



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Twenty-second Day of March,  
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. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Hon. Osea Naiqamu and Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu.

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, 12 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.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights would table its report on the following election-related Bills at a later sitting date –

1. Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2020;

2. Electoral (Registration of Voters) (Amendment) Bill 2020; and
3. Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) (Amendment) Bill 2020.

## 6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The Acting Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Faiyaz Koya tabled the Mid-Year Fiscal Statement – Actual Expenditure from 1st August 2020 to 31st January 2021. The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the electronic copy of the report would be made available to all Members and uploaded simultaneously on the Parliament website.

The Hon. Speaker further informed that there was a slight change of procedure to what was prescribed under Standing Order 38, and that was that the period statement would be circulated for the information of Honourable Members only. He also stated that all the period statements that were tabled over the years and which were subsequently referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts were now retracted from the Standing Committee and that the Standing Committee would not be required to take further action on those statements.

## 7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no Committee reports for tabling.

## 8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports the Hon. Parveen Bala delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Mikaele Leawere and the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad responded respectively.
- (b) The Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Premila Kumar delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Lynda Tabuya and the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad responded respectively.
- (c) The Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment the Hon. Dr Mahendra Reddy delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Salote Radrodro and the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua responded respectively.

## 9. REGISTRATION FOR COVID-19 VACCINATION

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the Ministry of Health and Medical Services officials would be in Parliament from Tuesday, 23 March 2021 to assist Honourable Members who preferred to undertake face-to-face registrations for the COVID-19 vaccine. The Hon. Speaker encouraged all Honourable Members to register accordingly.

10. 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 the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation 2016/2017 Annual Report; Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation 1 January to 31 July 2016 Annual Report; Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation 2015 Annual Report; Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation 2014 Annual Report which was tabled on 13 May 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. 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.

12. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Alvick Maharaj moved that Parliament debates the Examination of Audit Report on State-Owned Entities and Statutory Authorities for 2015 which was tabled on 14 May 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

### 13. QUESTIONS

- 48/2021 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament when a new boiler will be installed at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital.
- 49/2021 Hon. Alexander O'Connor asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Given that the prolonged border closure and pandemic continue to have a dire impact on the Fijian tourism industry, can the Minister update Parliament on how the Ministry is supporting recovery efforts for the industry.
- 50/2021 Hon. Jese Saukuru asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the effectiveness of our tsunami warning system.
- 51/2021 Hon. Dr Salik Govind asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry's plans to minimise flooding in and around Ba town.
- 52/2021 Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the initiatives to make land available for agricultural development.
- 53/2021 Hon. Rohit Sharma asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on how the \$5.5m aid from Japan will contribute to the fight against crime, particularly in maritime zones.
- 54/2021 Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the survey conducted by Save the Children Fiji and the Ministry on school dropouts that was announced in October 2020.
- 55/2021 Hon. Veena Bhatnagar asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Kidney Dialysis Facility in Nadera.

The Responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were given by the respective Ministers.

### 14. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Tuesday, 23 March 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 7.23 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2021.