



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Ninth Day of February, 2021

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. Osea Naiqamu, Hon. Alvick Maharaj and Hon. Inosi Kuridrani.

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 Monday, 8 February 2021 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 welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting and all those watching the live broadcast and the live streaming of the proceedings.

The Hon. Speaker delivered his ruling on an urgent oral question raised by the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The following reports were tabled in Parliament and referred by the Hon. Speaker to the relevant Standing Committees for their deliberation –

(a) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

(i) Ministry of Fisheries – Annual Report 2017-2018.

(b) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

(i) Film Fiji – Report for the Period From 1 January to 31 July 2016; and
(ii) Film Fiji – Annual Report for the Period From 1 August to 31 July 2017.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Rohit Sharma tabled the Committee's review report on the Cybercrime Bill 2020.

The Hon. Speaker informed that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on 26 May 2020, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament in the course of the sitting week but that one hour be given to debate the Bill.

(b) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Joseph Nand tabled the Committee's review report on the 2017 Audit Report for the Infrastructure Sector.

The Deputy 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.

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

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Rohit Sharma tabled the Committee's review report on the National Payment System Bill 2020.

The Hon. Speaker informed that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on 11 December 2020, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament in the course of the sitting week but that one hour be given to debate the Bill.

8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Niko Nawaikula 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. 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 the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved that Parliament approves the signing of the Agreement between the Republic of Fiji and the Solomon Islands concerning their Maritime Boundary.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved that Parliament approve that Fiji accept the Amendments to the Framework Agreement of the Paris Declaration on the International Solar Alliance of 30th November 2015.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved that Parliament approve that Fiji ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. 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 Sports Commission January–July 2016 and August 2016–2017 Annual Report which was tabled on 13 May 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

12. 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.

13. 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 Public Trustee Corporation Limited 2017 Annual Report which was tabled on 13 May 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

14. QUESTIONS

- 10/2021 Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister provide an update to Parliament on the status of Government finance (Revenue) to date.
- 11/2021 Hon. Selai Adimaitoga asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of restoring road accessibility that was affected during Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Tropical Cyclone Ana.
- 12/2021 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the Agriculture Census undertaken in 2020.
- 13/2021 Hon. Sanjay Kirpal asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the impact of Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Tropical Cyclone Ana on the groundwater boreholes in Bua and Macuata.
- 14/2021 Hon. Salote Radrodro asked the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament what process was followed in the decision to dismantle informal markets before and after Tropical Cyclone Yasa.
- 15/2021 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister inform Parliament if there were any new schools established for this year and if these schools have been affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Tropical Cyclone Ana.
- 16/2021 Hon. Anare Jale asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether there is a generic guideline or requirement on Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) for all workplaces.
- 17/2021 Hon. Alipate Nagata asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister explain the mechanisms in place to deal with complaints and issues raised by those communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Tropical Cyclone Ana regarding the distribution of food and non-food items.

Written Questions

- 18/2021 Hon. Mitieli Bulanauca to ask the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the list of schools damaged by Tropical Cyclone Yasa and the status of relief efforts.
- 19/2021 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament how many personnel beyond the retirement age prescribed by the laws pertaining to the Republic of Fiji Military Forces are being actively employed.

The Responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were given by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Rosy Akbar tabled her written response to Written Question 18/2021. The Hon. Speaker allowed the Hon. Jese Saukuru to ask Oral Question 12/2021 and the Hon. Simione Rasova to ask Written Question 18/2021.

Response to Written Question 19/2021 would be tabled at a later sitting date by the respective Minister as permitted under Standing Order 45(3).

15. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Wednesday, 10 February 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.11 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

9th February, 2021.