



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Seventeenth day of July, 2020

1. The House was scheduled to meet at 7.30 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

2. Hon. Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.

3. MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members were present except for the Hon. Osea Naiqamu, Hon. Alipate Nagata and Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Inia Seruiratu, moved that the Minutes of the sitting of Parliament held on Friday, 29 May 2020 as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Speaker warmly welcomed all Honourable Members to the special sitting of Parliament for the delivery of the 2020–2021 National Budget Address by the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.

Hon. Speaker also welcomed all those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet from the comfort of their homes, including the media personnel seated in the Committee room.

He advised that the Budget Debates were significant events in the Parliament calendar and is essential and vital for Parliament to fulfil its constitutional obligation.

6. FIRST READING OF THE 2020–2021 APPROPRIATION BILL 2020 (BILL NO. 13 OF 2020)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved that pursuant to Standing Orders 99 and 84(1), the 2020–2021 Appropriation Bill 2020 (Bill No. 13 of 2020) be read a first time. The motion was subsequently seconded.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that as per Parliamentary convention and tradition, the Business Committee had exercised its powers pursuant to Standing Order 68(1) to exempt the Hon. Attorney-General and Minister for Economy from the ordinary speaking time limitations.

The Hon. Speaker then called on the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum to deliver the National Budget Address.

A Bill for an Act to appropriate a sum of three billion, two hundred and eleven million, nineteen thousand, one hundred and twenty one dollars for the ordinary services of Government for the year ending 31 July 2021 (Bill No. 13 of 2020).

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 84(1), the 2020–2021 Appropriation Bill 2020 has been read for the first time and in accordance with Standing Order 99(3), the Bill was listed on the Order Paper for second reading on a future sitting day.

7. CONSEQUENTIAL BILLS

Pursuant to Standing Order 51, the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved that the following consequential Bills for the 2020–2021 National Budget be considered by Parliament without delay –

1. Tax Administration (Budget Amendment) Bill 2020;
2. Income Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2020;
3. Value Added Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2020;
4. Stamp Duties (Repeal) Bill 2020;
5. Service Turnover Tax (Repeal) Bill 2020;
6. Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (Budget Amendment) Bill 2020;
7. Airport Departure Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2020;
8. Customs (Budget Amendment) Bill 2020;
9. Customs Tariff (Budget Amendment) Bill 2020;
10. Excise (Budget Amendment) Bill 2020;
11. Reserve Bank of Fiji (Budget Amendment) Bill 2020;
12. Accident Compensation (Budget Amendment) Bill 2020; and
13. Local Government (Budget Amendment) Bill 2020.

Pursuant to the Standing Orders, that the consequential Bills –

- (a) must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (b) must not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committees of Parliament;
- (c) must be debated and voted upon by Parliament immediately after the vote on the 2020–2021 Appropriation Bill 2020; and
- (d) that the time for the debate be limited to ensure that these Consequential Bills tabled today are debated and voted upon in the sitting of Parliament beginning on Monday, 27 July 2020.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Inia Seruiratu moved that Parliament adjourns until Monday, 27 July 2020 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker reiterated the advisory from the Ministry of Health with respect to the life-saving measures and protocols that are in place nationwide and he urged all Honourable Members and those watching the live proceedings to closely adhere to the measures and protocols.

Hon. Speaker thanked the Hon. Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications for delivering the 2020–2021 National Budget Address and also thanked all the Honourable Members and all those watching the live proceedings.

The Hon. Speaker adjourned Parliament until Monday, 27 July 2020 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 10.15 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

17th July, 2020.