recently highlighted in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

Whether the government has any plans to fix and improve these jetties and if so, what they entail?

7. The Honourable Major St. Claire Leacock, Member for Central Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Airports, Legal Affairs and Information:

It appears that greater Beryl Disaster Recovery could be achieved if more consideration was given to other sources.

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please state:

- I. What extent is the US Southern Command involved in the Beryl recovery exercise in the Southern Grenadines and specifically Union Island. If not, why not;
- II. Was any consideration given to request assistance from Vincentians soldiers and sailors serving in the UK Armed Forces ideally supported by an Engineering Unit from that country. If not, why not;
- III. Was any assistance sought from the TTDF, the BDF, the JDF or the Bermuda Defence Force through their engineering corps.

8. The Honourable Major St. Claire Leacock, Member for Central Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour:

It would appear that a major contributor to the food supply threat identified by you the Minister has its genesis in the Capital projects execution. For example, the audited report for 2016, less than \$8 million of the approved was spent. In 2017, \$18 million of the \$24 million in the revised estimates. In 2018, a low of \$5.7 million from \$19.4 million and 2019, only \$5.6 million of the \$20.8 million, almost \$15 million negative variance.

- I. Can the Honourable Minister provide the unaudited records of the current term, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and as at June 30th 2024;
- II. Is the record any reflection of source funding difficult, capacity issues, the Other Capital Revenue, all of the above or other managerial and operating reasons?

9. The Honourable Major St. Claire Leacock, Member for Central Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Education and National Reconciliation:

At the start of every school year, I come under pressure from a number of excited parents to get their new entrants into selected schools. Equally, after the CPEA there is continued request to gain entrance in what is seen as the premier schools, Grammar School, Girls High, St Joseph Convent, Thomas Saunders and St Martins.

Can the Honourable Minister provide:

- I. The average and the current placement of Central Kingstown students in the aforementioned schools;
- II. What is the Central Kingstown student roll at JP Eustace Secondary and Intermediate High School?

10. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, Member for West Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Education and National Reconciliation:

Given the impending commencement of construction of the hospital in Arnos Vale;

Would the Honourable Minister please state:

- I. When would the students temporarily housed at Arnos Vale be allowed to return to their proper schools in Kingstown;
- II. In the interim, what arrangements will be in place to reduce the dust and noise from construction and their negative impacts on the students and teachers?

11. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, Member for West Kingstown, to Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

Would the Honourable Minister please give an update on the progress or lack thereof on the construction of the bridge leading to Fort Charlotte, as well as the repairs/ restoration work at Forte Charlotte, and give a time for opening of both?

12. The Honourable Daniel Cummings, Member for West Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:

Given the destruction caused to the Grenadine islands by Hurricane Beryl and given the need for rebuilding of these communities, are there any plans afoot to install water infrastructure of a sustainable and sufficient type in these islands as exists in the Grenada Grenadines?

13. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, Member for South Leeward, to ask Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

There is a dirt road located between Keitha Delpesche and Vin Durham. This road is filled with stagnant water for several days after heavy rainfall. Many promises were made to fix that road and it's in the same condition.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

When that road will be fixed?

14. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, Member for South Leeward, to ask Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

There was the promise to pave a footpath in Rillan Hill below the Catholic Church for a number of years. To date no work has been done.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

When the following roads in Rillan Hill will be fixed?

- I. The road mentioned above
- II. The road from the Catholic Church to beyond Patty Chance
- III. The road next to Gaileen Carter.

15. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, Member for South Leeward, to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

During the construction of a hotel recently, it was stated that there was a shortage of skilled local workers. Meanwhile the Peniston Community Center has been in a dilapidated condition for years.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

When that facility will be repaired to accommodate skills training programs to ensure that Vincentians can benefit from any future construction that requires specific skills?

16. The Honourable Fitz Bramble, Member for East Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

The Richmond Gabriel University medical school which was located in Arnos Vale in the constituency of East Kingstown, closed its doors some months ago.

Can the Honourable Minister please indicate:

- I. The impact of the closure of this institution on the East Kingstown economy and the national economy on a whole.
- II. What is being done, if anything, to utilize the now vacant facility for economic benefit?

17. The Honourable Fitz Bramble, Member for East Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs, and Local Government:

Hurricane Beryl affected much of St. Vincent and the Grenadines' infrastructure including the new port being constructed in Kingstown.

Can the Honourable Minister please:

- I. Disclose the nature and extent of the damage caused to the new Kingstown port by Hurricane Beryl;

- ii. How much delay, if any, can be expected with regards to the completion of the project;
- ii. What is the cost of the damage and how will that cost be covered?

18. The Honourable Fitz Bramble, Member for East Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Sports, Youth and Housing:

Two major international sporting events have recently been completed: ICC cricket T20 world cup and the Paris Olympics. St. Vincent and the Grenadines' direct participation in these events reemphasize the importance of sports in our national development process.

Can the Honourable Minister kindly:

- I. Indicate how does the government plan to enhance our country's ability to more successfully participate in international sports events;
- II. What is the government doing to improve our chances of producing more elite athletes such as Olympic 800 meter finalist Shafiqua Maloney?

19. The Honourable Israel Bruce, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour:

Hurricane Beryl caused damaged the agricultural and fisheries sectors. The ministry noted that there will be a rapid assessment to be followed by a detailed assessment prior to the execution of the recovery efforts.

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate:

- I. The status of the assessments done thus far;
- II. Based on the current assessment status, will the Honourable Minister give us a breakdown, even if it is preliminary, by agricultural districts, how the sector has been impacted by the passage of Hurricane Beryl;
- III. Will the Honourable Minister kindly inform this House as to those recovery efforts that have begun, if any and what areas of the country and at what approximate cost thus far?

20. The Honourable Israel Bruce, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour:

One of the key programmes for the ministry for the fiscal year 2024 was to facilitate investment with the private sector to expand the national fishing fleet by December 2024. Mindful of the passage of Hurricane Beryl and the impacts on the industry.

Will the Honourable Minister please:

- I. Update this House on the extent to which this initiative has been implemented and what is the extent, in dollar terms, of the private sector investment in the programme to date;
- II. What if any, are the challenges that are currently being faced by the ministry with the execution of this programme;
- III. How does the ministry propose to address any such challenges in the short to medium term;

21. The Honourable Israel Bruce, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour:

The ministry estimated some 2,000,000 pounds of fish and marine landings for the year 2024. Mindful of the extent to which the livelihoods of a number of people in the fisheries sector have been affected by Hurricane Beryl.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- I. Whether or not that estimation is amended and if so, what is the new estimated figure;
- II. Based on any new estimated total catch, what will be the estimated difference in revenue to the economy;
- III. How many fisherfolks were directly affected due to the passage of hurricane Beryl (a) Grenadines (b) Mainland, St Vincent?

22. The Honourable Shevern John, Opposition Senator, to ask the Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

Will the Honourable Minister state:

When will work begin, the estimated cost of the work and completion date for the following:

- i London Street leading to Dickson Village;
- ii. Lady Jane Bridge at Rabacca

23. The Honourable Shevern John, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister Education and National Reconciliation:

Mental health is an issue that must be taken seriously. It is imperative that data be captured and follow-up be done on those affected.

Could the Honourable Minister please state:

- I. Whether the ministry or any department in this ministry collects data on students who self-report in the last three (3) years, on the following, depression and anxiety;
- II. Give an update on the Mental Health Support Programme in primary and secondary schools.

24. The Honourable Shevern John, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Education and National Reconciliation:

Could the Honourable Minister please state:

- I. What percentage of Early Childhood Centres cater to students with disabilities;
- II. What percentage of Early Childhood Centres have teachers trained to relate to students with disabilities;
- III. What measures the ministry hopes to implement to improve learning for students with disabilities at the Early Childhood Centres ?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

BILLS

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1* Arnos Vale Care Hospital (Construction Project)
Loan Authorization Bill, 2024
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 2* Immigration (Caribbean Community Skilled Nationals)
(Amendment) Bill, 2024
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security) | 1 st Reading |
| 3* Public Holiday (Amendment) Bill, 2024
(National Spiritual Baptist Day)
(Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security) | 1 st Reading |

4* Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security)	1 st Reading
5* Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security)	1 st Reading
6* Legal Profession Bill, 2024 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security)	Select Committee
7* Dog Bill, 2024 (Honourable Minister of Agriculture)	Select Committee

ADJOURNMENT