

**SECOND SITTING OF THE FIRST SESSION  
OF THE FIFTH HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY  
OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**



**TO BE HELD ON  
THURSDAY, 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2023  
AT THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY CHAMBER  
ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA  
AT 10:00 A.M.**

**ORDER OF THE DAY**

# **ORDER OF THE DAY**

**1) Prayers**

**2) Administration of Oaths**

**3) Confirmation of Minutes**

- Confirmation of Minutes for the Meeting of Thursday, 18th May, 2023.

**4) Announcements by the Speaker**

**5) Statements by Ministers**

**6) Presentation of Papers**

**a) The Minister for Health and Social Development to lay on the table the following document:**

- i) Social Assistance in the British Virgin Islands - Prepared by the Social Policy Research Institute (SPRI Global) (Chris De Neubourg, Mariam Sène, Julia Karpati, Erëblina Elezaj) In support of UNICEF Eastern Caribbean and the Government of the Virgin Islands (BVI).

**7) Notices of Motions Given Orally**

- a) The Premier and Minister of Finance to give notice that, at a later stage in the proceedings, he would seek leave to move the Motions standing in his name under Item 9(1)(i) and (ii) on the Order of the Day.
- b) The Leader of the Opposition and Territorial Member to give notice that, at a later stage in the proceedings, he would seek leave to ask the questions standing in his name under Item 8(i) through (iii) on the Order of the Day.
- c) The Deputy Speaker and Territorial Member to give notice that, at a later stage in the proceedings, he would seek leave to ask the questions standing in his name under Item 8(iv) through (vii) on the Order of the Day.
- d) The Member for the Third District to give notice that, at a later stage in the proceedings, he would seek leave to ask the questions standing in his name under Item 8(viii) through (xi) on the Order of the Day.

- e) The Member for the Sixth District to give notice that, at a later stage in the proceedings, he would seek leave to ask the questions standing in his name under Item 8(xii) through (xv) on the Order of the Day.
- f) The Member for the Eighth District to give notice that, at a later stage in the proceedings, he would seek leave to ask the questions standing in his name under Item 8(xvi) through (xix) on the Order of the Day.
- g) The Member for the Second District to give notice that, at a later stage in the proceedings, he would seek leave to ask the questions standing in his name under Item 8(xx) through (xxiii) on the Order of the Day.

## 8) Questions and Answers to Questions

- i) **The Leader of the Opposition and Territorial Member to ask the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance the following questions:**

### **Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House, what is his vision and/or difficulties in implementing the COI recommendations?

### **Question 2**

Madam Speaker, in the recent general elections, beyond any doubt the dominant national issue on the campaign trail was that of fixing the critical national infrastructure. Madam Speaker, would the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please advise this Honourable House of his specific plans and timelines to secure the much needed funding required to address this urgent and pressing campaign promise?

### **Question 3**

Madam Speaker, would the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please detail for this Honourable House his Government's vision and specific plans for the redevelopment of Prospect Reef and thereby its full re-integration into the territory's tourism product?

### **Question 4**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance give this Honourable House a detail report on the country's finances, which must include the following?

- a) The balance of the consolidated Fund as of Apr 31st, 2023;
- b) The name and balances in all other funds;
- c) Balance in the Reserve Fund;
- d) The total account payable over 60 days;
- e) Total receivables as of the 31st April 2023;
- f) Loan balances as of the 31st April, 2023; and
- g) The name and balances of any other account held by the government.

**Question 5**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance give this Honourable House a listing of Court Judgements against the Government and the quantum of each Judgement?

**Question 6**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance tell this Honourable House how many general and restricted banking have been issued as of the 31st April, 2023, and of that number how many are operating in the Virgin Islands?

**Question 7**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance tell this Honourable House the total deposits held by each of these banks and the total number of loans issued as of the 31<sup>st</sup> April, 2023?

**Question 8**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance tell this Honourable House the total number of bad debt held by each banking institution as of 31st April, 2023?

**Question 9**

Madam Speaker, it is beginning to appear as if it is taking much longer to repair the Ralph T. O'Neal Central Administration Building than it took to build it. Could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance provide this Honourable House with a comprehensive status report on the project and inform this Honourable House when he

expects to see the building fully occupied and functioning?

### **Question 10**

Madam Speaker, the people of this territory are highly concerned about the increasing rate of gun-related crime in this territory. Madam Speaker, it goes without saying that safety is fundamental to our quality of life in this territory and it underpins our economic success to date. Given that the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance sits on the NSC would he please tell this Honourable House what steps or strategies, if any, are being pursued by the Council and His Excellency the Governor, with whom internal security remains one of his leading responsibility, to arrest this growing threat?

- ii) **The Leader of the Opposition and Territorial Member to ask the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works the following questions:**

### **Question 1**

Madam Speaker, firstly, I wish to offer my sincere congratulations to the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works specifically and his Government in general on their accomplishment of the American Eagle direct flight from Miami to the BVI. Madam Speaker, I am confident that the Honourable Minister would agree with me that this is but a first step towards ensuring that the BVI has fit for purpose, first rate air access facilities commensurate with the territory's global market positioning in tourism and financial services. In this regard, would the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works please tell this Honourable House

- a) Where does pre-clearance fit into his overall plans for the upgrade of the TB Lettsome International Airport? and
- b) What immediate improvements should the traveling public expect to see at the TB Lettsome International Airport by the start of this year's winter tourism season in mid-December, given the added passenger capacity now transiting the facility?

### **Question 2**

Madam Speaker, in 2021 the Government amended the British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation's (BVIEC) regulations to make BVIEC pay \$0.10 for each gallon of fuel imported and used by BVIEC for the production of electricity. This amendment was suspended for one year and the one year has expired. Could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works tell this Honourable House, if it is his intention to ask for this provision to be further suspended, or will he have the amendment enforced?

- iii) **The Leader of the Opposition and Territorial Member to ask the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development the following questions:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development please tell this Honourable House what the total payables are and receivables of the Health Services Authority (HSA) as of the 31st April, 2023?

**Question 2**

Madam Speaker, would the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development please provide this Honourable House with a breakdown of the total number of dialysis patients accessing service at the Dialysis Unit at the Dr. D. Orlando Smith Hospital by island of residence for the period 2017 to 2023. And would the Honourable Minister outline what plans, if any, his government has to ease the burdens on the Sister Island dialysis patients who have to travel 3 times a week over water irrespective of weather conditions to receive their critical and life sustaining treatment? Will the Honourable Minister agree that the time has come to fund and establish a division or branch of the Dialysis Unit at the Nurse Iris O'Neal Clinic on Virgin Gorda?

**Question 3**

Madam Speaker, would the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development please inform this Honourable House what plans, if any, that his government has for recruiting, training and retaining doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals?

- iv) **The Deputy Speaker and Territorial Member to ask the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance the following question:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House:

- a) What is the strategic plan for providing farmers at Paraquita Bay and across the territory with a steady water supply? and
- b) What steps have been taken to move the status of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to that of a statutory board?

- v) **The Deputy Speaker and Territorial Member to ask the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works the following questions:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister for Communications and Works please tell this Honourable House is there a shortage of water meters in the territory?

- a) If yes, how many consumers have applied for meters and are without as of April 2023? and
- b) How does the Department of Water and Sewerage presently charge consumers without meters?

**Question 2**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister for Communications and Works please tell this Honourable House, what steps have been taken to move the status of the Department of Water and Sewerage to that of a Statutory Board?

- vi) **The Deputy Speaker and Territorial Member to ask the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development the following question:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister for Health and Social Development please tell this Honourable House:

- a) As of April 2023, how many residents have applied for assistance grants through the Social Development Department and of that number how many were successful?
- b) What was the total amount of funds dispersed? and
- c) What is the balance of the funds remaining?

- vii) **The Deputy Speaker and Territorial Member to ask the Honourable Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports the following questions:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Education, Youth Affairs, and Sports, please tell this Honourable House:

- a) Would the Minister please provide this house with a detailed breakdown of the number of vacancies at the primary and secondary levels that must be addressed to ensure a full complement of teachers in all our schools at the start of the new school year?
- b) How many of these teachers have resigned and how many have retired?
- c) What special efforts if any are being made to recruit competent and qualified teachers from overseas?

### **Question 2**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Education, Youth Affairs, and Sports, please tell this Honourable House:

If funds were allocated in the 2023 budget allocated for a comprehensive review of the Education System?

- a) If yes, how much funds were allocated?
- b) If no, why not? and
- c) When will this review be commenced?

### **Question 3**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Education, Youth Affairs, and Sports, please tell this Honourable House:

- a) What is the amount budgeted for the 2023 Summer programme hosted by the Department of Youth of Affairs and Sports?
- b) Has this ministry supported any non-government summer programmes? If yes, please state the names and amounts given to each programme? and
- c) Are there plans to reinstate the territory-wide after-school programme? If yes, when will it commence and what amount is budgeted for this initiative?

### **Question 4**

Madam Speaker, Generative AI (Artificial Intelligence) is the rage of the world as we speak with definite potential to become a defining generational technology. Madam Speaker, would the Honourable Minister of Education, Youth Affairs, and Sports please tell this Honourable House if the ministry has given this new technology any thought with regard to the implementation of programs designed to ensure that the youths of the BVI are able to secure the foundational knowledge about this new



technology, and its potential for the future advancement of the territory?

- viii) **The Member for the Third District to ask the Premier and Minister of Finance the following questions:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, during the 2023 Elections Campaign, Progressives United made some must-do's as their Platform as follow:

- a) The Extension of the Runway of the Terence B. Lettsome International Airport;
- b) Addressing the Nuisance of poor Road Infrastructure Territory-wide;
- c) Rebuilding the West End Ferry Terminal;
- d) The re-centralization of government ministries; and
- e) Accessing the UK's Loan Guarantee, among others.

Could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House whether he identifies his Government with any of these as high priorities, and give his list in order of priority?

**Question 2**

Madam Speaker, the issues raised in question 1 being of national importance, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please give this Honourable House his plan and timeline for addressing each of the 5 items?

**Question 3**

Madam Speaker, the derelict yachts in Sea Cows Bay Harbour have been an irritant since their appearance by Hurricane Irma in 2017, and was a hot topic in the 2023 elections campaign. Could the Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House when he's going to have them removed? And can he give us his plan for execution?

- ix) **The Member for the Third District to ask the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works the following questions:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, last year in the 4<sup>th</sup> House of Assembly an Act was passed to make the Water and Sewage Department a statutory body. Could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works tell this Honourable House why that hasn't happened as yet?

**Question 2**

Madam Speaker, according to the original contract with BiWater, the Paraquita Bay water plant is to be handed over to government after 17 years of operation without cost. Could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works tell this Honourable House:

- a) the exact date upon which this is to happen? and
- b) can he produce the evidence showing how the date was calculated?

**Question 3**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works tell this Honourable House what preparations are being made to transition ownership of the water plant at Paraquita Bay from 7Seas to government?

**Question 4**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works tell this Honourable House if upon gaining ownership of the BiWater Plant he intends to turn its operation over to the legally mandated statutory body?

- a) If yes, please outline the management structure. and
- b) If no, give the reason.

**Question 5**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works tell this Honourable House whether the Burt Point Sewage Treatment Plant is functioning?

- a) If the answer is yes, can he tell us when it came back in operation, who fixed it, and at what cost?
- b) If the answer is no, can he tell us why not, and give a detailed timeline for its return to service?

**Question 6**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works tell this Honourable House the exact status of the government Asphalt Plant as far as it relates to the production of Asphalt?

**Question 7**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works tell this Honourable House:

- a) The cost of the plant?
- b) What is it costing government during the time the plant is out of commission? and
- c) Does his ministry have funds to put the Plant into operation, and how much?

**Question 8**

Madam Speaker, there are two steel plates across the road in Pockwood Pond going on several months. Could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works tell this Honourable House:

- a) Who put them there and why?
- b) When were they placed there, and when will they be removed? and
- c) What they expect to do about the affected portion of the road?

**Question 9**

Madam Speaker, water is being rationed on a daily basis, especially in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District. Could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works tell this Honourable House:

- a) Why is this happening?

- b) How much money have we paid to 7Seas for this year giving the months and the dates, for water we did not take? and
- c) Give the reasons for not taking the water?

**Question 10**

Madam Speaker, the roads of the territory are in need of urgent attention, especially in my District. Could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works tell this Honourable House:

- a) If he is familiar with the poor conditions of the main road in Sea Cows Bay, especially in the area of De La Santa Bakery?
- b) How much longer must the holes created by Water and Sewage due to leak repairs in the same area have to stay before they are fixed.

**Question 11**

Madam Speaker, I am aware that repair works are being carried out on the Central Administration Complex. Could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works tell this Honourable House:

- a) The progress on the project to date?
- b) The proposed completion date?
- c) The estimated construction cost, and to-date expenditure?
- d) The expected occupancy upon completion? and
- e) Provide a list of contractors and a description of their work and its scope?

**Question 12**

Madam Speaker, can the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works tell this Honourable House what his government's plans for the extension of the Terrence B. Lettsome International Airport runway are?

- x) **The Member for the Third District to ask the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development the following questions:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development please tell this Honourable House:

- a) Whether he has committed and conveyed to the Solid Waste Department as did the two Honourable Ministers immediately preceding him, that the site in Sea Cows Bay will no longer be used for the storage of derelict vehicles? and
- b) Does he have an immediate and long term plan for dealing with derelict vehicles in the territory?
  - i. If the answer is yes, can he share it with this Honourable House? and
  - ii. If the answer is no, why not?

**Question 2**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development please tell this Honourable House if the incinerator at Pockwood Pond is back in operation?

- a) If the answer is yes, can he say as of when? and
- b) If the answer is no, can he say why not, giving details as to what is required to get it back up and running, with timeline and costs?

**Question 3**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development please tell this Honourable House:

- a) How many nurses are employed within the BVIHSA? and
- b) Give a breakdown of their status - Belonger vs Non-belonger

**Question 4**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development please tell this Honourable House whether the BVIHSA has a program to fund the training of Virgin Islanders wishing to pursue the Nursing Profession?

- a) If the answer is yes, can he explain how it works? and
- b) If the answer is no, can he explain why not?

x) **The Member for the Third District to ask the Honourable Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports the following question:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports please tell this Honourable House whether her Ministry has a program to fund the training of Virgin Islanders wishing to pursue the Nursing Profession?

- a) If the answer is yes, can she explain how it works? and
- b) If the answer is no, can she explain why not?

xii) **The Member for the Sixth District to ask the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance the following questions:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance, please tell this Honourable House if there are any current discussions underway for any new hotel developments in the Territory and whether his government has been actively seeking investors, whether locally or abroad, to increase the number of hotel rooms available to visitors? Could he provide full and complete details of all discussions or expressions of interest, if they occurred, and state the progress made after those discussions?

**Question 2**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister for Finance, please tell this Honourable House of any plans his government has for the Prospect Reef Hotel and the timelines for the execution of these plans?

- a) Could the Honourable Premier advise if the government has received any expressions of interests from local or international investors to develop Prospect Reef? If so, please update this Honourable House of those expressions of Interests and how they were handled by his government? and

- b) Could the Premier advise if there are any salaries outstanding to any of the former workers of Prospect Reef and if so, when does the Government intend to address this?

**Question 3**

Madam Speaker, in February 2020, an announcement was made by this Government, headed at the time by former Honourable Premier Fahie, that a National Tourism Plan was to be developed to chart the way forward for the Tourism Industry. It has been over three years now and no plan has been produced. Could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please provide a full and complete update on this plan and explain why after three years and several months this task has not been completed?

**Question 4**

Madam Speaker, could the Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House what is the status of the office facilities for the staff at the BVI Tourist board?

**Question 5**

Madam Speaker could the Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House what the specific reasons were why the government after assuming office in 2019 did not accept the 400M USD loan guarantee that was offered by the UK government following the storms of 2017.

- (a) Could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance also state exactly what was the UK government's position when he sought to revive the loan guarantee offer recently?

**Question 6**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House how much money has been spent on road repairs and maintenance over the past 15 years?

**Question 7**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House if he has sought technical support from the UK for road improvements and repairs in the Territory? If he has, could he advise on their response to his request?

### **Question 8**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House how the government intends to adequately fund the much-needed road repairs and resurfacing throughout the Territory in light of his Government's refusal to accept the UK loan guarantee which was offered?

- (a) Could he state exactly when could the public expect to see the comprehensive resurfacing of primary and secondary roads in the Territory?

### **Question 9**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House how he intends to adequately fund the Ministry of Communication and Works and the Water and Sewerage department to enable them to provide a consistent supply of potable water to the Territory in light of his Government's refusal to accept the UK loan guarantee which was offered?

- a) Could he state whether he thinks that the funds currently allocated and given to the above government entities is enough to address the issues that are causing the daily water woes for residents of the Territory?

### **Question 10**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House what is his government's road map to decolonize the BVI as he has been espousing regionally and internationally?

- a) Could he advise whether he has sufficiently consulted with the people of the BVI to ascertain their wishes as it relates to decolonization and self-determination?
- b) Whether he is of the view that his government is demonstrating the level of responsible governance that will engender the confidence of the public to support his government's decolonization and self-determination efforts? and
- c) Whether his government thinks it would be best to properly address the domestic matters that are major points of consternation for the people such as roads, reliable water supply, schools infrastructure, unemployment, the slow down in the tourism sector, public assistance programs, local businesses support and development initiatives etc. as means to secure the support and confidence of the public for his government's efforts?



### **Question 11**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House how the Territory is expected to benefit from the government's 250K USD one-day non-stop concert? Could he state precisely how the following entities would benefit?

- a) The government's treasury
- b) Hotels and Inns
- c) Restaurants
- d) Other small businesses
- e) Taxi drivers
- f) The average citizen or resident of the BVI

### **Question 12**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister and Finance please tell this Honourable House if he as any aversion to reviving the National Business Bureau which provided much needed funding and business support to our local businesses? If he has no aversion to it, could he advise why the program was discontinued upon the change of Government in 2019 and why since becoming Premier and Minister of Finance he has not re-commenced the program or something similar to provide the much need support to the business community?

### **Question 13**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please give the full details of his government's rationale for accepting wholesale, the recommendation made by the Commission of Inquiry Report to remove the district allocation from the ambit of elected officials and place it with the Social Development Department?

- a) How does he now reconcile this recommendation and his government's decision to accept it wholesale with an elected official's inability currently to assist their constituents and do very little within their district? And
- b) Is he pleased now with the current level of assistance being received by residents when they apply for assistance through Social Development? And if he is not pleased, what does he intend to do immediately to ensure that our people could be better assisted?

### **Question 14**

Madam speaker, could the Premier and Minister for Finance please tell this Honourable House if his government would be willing to lead the way in the Territory by making it a policy to employ at least one differently abled citizen, who is able to work, in each department of the government? If so, could he state when we could see greater inclusion of our differently abled population in the public service through the introduction of such a policy?

- xiii) **The Member for the Sixth District to ask the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works the following questions:**

### **Question 1**

Could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works please provide this Honourable House with a full and complete update on the status of the situation with regards to the former Palm Grove Shopping Centre?

- a) Could the Minister advise if any of the former occupants of the centre held freehold to that property and the current status of those owners vis-à-vis their ownership rights in that property?
- b) Could the Minister advise if there are persons with active leasehold interest in the property and their current status vis-à-vis their rights in that property?
- c) Could the Minister advise if he or any other government Minister to the best of his knowledge ever met the former occupants of the property to advise them of the plans with the property and how their respective rights would be handled and provide the details of this meeting if held?

### **Question 2**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister for Communication and Works please tell this Honourable House whether at any time during discussions with American Airlines, the issue of a possible revenue guarantee arrangement was mentioned by either party and whether he could say conclusively that the BVI government would not be entertaining a revenue guarantee arrangement if it is requested?

- xiv) **The Member for the Sixth District to ask the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development the following questions:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development please tell this Honourable House what are the government's short term, medium term and long- term plans to address the issue of waste disposal in the Territory?

- a) Could the Minister advise if his ministry is specifically looking at a different collection mechanism in the various communities to rid the Territory of the very unsightly large bins that are usually on the streets?

**Question 2**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development please tell this Honourable House what are the short term, medium term and long-term plans to address the issue of derelict vehicles in the Territory?

**Question 3**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development please tell this Honourable House how many ambulances there are presently at the Dr. D. Orlando Smith hospital in Tortola and the Nurse Iris O'Neal Clinic in Virgin Gorda and how many are in working condition presently at each location?

- xv) **The Member for the Sixth District to ask the Honourable Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports the following questions:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Education please advise this Honourable House of the reasons why scholarships to the Vanguard School in Florida for our differently abled students were discontinued?

- a) Could the Honourable Minister advise if she has ever spoken to any of the parents of children that attended this school to solicit their feedback about the progress of their children since they were enrolled in the institution and please advise this Honourable House of the feedback received? and
- b) Could the Honourable Minister please advise this House if there are any plans currently in place at the Ministry of education that could provide the same level of support to our differently abled students as the Vanguard School in Florida and if so, please provide a full and complete report of those plans?

### **Question 2**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Education please tell this Honourable House if there are any plans to rebuild the Eslyn Henley Richez Learning Centre and if so, exactly when would construction commence?

### **Question 3**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Education please tell this Honourable House if her Ministry has considered seeking special allowance for retired teachers, who are still willing and able to teach, to re-enter the teaching service in light of her recent statement on the current teachers shortage and the Ministry's position on seeking to employ high school graduates as teachers? If so, could she state what feedback she received from those retired teachers?

### **Question 4**

Madam Speaker could the Honourable Minister for Education please tell this Honourable House how much has been spent on school maintenance for the academic year 2022-2023 thus far and provide a breakdown of that expenditure by schools.

### **Question 5**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Education please tell this Honourable House how the BVI ranked in CSEC in the OECS from 2016 to present? Could the Minister also state the average number of students who sat CSEC for the same period?

### **Question 6**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Education please tell this Honourable House if the Government has any plans to rebuild the community centre and gym in the Belle Vue Community that was destroyed by the hurricanes of 2017 and if so, when could the residents expect to see this commence?

- xvi) **The Member for the Eighth District to ask the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance the following questions:**

### **Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House what was the number balance of all bank accounts and funds owned by the Government of the Virgin Islands as of the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023?

**Question 2**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House, what was the number balance of all bank accounts and funds owned by the Government of the Virgin Islands as of the 26th of June 2023?

**Question 3**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please give this Honourable House, the details and cumulative amount of all monies owed to vendors, contractors and individuals from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 through June 26<sup>th</sup> 2023?

**Question 4**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House the following:

- a) With the most recent announcement regarding increment payment to our hard working public servants how many persons are eligible for such payments?
- b) How many of those eligible have actually been paid as of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023? and
- c) When is the remainder expected to receive their past due increments?

**Question 5**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House:

- a) What is the quantity of unencumbered crown land under the ownership of the Government of the Virgin Islands in District 7 and 8? and
- b) Please list the geographic location for each property and individual and combined acreage per district?

**Question 6**

Madam Speaker, could the Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House:

- a) Has the ministry identified any of these properties for distribution to first time home owners or housing scheme? If yes, please provide details to this Honourable House? and
- b) If the answer is no, please advise why not?

### **Question 7**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable the following:

- a) With the increase of tourist and visitors to the beaches on the eastern end of the island, why is the existing restroom at the Josiah's Bay Beach still not operational despite numerous requests by the District Representative?
- b) Please advise what will it cost to make this facility operational? and
- c) Please provide a timeline for making this facility operational?

### **Question 8**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable house if with the rise in serious and violent crimes in the Virgin Islands, and many persons in the Virgin Islands feeling unsafe, is he going to engage all the Members of the House of Assembly in a committee of the whole to discuss a way forward on the issue of crime?

### **Question 9**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable house and the people of the Virgin Islands, if with the surge of violent and major crimes in the Virgin Islands, has a crime plan been developed and approved by National Security Council (NSC) and funding allocated by cabinet to fund the same? If the answer is no, why not?

- xvii) **The Member for the Eighth District to ask the Honourable Deputy Premier and Minister of Financial Services, Trade and Labour the following questions:**

### **Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Deputy Premier and Minister for Financial Services, Trade and Labour please tell this Honourable House if she intends to establish a committee of the whole house for Financial Services to facilitate an ongoing dialogue concerning this very critical industry to the territories economy?

### **Question 2**

Madam Speaker, could the Deputy Premier and Minister for Financial Services, Trade and Labour please tell this Honourable House the following:

- a) The number of applications for trade license submitted to the department for consideration from January 1, 2020 through 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023?
- b) How many of those applications were approved and how many were denied and the reasons?
- c) How long it took from the time of submission of each application to approval or denial? and
- d) How many of those applications are still pending approval and denial and the associated timeline?

**Question 3**

Madam Speaker, could the Deputy Premier and Minister for Financial Services, Trade and Labour please tell this Honourable House the following:

- a) If the Department of Trade and Consumer Affairs is requiring persons to have degrees in the areas in which they are intending to establish a business? For example a degree in IT to establish an ecommerce or social media business? and
- b) Where in statute or policy approved by cabinet or the House of Assembly that gives the department the authority to do this?

xviii) **The Member for the Eighth District to ask the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works the following questions:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister for Communications and Works please tell this Honourable House what is his Ministry's plan to fix the deplorable road conditions at the intersection leading to little dix hill and Josiah's Bay inclusive of timeline?

**Question 2**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister for Communications and Works please tell this Honourable House what is his Ministry's plan to fix the deplorable road conditions from Hope Hill to Parham Town and Greenland main road leading to Shepard Hill inclusive of timeline?

**Question 3**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister for Communications and Works please tell this Honourable House what is his Ministry's plan to fix the exposed water hydrant at the top of Spring Ghut and Nottingham Estate which represents a serious hazard to the residents in these areas and especially considering that this road from time to time is used as an alternate road from the main road, inclusive of timeline?

**Question 4**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister for Communications and Works Please tell this Honourable House when does his Ministry intends to final complete the bridge at Parhamtown, as inquired multiple times by the district representative, where the loose grills a constantly damaging the cars of residents?

**Question 5**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister for Communications and Works please update this Honourable House, on the Ministry's plan to fix the undermined road at the entrance of Shepard Hill, which has been asked in this house multiple times by the district representative and is at a critical junction and poses a danger to the residents of this area, inclusive of timeline?

**Question 6**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister for Communications and Works please update this Honourable House, on the Ministry's plan to fix the undermined road on the top of Shepard Hill, which is also past a critical junction and poses a danger to the residents of this area, inclusive of timeline?

**Question 7**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister for Communications and Works please advise this Honourable house if his Ministry intends to clean the Ghuts, water ways and drains in District 8 and around the territory ahead of the official start of the Hurricane season?

- a) If the answer is yes, please advise when this will start and if the district representative will alerted once it's about to start? and
- b) If the answer is no, place explain why not?



### **Question 8**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister for Communications and Works please tell this Honourable House:

- a) If the residents of Greenland from Courtney Gordons Apartments leading to the top of the top hill to John Blacks residence is currently not getting a consistent flow of public water? and
- b) If the answer is no, please advise what are the plans to address this issue and when will the residents of this area get consistent access to the public water supply?

### **Question 9**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister of Works, Transportation and Utilities please advise this Honourable house on the status of the installation of the water infrastructure in the Sabbath Hill area, from Hope Hill Church onwards to give access to the public water system for residents in Sabbath Hill?

### **Question 10**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister of Works, Transportation and Utilities please advise this Honourable house on the status of the installation of the water infrastructure in the Hawks Nest area, from the Prison onwards to Thomas Lands to give access to the public water system for residents in that community?

### **Question 11**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister of Works, Transportation and Utilities please advise this Honourable house why the people of Greenland have been unable to receive a consistent flow of water for the past several years? And what is being done to address this situation?

### **Question 12**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister of Works and Transportation please give this Honourable House the following:

- a) A detail breakdown of repayments made to the central Government towards the 8 million that was borrowed to the Pier Park from the East End/Long Look Sewage project inclusive of timeline? and
- b) How much of that 8 million is left to be repaid and what is the timeline for the repayment of the balance?

### **Question 13**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister of Works and Transportation please tell this Honourable House the current financial position of the BVI Port Authority as of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 regarding the following;

- a) The current bank balance in all bank accounts owned by the authority?
- b) All BVIPA payable to vendors and inclusive to monies owed to central Government? and
- c) A detail account of the BVIPA's recurrent expenditure at all its locations, inclusive of salaries, rent and other expenses and the beneficiaries?

### **Question 14**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister of Works and Transportation please tell this Honourable House the following:

- a) All the works that have been executed on the District 8 section of the sewage project since 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019 through 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and give a detail account of those works? and
- b) How much money was actually spent in District 8 on the sewage project since 26<sup>th</sup> February through 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and give detail account of the spending?

xix) **The Member for the Eighth District to ask the Honourable Minister for Education, Youth Affairs and Sports the following questions:**

### **Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister of the Education, Youth Affairs and Sports please tell this Honourable House the following:

- a) How much money was budgeted for the Ministry's Education Grant program and how much of that money remains? and
- b) Give a detailed account of how the money was granted, areas of discipline etc. excluding the recipients? and
- c) How many applications were received and the areas of request and how many are still pending?

## **Question 2**

Madam Speaker, could the Minister of the Education, Youth Affairs and Sports please tell this Honourable House the following:

- a) How much money was budgeted for 2023 to address the hazardous conditions at the East End park as was raised by the district representative in the 2022 standing finance exercise?
  - b) What is being done by the Ministry to address the dangerous conditions at this facility, inclusive of timelines? and
  - c) What is being done to secure the facility from unauthorized use?
- xx) **The Member for the Second District to ask the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance the following questions:**

## **Question 1**

Madam Speaker, it has been recorded and echoed throughout the Virgin Islands and by extension the world how important Tourism is as the second pillar of the Economy to the Territory of the Virgin Islands by the current Minister of Tourism and his government. Could the Honourable Premier & Minister of Finance, & Tourism please tell this Honourable House the following:

1. The total dollar amount and percentage of revenue received for 2021 and 2022 from tourism in:
  - a) In Tortola
  - b) In Anegada
  - c) In Jost Van Dyke, and
  - d) In Virgin Gorda

## **Question 2**

Madam Speaker could the Premier and Minister of Finance & Tourism please tell this Honourable House from the two budgets his administration has been responsible for, what is the percentage and or total amount that was injected into the development of the tourism product in each of the four islands of this Territory listed above in question one?

## **Question 3**

Madam Speaker, could the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House what are his plans to improve the road infrastructure and overall

beatification of the Tourism Hub of the BVI which happens to be in the Second Electoral district specifically leading to and from Cane Garden Bay and Brewers Bay and Jost Van Dyke?

**Question 4**

Madam Speaker, as the Minister with the responsibility for Customs and Immigration would the Hon. Premier and Minister of Finance please tell this Honourable House when he intends to increase the number of officers from both agencies mentioned above on the island?

- a) What is the anticipated date for more officers to be deployed on JVD?
- b) When will they utilize the Albert Chinnery Administration Building as a second clearing point to alleviate the bottlenecks and complaints that we have been receiving which causes guests to have to wait over 2-3hours of their vacation to be cleared to enjoy paradise?

**Question 5**

Madam Speaker, would the Premier and Minister of Finance explain to this Honourable House his government's plan for a marine safety vessel(s) to respond to medical and fire emergencies throughout the Territory?

**Question 6**

Madam Speaker, would the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance state for this Honourable House the complete list of entities that fall under his portfolio broken down by category;

- a) Departments?
- b) Units?
- c) Statutory Bodies?
- d) Enacted Bodies? and
- e) Task Force?

- xxi) **The Member for the Second District to ask the Honourable Deputy Premier and Minister for Financial Services Labour and Trade the following question:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, the chronic issue of unemployment particularly among young males and females in the Territory was discussed every day for two months during the 2023 election campaign season, could the Honourable Deputy Premier and Minister for Financial Services, Labour and Trade tell this Honourable House, what specific plans she will implement before the end of this year as she begins to address this most concerning national issue?

**Question 2**

Madam Speaker, Mister Speaker, could the Honourable Deputy Premier and Minister for Financial Services Labour and Trade tell this Honourable House what is the unemployment rate of the workforce in the Territory?

- xxii) **The Member for the Second District to ask the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works the following question:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, could the Honourable Minister for Communication and Works provide this Honourable House with an update on the road networks in the District that I have been asking about since April of 2019, namely;

- a) Rudy's to Foxy's in Jost Van Dyke?
- b) Windy Hill Resurfacing and overlay?
- c) Mayaba?
- d) Soldiers Hill to Brewer's Bay?
- e) Ants Hill?
- f) Mt. Healthy?
- g) Cane Garden Bay?
- h) Spooners road infrastructure? and

- i) Luck Hill?

**Question 2**

Madam Speaker, the issues of portable water continue to pose problems for the people of the Second District and the wider Virgin Islands. Could the Honourable Minister for Communications and Works please give this Honourable House a copy of the strategic plan to remedy the frequency of water distribution due to broken pipes and burnt pumps? And tell this Honourable House when he intends to provide water on a regular basis for the people in:

- a) Challwell?
- b) Great Mountain?
- c) Brewer's Bay?
- d) Mt. Heathy?
- e) Meyers?
- f) Luck Hill?
- g) New Bush?
- h) Mayaba? and
- i) Cane Garden Bay?

**Question 3**

Madam Speaker, part one of the question above speaks about the broken pipes, and with broken pipes we have roads that have been dug up and left to be sink holes, could the Honourable Minister for Communication and Works please tell this Honourable House, when the roads that have been dug up and left in the second district namely, Great Mountain to Enis Adams Primary, Brewer's Bay, Jost Van Dyke and Cane Garden Bay will be repaired to avoid one way traffic and unsafe roads for residents and the commuting public?

**Question 4**

Madam Speaker, would the Honourable Minister for Communication & Works please give this Honourable House the definitive start date for roadside sewerage network for Cane Garden Bay to which the contract has been awarded since 2020?

- a) How much money was budgeted for 2023? and
- b) How much money currently there as at May 31, 2023?

xxiii) **The Member for the Second District to ask the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development the following question:**

**Question 1**

Madam Speaker, would the Honourable Minister for Health & Social Development please tell this Honourable House the Status of the Repairs and works to be completed in order have the Cane Garden Bay Community Center opened, operational and functioning for the residents of the community inclusive of the clinical facility?

- a) Status of Tender?
- b) Expected Start Date?
- c) Expected Completion Date? and
- d) Provide the proposed maintenance plan?

**Question 2**

Madam Speaker, would the Honourable Minister for Health & Social Development please tell this Honourable House the Status of the Repairs and works to be completed in order have the Brewer's Bay Community Center opened, operational and functioning for the residents of the community inclusive of the clinical facility?

- a) Status of Tender?
- b) Expected Start Date?
- c) Expected Completion Date?
- d) Provide the proposed maintenance plan?
- e) The Architectural plans and cost for each facility?
- f) Is the new design for Brewers Bay intended to be multifunctional?
- g) Estimated Cost for each facility?
- h) Time period in which works on each facility would be completed? and

- j) Proposed maintenance plan for each facility?

**Question 3**

There is a continuous increase in the amount of waste/garbage that is produced and dumped in and around the bins in the territory especially in my district which is deemed as the Tourism Hub. Madam Speaker would the Honourable Minister for Health and Social Development please tell this Honourable House what measures he plans to put in place address this issue? And:

- a) When will these plans be shared with people?
- b) What will the proposed plan cost? and
- c) How soon can we expect to have the plan executed?

**9) Public Business**

**1) Government Business**

**Introduction and First Reading**

- i) The Premier and Minister of Finance to move a motion for the Introduction and First Reading of the Bill entitled, “**Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Act 2023**”.
- ii) The Premier and Minister of Finance to move a motion for the Introduction and First Reading of the Bill entitled, “**Virgin Islands Shipping and Maritime Authority Act, 2023**”.

**2) Private Members Business**

**10) Other Business**

**11) Adjournment**