



SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
ORDER PAPER

No.8

16

THURSDAY 6TH MARCH, 2025

PRAYERS

OBITUARIES

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE SITTINGS HELD ON
JANUARY 9TH, 10TH, 13TH, 14TH, 15TH, 16TH AND 17TH, 2025**

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE SPEAKER

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

REPORTS FROM SELECT COMMITTEE

PAPERS

1* House of Assembly Paper No. 2 of 2025

Zero Hunger Trust Fund
St Vincent and the Grenadines
Annual Report 2021
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

2* House of Assembly Paper No. 3 of 2025

Zero Hunger Trust Fund
St Vincent and the Grenadines
Annual Report 2022
(Honourable Minister of Finance)

3* House of Assembly Paper No. 4 of 2025

St. Vincent and the Grenadines Port Authority
Financial Statement for the period ended 31st December, 2023
(Honourable Minister of Urban Development)

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:**

The new port at Kingstown for which the whole Parliament approved hundreds of millions of dollars to construct is projected to be completed by May 2025.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- I. What is the cost of the project;
- II. How much money has been spent on the project thus far;
- III. Whether the government has sufficient funds to complete the project; and
- IV. If not, how much more will be needed to finish it.

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

The Director of Audit's 2021 Report on the Public Accounts notes a difference of \$4,381,753.08 between the Statement of Assets and Liabilities prepared by the government and the Certificate of Balances issued by the Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and concluded that "In the absence of a bank reconciliation statement, it could not be determined what contributed to the difference."

This problem has been ongoing for many years, between 2010 and 2021 it has amounted to a difference of over \$155 million. The Minister has indicated to this House that the problem was being addressed.

Will the Honourable Minister please state what has been done to address the problem and to what effect.

3. **Dr. the Honourable Godwin Friday, (Leader of the Opposition), to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing, Informal Human Settlement, Youth and Sports:**

Over two and a half years ago, the roof of the pavilion at Clive Tannis Playing Field was damaged by strong winds and was not repaired. The roof was further damaged by Hurricane Beryl and is now in a hazardous state and unable to protect users from the rain and sun.

Will the Honourable Minister please tell us why the damaged roof was not repaired and when it will be fixed.

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

From the data gathered after the passage of Hurricane Beryl; will the Honourable Minister please state:

- I. How many houses were completely destroyed in the Southern Grenadines islands of Mayreau, Union Island and Canouan;
- II. Other than rebuilding as they were, does government have any plans to find different types of building materials, and construction methods to replace the houses that were completely destroyed by the hurricane;
- III. If in the affirmative, what are these alternatives specifically; and
- IV. Further, when can home owners expect the process of rebuilding to begin and be completed.

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

How many houses in Canouan, Mayreau and Union Island were classified as damaged at levels 3 and 4 after the passage of Hurricane Beryl;

- I. Were consultations held with home owners in regards to repairing of same;
- II. How many of these houses are already fixed or are in the process of being fixed; and
- III. Finally, is there a date in sight for the completion of this process.

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

My recent checks on residents in Central Kingstown and in particular Redemption Sharpes, the most hard-hit area reveals that very few received Beryl Relief Assistance as voted in the Honourable House.

Will the Honourable Minister please indicate for the Central Kingstown Constituency the following:

- I. The number of persons who received house roof repairs.
- II. The number of those who have received furniture and fixtures replacement.
- III. The number of those who have received business income support and by category e.g. farmers, fishers, horticulturist, garages, miscellaneous

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

In Kingstown Park there are two small infrastructure projects that can bring immediate benefits, relief and pleasure to the community.

The first is the removal of an old unused concrete stand pipe structure, just obliquely opposite "Curtis" shop and the other is a used parcel of land bordering on the Nicholls property.

Can the Honourable Minister get BRAGSA to visit the area and examine the practicality of removing the standpipe structure and cover the area with a box drain that can be tapered off into a slip way drain thereby giving the vans an extra two to three feet of roadway which will ease the daily congestion for van drivers and pedestrians alike.

8. The Honourable Major St. Claire Leacock, (Member for Central Kingstown), to ask the Honourable Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment:

On more than one visitation to Union Island, I have ran into people who have eye problems that add to their existing challenges. In one case, an individual has with the assistance of his former employer VINLEC got help to go to Trinidad to obtain medical attention to his torn retina. On the other occasion, the victim has not been as fortunate. I am told that there are others.

Will the Honourable Minister please share and or indicate:

- I. What additional measures can be added to our existing eye care services to assist these special cases;
- II. Are there general procedures in place to assist these eye care patients who need specialist to assist to save their sight; and
- III. To what extent can patients with eye problems be it the dominant Glaucoma; Cataract; Macular Degeneration get additional eye care help by way of eye drops, tablets or other requisite aids all of which are expensive to the vulnerable.

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

In August of 2023, a retaining wall costing approximately EC\$500,000 near to a small playing field in the Fair Hall/Ribishi area collapsed.

Promises were made by the ESG Parliamentary Representative to have an analysis of the wall failure done and the replacement of the wall expeditiously executed in order to make the playing field useful to the residents.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- I. When would corrective work on the retaining wall and playing field begin? And what is the targeted completion date;
- II. What were the findings if any of the analysis due to be conducted by your Ministry as stated by the MP for East St. George;
- III. What is the estimated cost of corrective work to the wall and playing field which has been dug up; and
- IV. Is the Ministry of Works aware that the road and the retaining wall directly above the playing field are apparently compromised.

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

Work on the Edinboro - Ottley Hall Road is creating major inconvenience to vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The excavation of drains and footings for retaining wall has made driving in the area by the Catholic Pastoral Centre very dangerous.

Would the Honourable Minister please state;

- I. What is the cause of the undue delay in the project execution;
- II. what is the newest estimated completion date for the project; and
- III. what is the total expenditure to date on this project and how does this expenditure compare with the original contract sum.

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

Given the issues associated with the Edinboro-Ottley Hall Road project and given that a bypass road between Edinboro and New Montrose has been estimated to cost just \$30,000. And given that there have been numerous accidents and damage to vehicles using this road.

Will the Honourable Minister please state:

- I. Has any consideration been given to the urgent construction of this bypass road; and
- II. If not then why not.

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

The Bonadie Hill Road is a secondary bypass road that links Top Questelles and Lower Questelles but it is impassable because it is unpaved and badly damaged.

It can ease traffic congestion which is usually the case where the main road between Phillos Gas Station and the clinic at Campden Park is blocked.

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

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

The road in Lower Questelles between the junctions at WE FM and Merlene Hill is very narrow and often creates traffic congestion for hours.

Will the Honourable Minister please state if the government has any plans to widen that road and if yes, state how they intend to do so and when.

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

The issue of food security is often raised in the House of Assembly and it is agreed on both sides of the House, that agriculture is one way to accomplish this. Feeder roads however are needed to provide greater access to and from farms.

Will the Honourable Minister please state when the following feeder roads in Vermont will be repaired:

- I. Old Mountain;
- II. Banker Hole; and
- III. Paradise;

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

In your 2025 Budget address on page 17, you stated: "Between 2021 and 2024 our economy has grown from a GDP of \$2.4 billion to \$3.1 billion. That is a 25 percent increase in GDP at market prices over a three-year period, marking the first time that St. Vincent and the Grenadines has an economy worth over \$3 billion.

Will the Honourable Minister please:

- I. Indicate the GDP growth rate for each year in the period mentioned.
- II. Provide a sectoral breakdown (by percentage and in dollars) of GDP for each of the three years cited.

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

For more than ten years now, your government commenced construction of four (4) steel and concrete structures in the vicinity of the decommissioned stone quarry in the bottom Roseau area of East Kingstown.

Will the Honourable Minister please:

- I. State when construction started on those structures and what were they supposed to have been used for;
- II. How much money has been expended on the construction of the unfinished structures;
- III. Why haven't the structures been completed; and
- IV. Why are the incomplete structures now being demolished.

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

This country's Parliament approved in the 2024 Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, a total of \$42,624,410 for the National Roads Rehabilitation project for rehabilitation of roads nationwide. In the 2025, Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure, a total of \$43,196,760 has been approved for the same project.

Will the Honourable Minister please:

- I. Indicate how much of the 2024 amount was actually spent on this project;
- II. How much was spent on rehabilitating roads in East Kingstown in 2024;
- III. Which roads in East Kingstown were rehabilitated in 2024 and how much did each of them cost; and
- IV. Which roads in East Kingstown will be rehabilitated in 2025 from this year's approved Estimates.

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

The 2024 Budget approved \$280,000.00 to upgrade the Agriculture headquarters building under project number 451304. Can the Honourable Minister update this Honourable House:

- I. What is the status of the upgrade work which has been undertaken between January 2024 and January 2025;
- II. If the upgrade is incomplete, why is it incomplete; and
- III. How much of the allocated resources has been used up thus far on this upgrade project.

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

There are a number of farmers in St Vincent & the Grenadines engaged in the rearing animals including cattle, sheep, goat etc.

- I. Does the ministry under the leadership of the Minister share the view that the establishment of a local abattoir set up to international standards will earn our meat producers more money for their meat products;
- II. Will the Minister please state what efforts made in the past to establish abattoir/s in St Vincent & the Grenadines;
- III. Was there any funding resource made available by any local, regional or international donor agencies to assist with the setting up of abattoir/s in St Vincent & the Grenadines; and
- IV. If yes, why is it that the government has not established such a facility to help our meat producers earn a greater dollar for their production.

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

The roads leading to the mountains of Marphat and Tibiru in the South Central Windward constituency are in need of urgent repairs to help the farmers into and out of their farms.

- I. Can the Honourable Minister please give an undertaking to the farmers of Greggs, Lauders and Lowmans WD that an assessment will be made of this portion of farm access roads within the next 2 months with a view to fixing it;

- II. Having undertaken the assessment will the Honourable Minister commit to this House to table immediately thereafter a cost analysis to repair this portion of road from Sherman Matthews shop all the way to Mr. Fraser's land; and
- III. Based on the cost analysis will the Minister agree to look at the 2025 allocations to his ministry in order to determine if this road can be repaired in the fiscal year 2025.

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

Could the Honourable Minister please:

- I. State how many new businesses have been registered with CIPO over the period January 2022 to December 2024;
- II. State the areas of operations of these new businesses; and
- III. Has CIPO been successful in collection of fees from businesses, what are the reasons given for non-payment of fees.

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

Could the Honourable Minister:

- I. State the number of persons employed as male attendants within the Ministry; and
- II. What training is available for male attendants in emergency response and how often is training done.

23. The Honourable Shevern John, (Opposition Senator), to ask the Honourable Minister of Housing, Informal Human Settlement, Youth and Sports:

What assessment has been made in 2024 of the potential role of sport in the Government's strategies to tackle serious violent crime in the various hotspots.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

(Government Orders are marked thus*)

BILLS

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| 1* Banking (Amendment) Bill, 2025
(Honourable Minister of Finance) | 1 st Reading |
| 2* Legal Profession Bill, 2025
(Honourable Prime Minister/ Minister of National Security) | 1 st Reading |

ADJOURNMENT