SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.8 **19**

THURSDAY 9TH MAY, 2024

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON THURSDAY 22ND FEBRUARY AND THURSDAY 4TH APRIL, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

PAPERS

1* **House of Assembly Paper 3 of 2024**
NTRC Annual Report 2023
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

1. **Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Leader of the Opposition, to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour:**

   Will the Honourable Minister please tell us:

   (i) What is the status of the medical cannabis industry in St Vincent and the Grenadines, including how many producers and exporters there are, how much cannabis has been exported thus far by volume and value, and to which countries?

2. **Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Leader of the Opposition, to ask the Honourable Minister Transport, Works, Lands, and Physical Planning:**

   Over a year ago, the Minister stated in this Honourable House that the Paget Farm main road running approximately from the area above the Macdowall's property to the abandoned health clinic building and also the area known as Broad Road would be repaired as part of a national road repair programme announced by the government. To date no construction work has begun on these roads.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:
(i) why construction work has not started and
(ii) when the project will commence?

3. **Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, Leader of the Opposition, to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:**

Over two years ago, the government announced the purchase of a medevac vessel to provide medical service, particularly between the Grenadines and Kingstown but the vessel has not operated to provide the service since it was bought.

(i)Will the Honourable Minister please tell us:

(ii)Why the medevac vessel has not been put into service?

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

Every year during the dry season there is a shortage of potable water supply in the Grenadines. Persons have no recourse than to source water from sources that are not best for human consumption.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

i. What plans are there in place for the delivery of a safe and reliable public water supply to the people of the Southern Grenadines?

ii. When can this be put in place?

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

The National Diagnostic Tests in Language Arts and Mathematics for Grades 2 and 4 were conducted in June 2023.

Will the Honourable Minister please state based on the tabulated and analytical data:

i. The number of students who wrote the exams in terms of gender for Grades 2 and 4
ii. The performance based on gender for each subject area for Grades 2 and 4
iii. The overall performance for Grades 2 and 4
iv. The performance for the twelve (12) districts for each subject according to the grades
v. Whether the data showed significant differences in performances among the various districts?

6. **Major the Honourable St. Claire Leacock, Member for Central Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Human Settlement:**

The grass in the yard of the Largo Height Community Centre/Resource Centre is so overgrown that the grazing goats and sheep cannot make sense out of it.

The building itself is woodlice infested.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:
i. When would the community get back their facility;
ii. When will the neighbours get some relief;
iii. Is there a plan for the centre?

7. **Major the Honourable St. Claire Leacock, Member for Central Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:**

   A number of Public Servants were terminated because they did not take the COVID-19 Vaccine. In view of the new science and international court cases do we owe these persons an apology and appropriate recompense?

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

   From available reports our country continues to experience a deteriorating Balance of Trade deficit particularly on the Goods Side.
   Will the Honourable Minister please state:

   i. Is this an accurate observation and, if so what is the figure from the latest government survey;
   ii. What are the three leading exporting commodities from your most recent statistics and what are their values;
   iii. What are the precise steps being taken by your Ministry of Economic Development to arrest this situation and what timelines if any are advanced;
   iv. With the coming on stream of our New Port; what are the initiatives taken to drive our Export led Strategy and which commodities will drive them?

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

   The road in Layou that leads to the Layou Petroglyph Park, two chicken establishments and a quarry is in a serious state of disrepair for quite sometime now.

   Will the Honourable Minister please state:

   i. Does your ministry have any plans for the urgent restoration of this road;

   ii. If yes, then when is it likely to be done;

   iii. If not, why not?

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

    The condition of the road to Edinboro from the Cemetery onwards, is rapidly deteriorating and makes its use quite hazardous both to pedestrians and drivers of vehicles.

    Will the Honourable Minister please state;

    i. When can this road be properly surfaced?

    ii. If no immediate end is in sight, when would some temporary relief be had in the filling of the very many deep pot holes?

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

    The fisherfolks who operate at Lowmans Bay do so in very unsanitary conditions, occasioned by the absence of any public washrooms.

    Will the Honourable Minister please state:

    If there are any plans to establish a proper washroom facility for the use of the public especially the fisherfolks in that
    area?

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

The main road in Lower Questelles between WE FM Junction and Questelles Bay gap, is very narrow and usually cause vehicular traffic to backup creating great inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

i. If there is any plan to rectify that situation, and if yes, outline the plan and say if and when remedial work will begin.

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

Clare Valley village roads are in dire need of repair.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when the following roads will be repaired.

i. The gap before the Wesleyan Holiness Church:

ii. Bedrock road in the vicinity of the old Bonadie Fowl Farm.

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

After years of pleading to have the road in Pembroke Riverdale repaired, a partial concrete strip was laid. Several years after, nothing else was done and residents have to contend with poor roads and drains which cause their properties to be flooded after heavy rainfall.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

When work will resume on that road?

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

The 11th Actuarial review of the National Insurance Service of St. Vincent and the Grenadines highlights the importance of a well-designed, well governed and properly administered system. An effectively functioning Board and Staff is therefore paramount.

Will the Honourable Minister kindly:

i. Report on the status of the adoption of the high priority recommendation in the 11th Actuarial report which states “Revise the composition of the Investment Committee by replacing two of the three Board Members with non-board members”?

ii. State how long and why have the following top staff positions been vacant: Deputy Executive Director; Financial Controller and Accountant

iii. When would these positions be filled?

16. **Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, Member for East Kingstown, to ask Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Youth, Housing and Informal Human Settlement:**

Can the Honourable Minister please:

i. Outline the process of eligibility for the public assistance (poor relief) program?

ii. Indicate how many persons are currently on the program?

i. State the annual increase in the number of persons on the program over the last five (5) years?

17. Honourable Fitzgerald Bramble, Member for East Kingstown, to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

The Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the year 2024 has an allocation of over $40 million for the National Road Rehabilitation Project.
Would the Honourable Minister please:

i. Indicate which roads in East Kingstown will be rehabilitated this 2024 financial year?

ii. Outline if any work has been done thus far on any of these roads and the extent of such works?
iii. Provide a schedule of work to complete the rehabilitation of the roads identified in part A.

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

The Caribbean Development band funded a Food Safety Certification Project to assist poultry farmers. In the 2022 report on strategic priorities, it stated, "The project will look to certifying at least 20 Poultry farms in GAP". The same was the report for the year 2023.

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate:

i. Whether or not we have to date 40 poultry farms in St. Vincent and the Grenadines certified to GAP standard.
ii. If yes, kindly state the locations of these farms and their production capacity.
iii. If no, kindly explain what have been the challenges in having these farms GAP certified and what measures the Ministry hopes to implement to address the challenges?

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

The Governments of Grenada and St. Lucia have in place incentives programmes to assist their fisherfolks in the form of a fuel rebate programme. Apart from the fleet expansion program that is proposed by the government.

Will the Honourable Minister indicate:

i. What other incentives are in place to assist the fisherfolks of the country?

ii. Would the Minister be willing to study the fuel rebate programmes being utilized in Grenada and St Lucia with a view of implementing a similar programme of assistance to the fisherfolks here in St Vincent and the Grenadines?

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

Much has been said about the public-private partnership in getting the fishing vessels fleet expansion programme up and running.

Will the Honourable Minister please tell this State

i. How many fisherfolks have applied for loan facilities to be part of this programme;
ii. What is the dollar amount that has been put into the hands of fisherfolks to capitalize on this programme;

iii. How many fishing vessels have since been purchase under the programme and are currently in operation;

iv. To what extent has this programme impacted the strategic objective of increasing export and reducing import?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

BILLS

1*Finance Bill, 2024
(Honourable Minister of Finance) 1st Reading

2* Natural Disaster (Construction and Rehabilitation Project) Loan Authorisation Bill, 2024
(Honourable Minister of Finance) 1st Reading

3* Public Order (Amendment) Bill, 2024
(Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of National Security) 1st Reading

4* Magistrates (Amendment)) Bill, 2024
(Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of National Security) 1st Reading

5* Legal Profession Bill, 2024
(Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of National Security) 1st Reading

6* Nilio Gumbs Pension (Declaration) Bill, 2024
(Honourable Minister of Public Service) 1st Reading

7* ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies Bill, 2024
(Honourable Minister of Sports) 1st Reading

8* Dog Bill, 2024
(Honourable Minister of Agriculture) 1st Reading

ADJOURNMENT