



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Tenth 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. 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 Tuesday, 9 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.

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 Public Accounts
 - (i) Office of the Auditor-General – SAI Performance Measurement Framework; and
 - (ii) First Quarter Appropriation Statement on Actual Expenditure from 1st August 2020 to 31st October 2020.
- (b) Standing Committee on Social Affairs
 - (i) Fiji Higher Education Commission August 2016 to July 2017 Annual Report.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) 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 on the Economic Services 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.

(b) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal tabled the Committee's review report on the Water Authority of Fiji 2016 Annual Report.

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

Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu 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. MOTION BY THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE 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 moved that Parliament debates the Review of the Fijian Electoral Commission Annual Report 2014 which was tabled on 14 May 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Vijay Nath moved that Parliament debates the Review of Fiji Meat Industry Board 2014 Annual Report which was tabled on 14 May 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

12. QUESTIONS

20/2021 Hon. Pio Tikoduadua asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament what action will be taken against residents building chicken coops next to dwelling homes for chicks provided by the Ministry of Agriculture in the rural non-municipal town like Korovou, which is in contravention of rural local authority or health by-laws.

21/2021 Hon. Alexander O'Connor asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Given that price gouging is a market occurrence during times of disasters and crises, can the Minister inform Parliament on the prevalence of the issue of price gouging pre and post Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Tropical Cyclone Ana and the steps that were undertaken to minimise it.

22/2021 Hon. Mikaele Leawere asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament of Government's plans with respect to the 60,000

Fiji National Provident Fund members with zero balance in their accounts.

- 23/2021 Hon. George Vegnathan asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the status of reinstating water supply to affected areas during the course of Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Tropical Cyclone Ana.
- 24/2021 Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister inform Parliament what plans are in place for online learning platforms and other emergency teaching procedures for students in the event of natural disasters or another COVID-19 lockdown.
- 25/2021 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister inform Parliament, what counselling support will be provided to the teachers and students affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasa and Tropical Cyclone Ana.
- 26/2021 Hon. Jese Saukuru asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the role of NDMO in raising awareness and educating our people on how to prepare for natural disasters.
- 27/2021 Hon. Sanjay Kirpal asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the response by the Fiji Police Force during Tropical Cyclone Yasa in ensuring that the mandate of national security and the rule of Law is upheld.

Written Question

- 28/2021 Hon. Ratu Tevita Navurelevu asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the list of schools damaged by Tropical Cyclone Harold, status of rehabilitation and the associated costs.

The Responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were given by the respective Ministers. The response to Written Question 28/2021 would be tabled at a later sitting date by the respective Minister as permitted under Standing Order 45(3).

13. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 11 February 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.47 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

10th February, 2021.