



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Second Day of September, 2020

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

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

3. MEMBERS PRESENT

All Honourable Members were present except for the Hon. Joseph Nand.

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 Tuesday, 1 September 2020 as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

The Hon. Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting and all those watching the live broadcast and the live streaming of the proceedings.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that there were no papers for presentation.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay tabled the Committee's Report on the annual review of the Fiji Airports for the year ended 31 December 2017.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report is initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(b) Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Alvick Maharaj tabled the Committee's Report on the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission Annual Report 2017.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report is initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(c) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Vijay Nath tabled the Committee's consolidated review report of the Sugar Industry Tribunal 2011 – 2015 Annual Reports.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report is initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(d) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay tabled the Committee's Report on the annual review of the Fiji Museum for the period 2016-2017, January-July 2016, and 2015.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report is initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(e) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Alvick Maharaj tabled the Committee's review report on the Performance Audit Report of the Office of the Auditor-General on the –

- (i) Management of the Rural Electrification Programme; and
- (ii) The Progress of Implementation of Policies and Strategies in the Fiji Forest Policy Statement 2007.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report is initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(f) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay tabled the Committee's Report on the Review of the Fiji National Sports Commission August 2017 – July 2018 Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report is initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(g) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal tabled the Committee's Report on the Petition – 'Government to Provide Reliable, Safe and Affordable Shipping Services for the Lau Group'.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report is initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (i) Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau and the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad responded respectively.
- (ii) Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts the Hon. Rosy Akbar delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Mikaele Leawere and the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad responded respectively.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that there were no Bills for consideration.

10. REFERRAL OF TREATIES PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 130

- (a) The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications moved that the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence review the Agreement between the Republic of Fiji and Solomon Islands concerning their Maritime Boundary.

Motion seconded.

The Hon. Speaker confirmed that he was provided with copies of the treaty and written analysis as required by Standing Order 130(2). Pursuant to Standing Order 130(3), the treaty was referred, without debate, to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence. The Committee may table a report to Parliament no later than 30 days.

- (b) The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications moved that the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence review the Amendments to the Framework Agreement of the Paris Declaration on the International Solar Alliance of 30th November 2015.

Motion seconded.

The Hon. Speaker confirmed that he was provided with copies of the treaty and written analysis as required by Standing Order 130(2). Pursuant to Standing Order 130(3), the tabled treaty was referred, without debate, to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence. The Committee may table a report to Parliament no later than 30 days.

- (c) The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications moved that the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence review the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Motion seconded.

The Hon. Speaker confirmed that he was provided with copies of the treaty and written analysis as required by Standing Order 130(2). Pursuant to Standing Order 130(3), the tabled treaty was referred, without debate, to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence. The Committee may table a report to Parliament no later than 30 days.

11. MOTIONS FOR THE PURPOSES OF SECTION 51 OF THE FIJIAN CONSTITUTION AND STANDING ORDER 130

- (a) The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications moved that Parliament approves that Fiji accede to the –
- (i) Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks 1981 (Madrid Agreement);
 - (ii) Protocol Relating to the Madrid Agreement (Madrid Protocol), *(together known as the Madrid System)*; and
 - (iii) Paris Convention for the Protection of the Industrial Property.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications moved that Parliament approves that Fiji accedes to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

12. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay moved that Parliament debates the Review of Fiji National Provident Fund's 2018 Annual Report which was tabled on 13 May 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

13. SUSPENSION MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Inia Seruiratu moved under Standing Order 6 that so much of Standing Order 23(1) be suspended to allow the House to sit beyond 4.30 p.m. to complete the remaining items listed on the Order Paper.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

14. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Alvick Maharaj moved that Parliament debates the Consolidated Review Report on the Office of the Prime Minister Annual Report 2013 and 2014 which was tabled on 13 May 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

15. MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE HON. PROF. BIMAN PRASAD

The Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved that Parliament agrees to appoint a special committee under Standing Order 129 to inquire into and recommend an extensive rehabilitation package for the vibrancy and vitality of the Dairy Industry and dairy farmers.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Motion defeated.

QUESTIONS

- 116/2020 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister clarify the reasons why the Lautoka Flea Market is not at the much more conveniently located Shirley Park.
- 117/2020 Hon. Alexander O'Connor asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – The Tourism Sector, Fiji's largest revenue earner, has been hit the hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. With the uncertainty of International Travel, it will take a longer period to recover, can the Minister explain what has been the uptake on the 'Love our Locals' campaign to date.
- 118/2020 Hon. Simione Rasova asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the Dome Mining project in Naqara, Nabouwalu, Ono, Kadavu.
- 119/2020 Hon. Jale Sigarara asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament if there will be any recruitment for classroom teachers for the year 2021.
- 120/2020 Hon. Mitieli Bulanauca asked the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament as to the progress of the joint venture scheme between the landowners at Nasorowaqa in Bua and the Fiji Sugar Corporation.
- 121/2020 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament if keyhole surgery is available in Fiji's public hospitals and how can our people access this service.
- 122/2020 Hon. Lynda Tabuya asked the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament what is the current method of rubbish collection from the over 200 informal settlements around Fiji.
- 123/2020 Hon. Sanjay Kirpal asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister provide an update on the number of downloads of the careFiji app and the importance of this app.

Written Questions

- 124/2020 Hon. Mosese Bulitavu asked the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the number of community projects funded by the *Small Grant Project allocation* under Programme 1 of the Office of the Prime Minister and the cost of each project from 2018 to date.
- 125/2020 Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the following –
- (a) details of all major road rehabilitation works being planned for the Central Division for the 2020-2021 fiscal year; and
 - (b) details of any major road rehabilitation works along the Queens Road national highway in the Central Division being planned for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
- 126/2020 Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister provide to Parliament the list of ownership of all Primary and Secondary Schools, whether owned by Government, faith-based bodies or communities.

Responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were given by the respective Ministers. Responses to the Written Questions would be tabled at a later sitting date by the respective Ministers, as permitted under Standing Order 45(3).

16. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 3 September 2020 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 7.49 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

2nd September, 2020.