



# SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

### ORDER PAPER

No.16

47

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**TUESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2024**

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**PRAYERS**

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**OBITUARIES**

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**CONGRATULATORY REMARKS**

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**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON  
THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST, FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST, TUESDAY  
27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST AND TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2024**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER**

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**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

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**REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEE**

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**PAPERS**

**1\* House of Assembly Paper 9 of 2024**

Financial Services Authority SVG  
Annual Report 2023  
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

**2\* House of Assembly Paper 10 of 2024**

National Insurance Services  
Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
(in Eastern Caribbean Dollars)  
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

**3\* House of Assembly Paper 11 of 2024**

Central Water and Sewerage Authority  
Financial Statements Year Ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023  
(In Eastern Caribbean dollars)  
(Honourable Minister of Health)

## **QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS**

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

The Ottley Hall Marina and Shipyard has the potential to provide many skilled jobs to our young people and revenue to the government, yet it remains in a dilapidated state and in need of extensive repair. In the government's budget address 2024, it was stated as follows: "We are also currently evaluating three separate proposals from the private sector—one local, and two regional—for contracts to rehabilitate and operate the Ottley Hall Marina."

Will the Minister please update this Honourable House concerning the evaluation of the three proposals mentioned, including specific measures taken in the process, and indicate when the drydock will be repaired and made operational?

2. **Dr the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Opposition Leader) to ask the Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs and Local Government:**

In the 2024 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, the government allocated \$120,000 to the geothermal project. The government has stated that the geothermal project is proceeding and in 2024 Budget, it was stated that discussions were ongoing with "multiple private sector entities" to develop the project and produce energy, and that the government hoped to announce during the first half of this year what the next phase of our geothermal project would be.

Will the Minister please provide an update as to the status of the discussions with the private sector entities mentioned in Budget 2024 and say what the next phase of the project will be?

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

The work to repair the road at Bluff Point in Bequia is taking much longer than projected by the Minister resulting in continued danger and discomfort to the travelling public.

Will the Minister please explain why the completion was delayed and state when the road repair work will be completed?

4. **Honourable Terrance Ollivierre, (Member for Southern Grenadines) to ask the Honourable Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology:**

Due to the passage of Hurricane Beryl many persons in the Southern Grenadines have lost their means of earning a livelihood. The Supplementary Estimates have approved funds to assist such persons.

Can the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. The means by which affected persons can access these funds and;
- b. What are the criteria being used in the selection process?

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

CXC has reported a decline in students' performance for the 2024 examination especially in Mathematics. After analysis of the 2024 CSEC examination results.

Can the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. The percentage pass rate for both Mathematics and English;
- b. The students percentage pass rate of 5 or more subjects;
- c. The students percentage pass rate of 5 or more subjects inclusive of Mathematics and English;

d. What is the percentage pass rate of 5 or more subjects for the years 2018 to 2023 inclusive of Mathematics and English.

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

As the government gets into the final stages of Budget preparations, it is timely to remind of the significant variances between Revised and Approved Estimates and the negative variance. For example, in the Audited Reports of 2012 to 2016 the amount exceeds one billion dollars (\$1,131,225,307.10) to be exact. It has already been brought to the attention of the parliament for the period 2017 to 2021, that the negative variance was three quarters of a billion dollars, to be precise \$753, 413, 847.18

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. What Budgetary measures are being taken to improve the credibility of the Budget;
- b. In the view of the consistent report of the Directors of Audit since 2004 /2005 that the shortfalls in the Capital Revenue have implications for the credibility of the Capital Budget, would the 2025 Budget reflect a correction; and
- c. The most recent available Audit Report of 2021 shows a shortfall of \$217 million. What are the financial causes or factors for the Budgetary shortfall?

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

The Audited Reports of the government over the last ten (10) years report frequent actions and activities particular in Capital Revenue and loans applications that were not approved by the parliament for given financial years.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

What is the reason for the deviation from the Finance Act

**8. 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:**

As the Parliamentary Representative for Central Kingstown, I have received many complaints from Hurricane Beryl victims as to the pace of assistance in the constituency.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. How many people in Central Kingstown have been assisted thus far;
- b. Have any business or agricultural support been granted to Central Kingstown to date: if yes, how many and to whom;
- c. How many victims of Hurricane Beryl in Central Kingstown who self-assisted with their repairs have been refunded;
- d. When do you anticipate that all the victims of Hurricane Beryl will receive assistance?

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

Calliaqua may be defined as a predominantly residential town in the Constituency of East St. George. Since November 2023, a roads project got underway in Calliaqua at a cost of \$2.2 million. The time period projected for completion was six months. Ten months later, the project appears to remain in limbo and the people of Calliaqua have to endure the discomfort of an inordinate amount of dust, stagnant water breeding mosquitoes.

Would the Honourable Minister please:

- a. Provide an update on this project including what is the expected date of completion;
- b. How much money has been spent on the project to date and;
- c. Whether an additional injection of funds will be required to complete the project.?

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

Would the Honourable Minister please state:

When would the people of Great House, Lowmans Bay and Campden Park get the rebuilding of the critical link road from the end of the concrete road in Great House ending at the entrance to the housing area in Lowmans Bay for folks displaced from Rose Place?

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

The road leading to the Anglican Church in Lowmans Hill has been deteriorating for several years. This short road ends in a tract that leads to Burgin but this too is in need of urgent work. Further, the side of the road just before the church has collapsed thus threatening the use of the road.

Would the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. If there are any plans to do the necessary works on this road and;
- b. If so, when can the residents expect it?

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

There is a partially paved drain which parallels the road at the junction leading to the industrial site in Campden Park and the Wesleyan Holiness Church and during heavy rainfall, serious erosion occurs along the embankment of the clinic and the church as well as neighbouring properties.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when the drain will be completed and retaining wall built to prevent further erosion?

**13. Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (Member for South Leeward) to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing, Informal Settlement, Youth and Sports:**

Three months after the passage of Hurricane Beryl many people throughout the country who were impacted are still trying to get their lives back to a degree of normalcy.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. How many houses in the constituency of South Leeward were damaged;
- b. How many of the affected persons received buildings materials to effect repairs; and
- c. When will those who are yet to receive materials be given assistance?

**14. Honourable Nigel Stephenson, (Member for South Leeward) to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing, Informal Settlement, Youth and Sports:**

It is observed that several houses in South Leeward were seriously damaged after Hurricane Beryl and the government is hiring tradesmen to repair and in some cases restore entire house roofs.

Will the Honourable Minister please explain the criteria used to determine which houses are selected for hired workers to repair them?

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

The 2022 report (the latest report) of the Fiscal Responsibility Mechanism of St. Vincent and the Grenadines recommends that the “Government prepare a detailed debt management plan up to 2035, setting annual targets, and to include expected borrowings, amortization, and other transactions.”

Will the Honourable Minister kindly:

- a. Indicate whether this recommendation was adopted and if not why not;
- b. What are the government’s expected annual borrowings for the next five years;
- c. How does the government plan to achieve a debt to GDP ratio of 60% by the year 2035 as the agreed target set by the members of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union?

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

The cost of living over the recent past has been creating tremendous difficulty for Vincentians. Will the Honourable Minister kindly:

- a. Provide the annual rate of inflation data for the past five years;
- b. What have been the main causes of inflation in St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the same period;
- c. What has the government been doing to cushion the impact of the rising cost of living faced by Vincentians?

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

The passage of Hurricane Beryl on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2024, caused extensive damage to property throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The constituency of East Kingstown was particularly hard hit on mainland St. Vincent.

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please:

- a. Provide a status report on the rebuilding exercise in East Kingstown;
- b. How many affected persons in East Kingstown have so far received assistance and what is the nature of the assistance;
- c. What is the projected time frame for assistance to reach all the affected persons in East Kingstown?

**18. Honourable Senator Israel Bruce, (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:**

Some rehabilitation works have commenced on the Doreen John Health facility in Greiggs as such causing residents to seek health services elsewhere.

Will the Honourable Minister please:

- a. Update this Honourable House on the progress of the rehabilitative works done as at the 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024;
- b. What is the estimated cost of the work undertaken by the contractor on this project?

- c. Is there an estimated time for the completion of the rehabilitation exercise, if so when would these works be completed;
- d. Can the residents of Greiggs be given a guarantee that their health facility will be ready to resume service before December 2024?

**19. Honourable Israel Bruce, (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Industry and Labour:**

The United Nations Special Rapporteur Tomoya Obokata produced a report on a visit to Canada on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences. This report was published in July of 2024.

- a. Has the Honourable Minister had an opportunity to read and properly digest this report as it relates to Migrant workers;
- b. Mindful of the fact that St. Vincent and the Grenadines has migrant workers in Canada, Can the Honourable Minister please state what are the conditions under which our citizens are participating in migrant workers programme;
- c. Are Vincentians also subjected to the UN concerns relating to underpayment of wages, wage theft, physical, emotional and verbal abuses, excessive work hours, limited break, extracontractual work and or uncompensated managerial duties; and
- d. Is there a liaison officer assigned to respond to and report all concerns of the migrant workers from St Vincent and the Grenadines and if yes who is the liaison officer and when was the last report submitted to the Government of St Vincent and the Grenadines?

**20. Honourable Israel Bruce, (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing, Informal Settlement, Youth and Sports:**

A number of residents in the South Central Windward Constituency are still seeking help to cover their heads following the passage of Hurricane Beryl earlier this year.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. What are the current challenges if any, that are resulting in the residents of South Central Windward constituency not getting the help needed at this point in time;
- b. Is the Honourable Minister willing to assist residents with the building materials once the residents can find the requisite manual labour on a voluntary basis, if yes what exactly does the Ministry require of those in need of help; and
- c. How many home owners in the South Central Windward Constituency have received help thus far and can you give a breakdown by villages?

**21. Honourable Shevern John, (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Health Wellness and the Environment:**

- a. What steps is the Ministry taking to help increase the rate of diagnosis for people who develop symptoms of dementia before the age of 65;
- b. What support is given to families who have people living in their homes with dementia?

**22. Honourable Shevern John (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Health Wellness and the Environment:**

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- a. The number of Auxiliary nurses employed in the health sector; and
- b. Whether the position of an Auxiliary Nurse is a pensionable position;
- c. If not will it be made pensionable?

**23. Honourable Shevern John, (Opposition Senator) to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:**

There is a huge rock above the main road in “Coal man Gutter”, Owia, which may be unstable and poses a potential hazard to the travelling public

- a. Is the Honourable Minister aware of the danger posed by this rock; and
- b. If so, will the Honourable Minister please state what plans are in place to deal with this situation.

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

(Government Orders are marked thus\*)

**RESOLUTION**

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**

**RESOLUTION TO GUARANTEE BORROWING BY THE SAINT**

**VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES PORT AUTHORITY**

**RESOLUTION TO GUARANTEE** the borrowing by the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority (hereinafter referred to as the Authority)

**WHEREAS** the Authority may under section 26(1)(b) of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority Act, Chapter 362, raise loans with the consent of the Minister responsible for seaports, from any source other than the Government;

**AND WHEREAS** under section 26(2)(a) of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority Act, the power of the Authority to borrow under section 26 (l) of the Act may be exercised to borrow and reborrow monies by the issue and sale of debentures or debenture stock or other security for the purpose of raising the funds of the Authority for the effectual exercise by it of the powers conferred by the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority Act;

**AND WHEREAS** under section 28(1) of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority Act, the Cabinet, may with the approval of the House of Assembly, guarantee in such manner and on such conditions as the Cabinet may think fit, the payments of the principal and interest of any authorised borrowing of the Authority;

**AND WHEREAS** the Authority proposes to borrow the sum of forty million Eastern Caribbean Dollars by issuing a bond on the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange for the purpose of raising funds for the effectual exercise of the powers of the Authority under the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority Act namely to finance the acquisition of equipment for the Port Modernisation Project;

**AND WHEREAS** by letter dated 30th September 2024, the Minister responsible for seaports has authorised the Authority to borrow the sum of forty million Eastern Caribbean Dollars by issuing a bond on the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange for the purpose of raising funds for the effectual exercise of the powers of the Authority namely to finance the acquisition of equipment for the Port Modernisation Project;

**AND WHEREAS** it is expedient that the Cabinet guarantees in such manner and such conditions as the Cabinet may think fit, the payments of the principal and interest of the bond to be issued by the Authority for the purpose of raising funds for the effectual exercise of the powers of the Authority namely to finance the acquisition of the equipment for the Port Modernisation Project;

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED THAT** by the House of Assembly of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as follow –

- (a) that in accordance with section 28(1) of the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority Act that the House of Assembly approves the guarantee by the Cabinet of the payments of the principal and interest on a bond totaling forty million Eastern Caribbean Dollars to be issued by the Authority on the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange for the purpose of raising funds for the effectual exercise by the Authority of its powers namely to finance the acquisition of equipment for the Port Modernisation Project;

(b) that the Minister responsible for finance or his authorised agent is authorized to sign any document which may be necessary or take such other action as may be required for the Cabinet to guarantee the payments of the principal and interest on the bond to be issued by the Authority on the Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange for the purpose of raising funds for the effectual exercise by the Authority of its powers namely to finance the acquisition of equipment for the Port Modernisation Project.

Approved by the House of Assembly the                      day of                      2024.

### **BILLS**

1* Eastern Caribbean Asset Management Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Minister of Finance)	1 <sup>st</sup> Reading
2* Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security)	Select Committee Report
3* Dog Bill, 2024 (Honourable Minister of Agriculture)	Select Committee Report
4* Legal Profession Bill, 2024 (Honourable Prime Minister/Minister of National Security)	Select Committee

### **ADJOURNMENT**