



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

ORDER PAPER

No.1

1

THURSDAY 9TH JANUARY, 2025

PRAYERS

PROCLAMATION

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON
THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER, 2024**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEES

PAPERS

1* House of Assembly Paper No.1 of 2025
2025 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure
of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

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

In light of the problem of global warming and the need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, will the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. The proportion of Vinlec's energy production that is based on fossil fuels and the proportion based on renewable sources;

- ii. Whether there is a plan to rely primarily on available renewable energy such as solar power; and
- iii. What are the obstacles, if any, to SVG moving to solar as our main source of energy.

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

The Minister of Education previously stated his government's support of the inclusive education initiative that began with a pilot project in Bequia approximately two years ago.

Will the Honourable Minister please tell us what is the status of the inclusive education project and what is your government's plan for it.

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

Among others, the roads at Broad Road in Paget Farm (from Parnell's workshop over to the property of the late Leopold Sam) and the road at Union Vale from the junction with Spring Road over to the O'car road near Vinlec station, especially the section near Oswald Simmons' home, remain in poor condition despite repeated demands to repair them.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when he intends to fix these roads.

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

Approximately 98% of housing in the Southern Grenadines were damaged or destroyed during the passage of Hurricane Beryl. The Supplementary Estimates allocated finance to assist in the rebuilding process.

Can the Honourable Minister please:

- i. Give an estimation of the total spent to date on rebuilding of homes;
- ii. State how many homes or percentage of homes have been built to date; and
- iii. State what criteria were used to determine the priority listing for rebuilding of these homes.

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

The Stephanie Browne Primary and the Mary Hutchinson Government Schools were severely damaged during the passage of Hurricane Beryl and the students were temporarily located at Arnos Vale.

Can the Honourable Minister state:

- i. The status of the rebuilding process of both schools; and
- ii. When will the schools be ready for the teaching and learning process to resume at the location in Union Island.

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

Air transport is essential to locals and the development of the tourism industry in the Southern Grenadines. The fence at the airport in Union Island which was damaged by the passage of Hurricane Beryl poses a problem for the safety of flights due to animals breaching the fence on a daily basis. The police or airport workers are tasked to drive these animals before a flight.

Can the Honourable Minister state when will this problem be rectified.

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:

The year 2024, like the last three years 2023, 2022 and 2021 has again seen our blessed land approaching unacceptable record numbers of homicides. There appears to be differences among the Police High Command and yourself as Minister of National Security as to whether gangs exist in St. Vincent.

Will the Honourable Prime Minister please state:

- i. To what extent if any, does this interpretational issue impact the strategic approach to homicides; and
- ii. What is driving homicides in St. Vincent.

8. The Honourable Major St. Claire Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Transport, Works, Lands and Physical Planning:

Frankly speaking the roads in Central Kingstown like most other constituencies are in a deplorable condition. They hardly reflect the 2024 boast of a Roads Budget.

The following roads in Central Kingstown cry out for urgent attention:

- i. Largo Height – From the Old Montrose Police Station to Greenville;
- ii. Redemption Sharpes – Old Montrose to Sharpes Gate; Hollywood to Kingstown Park Turn-off and the road across the Community Centre from Ranks Shop to the Rocks Intersection;
- iii. Sharpes Dale - All the cross roads in Sharpes Dale, some of which have returned to grass and dirt;
- iv. Green Hill – From Tractor Road to Fenton; and
- v. Murray's Road – From the main road to Mrs. Abbott's corner.

Are they more likely to receive attention in this year?

9. The Honourable Major St. Claire Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Urban Development, Energy, Seaports, Grenadines Affairs, and Local Government:

There are some prevailing Public Buildings, infrastructure, river beds, sidewalks and miscellaneous that are inconveniences of some sort or the other. These include the following:

- The Old National Broadcasting Corporation Building now a haven for rodents.
- The beds of the North and South River Roads river

- The sidewalk (cobble stones) on Back Street from Hinds Trading to Grand Bazaar
- A small sand pit just outside the Audit Department
- The limited Public Toilets in and around Heritage Square
- The refurbishment of the Kingstown Public Toilet off Little Tokyo (now undergoing repairs)

Will the Honourable Minister please say what action is being taken to address these deficiencies to public convenience or decency.

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

There is a dirt road in Campden Park which begins at Keitha Delpesche and exits at Vin Durham's residence above the St. Vincent Brewery.

This road is inundated by water after heavy rainfall and becomes swampy days after the rain because there is no drainage.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when that road will be paved.

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

The York river in Campden Park causes serious erosion along its course, resulting in damage to properties from Sweet Spot to its mouth at ECGC.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when planned river defense will be constructed in that river.

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

Clare Valley has some of the worst roads in the country and a little consideration is given to improve the infrastructure.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when the following roads in Clare Valley will be fixed.

- a. College Corner
- b. The area known as Bedrock.

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

In his Budget Address for 2024, the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning et al. stated: "Our government has repeatedly articulated a comprehensive strategy, and programmatic details therein, with the 14-point strategy on crime, which was formally presented to parliament in February 2003." Both the strategy and the elements thereof have been reviewed and amended over the years since.

Will the Honourable Minister kindly:

- i. Point out indicators which show the success (or failure) of the government's crime fighting strategy;
- ii. Indicate whether this 14-point strategy is the government's sole source of its crime fighting agenda;
- iii. Tell the people of this country what you will do differently, if anything, to stem the unacceptably high homicide rate.

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

In 2014, a final court judgement was made where the government was ordered to pay former Parliamentarian and government minister and constituent of East Kingstown, Marcus De Freitas, \$4.7 million for the acquisition of his property in the Beachmont area for the construction of a new Parliament building.

The government was given two years to pay the money in full or pay a 5% penalty per year for each year the money was not paid to Mr. De Freitas.

Will the Honourable Minister please:

- i. Indicate whether Mr. De Freitas has been paid the \$4.7 million owed to him and when this payment was made;
- ii. If Mr. De Freitas has not been paid the full amount, why has he not been paid; and
- iii. If the response to part (ii) is negative, when will Mr. De Freitas be paid the full amount.

15. The Honourable Israel Bruce, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour.

In his 2024 Budget presentation the Honourable Minister stated that his Ministry would embark on White/English potato production.

Will the Honourable Minister please state;

- i. Whether there has been any White/English potatoes planted as part of the experimentation exercise;
- ii. If there has been, how many acres of lands are currently under cultivation with this experiment; and
- iii. What are the positive indicators if in any that we can become reliant on this crop as part of St Vincent & the Grenadines' food security initiative.

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

The bridge at North Union Market which leads to Chapmans Village has been undergoing reconstruction for over a year. Presently, there is no work being done on the bridge.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- i. Why has work stopped on the bridge;
- ii. When should residents of Chapmans expect to see the recommencement of the work on that bridge; and
- iii. When is this project expected to be completed.

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

As part of the 2024 capital programme within the Ministry of Agriculture it was indicated that there will be conducted an agricultural and fisheries census. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this house as follows;

- i. Has the Ministry completed this project, if not why not;
- ii. If it has not when would this project be completed; and
- iii. How does this project being incomplete affect agricultural and fisheries planning and developmental goals for St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

18. The Honourable Shevern John, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family and Gender Affairs:

Domestic violence shows itself in a number of different forms. It affects not only women, but men and children, of all different races, status, religions, and culture. No one is immune to domestic violence.

Would the Honourable Minister state:

- i. The number of reported cases of domestic violence from January 2022 to November 2024;
- ii. Give a breakdown of the number of reported cases that are males, females and juveniles;
- iii. State the number of reported cases in the various districts in St. Vincent and the Grenadines;
- iv. What are the main causes of domestic violence based on reported cases; and
- v. What programmes have the Ministry implemented to help both perpetrators and victims over the reported years identified above.

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

Mental health is a basic human right, and it is crucial to personal, community and socio-economic development. According to the WHO mental health is defined as “a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community”.

Will the Honourable Minister state:

- i. The number of admissions to the Mental Health Asylum from January 2022 to November 2024 and the age range of these admissions;
- ii. The number of child psychologists assigned to the mental health team;
- iii. If there is any training available for primary health care personnel and police officers who deal with persons who have mental health disorder; and
- iv. How much transportation is available on site and assigned to the mental health centre for use when needed.

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

Will the Honourable Minister please give an update on the construction of the Dickson Village Bridge and the retaining wall at the primary school.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

MOTION

2025 ESTIMATES OF ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

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

WHEREAS section 70(1) of the Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines provides that the Minister for the time being responsible for finance shall cause to be prepared and laid before the House of Assembly before, or not later than thirty days after, the commencement of each financial year Estimates of the Revenues and Expenditure of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for that financial year;

AND WHEREAS section 70(2) of the Constitution provides for the approval of the Estimates of Expenditure by the House;

AND WHEREAS the Government had additionally decided to prepare Estimates on a triennial basis:

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House of Assembly do adopt the Estimates for the financial year ending 31st December, 2025;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Honourable House note the projections for the financial years ending 31st December 2026 and 31st December 2027.

BILLS

1* Appropriation Bill, 2025 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading
2* Public Sector Investment Loan Bill, 2025 (Honourable Minister of Finance)	1 st Reading

RESOLUTION

2025 ESTIMATES OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

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

BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House do authorise the Minister of Finance to borrow by means of fluctuating overdraft or otherwise from 1st National Bank St. Lucia Limited, or the Republic Bank Limited or the Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, money to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate eighty-five million dollars, during the period 1st January, 2025 to 31st December, 2025 for the purpose of meeting the current requirements of the Government.

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

ADJOURNMENT