



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ORDER PAPER

No.10

26

THURSDAY 18TH JULY, 2024

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON
THURSDAY 9TH AND FRIDAY 10TH MAY, 2024**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEE

PAPERS

1* House of Assembly Paper 5 of 2024
Supplementary Estimates No.1 of 2024
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

2* House of Assembly Paper 6 of 2024
Carnival Development Corporation
Financial Statements for the sixteen months ended December 31st 2022
(with comparatives for the year ended August 31st, 2021)
(Honourable Minister of Tourism)

3* House of Assembly Paper 7 of 2024
Carnival Development Corporation
Financial Statements
For the year ended August 31st, 2021)
(Honourable Minister of Tourism)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

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

Hurricane Beryl caused severe damage throughout the country with the greatest destruction having occurred in the Southern Grenadines.

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please state:

- i. How the assessment of the damage will be done;
- ii. Which agency or agencies will be responsible for doing it and;
- iii. How the persons directly affected when their homes or other property were damaged or destroyed by the hurricane will be assisted?

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

Considering the widespread damage and destruction caused by Hurricane Beryl;

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please state:

Which countries or organizations have offered financial and material support to the government and people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines thus far and the kind and quantity of assistance offered?

- 3. Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Leader of the Opposition, to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:**

The telecommunication systems failed throughout the country because of damage from Hurricane Beryl and was not available in the Southern Grenadines for many days, leaving people there unable to communicate with anyone by telephone for a very long time.

Will the Honourable Minister please explain:

- i. Why telecommunication services were knocked out for so long and
- ii. Say whether there is anything that can be done to ensure that telecommunication service services are maintained at least to some extent or restored quickly following a hurricane?

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

Salt Whistle Bay for some time now has been threatened by wave action. Due to Hurricane Beryl the narrow stretch of land that protects Salt Whistle Bay, has broken through.

Can the Honourable Minister give the assurance that steps will be taken to protect Salt whistle Bay from further damage as a result of this?

- 5. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, Member for Southern Grenadines, to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Airports, Legal Affairs and Information:**

What specific measures, (if any), are in place in the Southern Grenadines for persons who may be injured during a hurricane to get medical attention on the mainland as quickly as possible?

- 6. The Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, Member for Southern Grenadines, to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Airports, Legal Affairs and Information:**

Due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Beryl in the Grenadines, several persons are in shelters on the mainland.

What assistance is being provided to such persons who have been dislocated to meet their everyday needs?

7. The Honourable Major St. Claire Leacock, Member for Central Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

A recent statement by the Honourable Prime Minister that the Government of St. Vincent & the Grenadines registered an 8% increase in revenue during the first five months of the year even as interest payment rose 25% year on year invites the question as to matters of accountability and transparency.

Will the Honourable Minister please provide the reports as at June 30th of the following:

- i. The number of Special Warrants that were issued from the Consolidated Fund in 2024. Also, the current total of Special Warrants awaiting a report to the Parliament since the last reportage.
- ii. How many Virement Warrants have been used as at June 30th, 2024 and for how much has been the variation.
- iii. The current overdraft as at June 30th, 2024.
- iv. The amount of other Capital receipts received as at June 30th, 2024.
- v. Whether there are available audit report for 2013 Disaster Relief; 2020 Covid and Soufriere Relief 2021.

8. The Honourable Major St. Claire Leacock, Member for Central Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

- i. Is the Government retirement age for Public Servants now at 60, mandatory or applicable to the Private Sector?
- ii. Does the Minister accept that the new reform age for Pensions at 65 effectively leave a five (5) year hiatus of difficulty for vulnerable Retirees to fend for themselves?
- iii. What financial policy positions or framework being considered to bridge their period of difficulty?
- iv. How many Public Servants on average attain the retirement age annually and how many join the Public Service referred to as the support ratio.

9. 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:

Since the experience of Hurricane Beryl; many agencies, institutions and individuals have descended on the Grenadines Islands to assist in Relief Efforts.

Could the Honourable Prime Minister indicate:

- i. Who is the individual Coordinator of the Relief Effort?
- ii. What is the chain of command?
- iii. Is there an Engineering Corp either of military or civilian presently deployed under a strategically resourced plan?

iv. Why has there been this marked exclusion of the Parliamentary Opposition from this exercise?

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

It has been a while since there was a Psychiatrist at the Mental Health Centre.

Would the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. When would a psychiatrist be appointed?
- ii. Is any Vincentian in training for such work?
- iii. Is there a psychologist in place other than the administrator?
- iv. What other staff positions are vacant at the institution?

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

It is observed that many houses impacted by hurricane Beryl lost the entire roof. There are also many whose rafters, laths and cladding remained intact while most or all of the galvanized iron sheets were blown away.

Would the Honourable Minister please state;

- i. What mechanisms are in place to ensure that these galvanized sheets imported into the country meet the standards for roofing materials?
- ii. Is any consideration being given to a revision of the building codes in an attempt to reverse this roof failings?

12. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, Member for South Leeward, to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Human Settlement:

The passage of hurricane Beryl left many houses in Campden Park without roofs. Some occupants had to ride out the storm in the elements.

Will the Honourable Minister please state why the Campden Park Community Center was not a designated hurricane shelter?

13. The Honourable Nigel Stephenson, Member for South Leeward, to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Human Settlement:

In the aftermath of hurricane Beryl; Will the Honourable Minister of Housing please disclose:

- i. How many structures were damaged by the hurricane in South Leeward
- ii. Which agency constituted the assessors
- iii. How soon realistically can homeowners expect any assistance to repair their houses?

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

Can the Honourable Minister please:

- i. Report on the government's fiscal outturn for the period (January to June 2024)?
- ii. What factors contributed to this position and what factors had negative impacts?

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

The ICC T20 Men's Cricket World Cup just concluded in the West Indies a few weeks ago. St. Vincent and the Grenadines was one of the host venues and expended millions of dollars to renovate and upgrade the Arnos Vale playing field for the competition.

Can the Honorable Minister please:

- i. Discreetly (in dollars and cents) explain the economic impact that cricket T20 world cup had on the economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines?
- ii. Indicate how much money was actually spent on the renovation and upgrading of the Arnos Vale playing field, with a breakdown by component?
- iii. What's the estimated annual cost of maintaining the upgraded facility?

16. The Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, Member for East Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, Airports, Legal Affairs and Information:

On July 1st, 2024, St. Vincent and the Grenadines was hit by hurricane Beryl which caused widespread and devastating damage to property nationwide. The constituency of East Kingstown was also significantly impacted with communities such as Sion Hill Village, Mala Village, Walvarou and Roseau suffering the most.

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please tell us:

- i. Whether an assessment of the damage in East Kingstown has been undertaken and if so what is the government's official estimate of the cost of the damage? If no government assessment has been done, why not and when will it be done?
- ii. Explain the recovery and rebuilding process specifically as it relates to East Kingstown.
- iii. What assurance can you give the people of East Kingstown, that the process of fixing their damaged homes will be fair and expeditious?
- iv. Is there any assistance provided to residents who are housing individuals and families who had to leave their homes due to the damage caused by hurricane Beryl?

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

In the 2024 budget the government promised the fisherfolks in the Lowmans Bay and Shipping Bay areas that it will establish safe and sanitary facilities for the fishers operating in both areas.

Will the Honourable Minister please tell this Honourable House:

- i. If these facilities for the benefit of the fisherfolks are completed.
- ii. If yes, what is the total cost for the establishment of the said facilities?

- iii. If no, what is the current status of these facilities and when are they due to be completed?

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

Farmers in this country continue to cry out over the issue of predial larceny. The Ministry of Agriculture has recognised that this is an ongoing problem facing our farmers and fisherfolks to a lesser extent.

The Honourable Minister is hereby invited to tell the farmers of the country:

- i. What are his short to medium and long term plans to arrest this vexing issue?

19. The Honourable Israel R Bruce, Opposition Senator, to ask of the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands, and Physical Planning:

The road from St Michael Spiritual Baptist Church in New Adelphi all the way down to the Mc Millan's residence in Diamonds, South Central Windward, needs repairs and or rehabilitation, some work was started on that road but stopped.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. Why was the work on that piece of road stopped?
ii. When will work recommence on that piece of road?

20. The Honourable Shevern John, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:

Solar Panels were installed at the Georgetown Secondary School a few years ago. After the eruption of La Soufriere Volcano the panels caught fire and were damaged, up to this day they are still not working.

Will the Honourable Minister state:

- i. What was the cost of the solar panel project;
ii. Please explain the reasons for the time taken in fixing these solar panels;
iii. If there are any plans to fix these panels and how soon will this be done?

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

There is a bypass road at Dry River, Fancy, beginning at Luke's business place taking you to the Adventist Church and going all the way to the Fancy Clinic.

- i. Could the Honourable Minister please state how soon will work begin on this road?

22. The Honourable Shevern John, Opposition Senator, to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour:

There has been a delay in the payment promised to Arrowroot farmers.

Will the Honourable Minister explain the reasons for this delay and state how soon will this payment be done?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

MOTIONS**1*. 2024 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES**

To be moved by the Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance.

WHEREAS Section 70(3) of the Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines provides for the laying of Supplementary Estimates before the House of Assembly if in respect of any financial year it is found that the amount appropriated by the Appropriation Law to any purpose is insufficient or that a need has arisen for expenditure for a purpose to which no amount has been appropriated by that Law; or that any moneys have been expended for any purpose in excess of the amount appropriated to that purpose by the Appropriation Law or for a purpose to which no amount has been appropriated by that Law;

AND WHEREAS Supplementary Estimate have been prepared and laid in the House of Assembly;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House do approve the Supplementary Estimates for 2024.

2. Motion on Hurricane Beryl Calling for Expeditious, Effective and Transparent Efforts to Assist Those Directly Affected

WHEREAS Hurricane Beryl caused widespread damage and destruction in our country with the greatest destruction being in the Southern Grenadines;

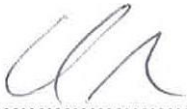
AND WHEREAS despite efforts by government agencies and public utility companies to respond to the disaster much hardship continues to be endured by those persons and communities directly affected by the hurricane;


AND WHEREAS private individuals and organizations here and abroad have also responded to provide aid to the people and communities affected by the hurricane;

AND WHEREAS more needs to be done presently and for some time into the future to meet the need for shelter, food and other necessities for the affected persons;

AND WHEREAS all assistance rendered by the government and others must be based solely on need, with those persons with the greatest needs receiving the most urgent attention;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House acknowledge the need for urgent and continuing assistance for the victims of Hurricane Beryl and urge the government to respond based on the needs of the people in a transparent and expeditious manner involving the Opposition, religious organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant partners to effectively respond to this natural disaster.

Proposed by: 
Honourable Dr. Godwin Friday


Seconded by: Honourable Terrance Ollivierre

BILLS

- 1*Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2024
(Honourable Minister of Finance) 1st Reading
- 2* Public Sector Investment
Loan (Amendment) Bill, 2024
(Minister of Finance) 1st Reading
- 3* Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024
(Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of National Security) 1st Reading
- 4* Legal Profession Bill, 2024
(Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of National Security) Select Committee
- 5* Dog Bill, 2024
(Honourable Minister of Agriculture) Select Committee

Resolution

To be moved by the Honourable Camillo Gonsalves, Minister of Finance

WHEREAS on the 20th December, 2023 the House of Assembly passed a Resolution to authorise the Minister of Finance to borrow, by means of fluctuating overdraft or otherwise from 1st National Bank St. Lucia Limited, the Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines or Republic Bank Limited, money to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate sixty-five million dollars, during the period 1st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2024 for the purpose of meeting the current requirements of the Government;

AND WHEREAS in respect of the period 1st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2024 it is necessary to increase the borrowing limit set by the said Resolution from sixty-five million dollars to eighty-five million dollars;

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House do approve the increase in the limit on the amount of money the Minister of Finance may borrow from sixty-five million dollars to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate eighty-five million dollars during the period 1st January, 2024 to 31st December, 2024 for the purpose of meeting the current requirements of the Government.

ADJOURNMENT