



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Twenty-fifth 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 Wednesday, 24 March 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 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) 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 on the Administrative and Management of the Bus Fare Assistance through E-Ticketing for the School Children, Disabled and the Elderly.

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.

(b) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal tabled the Review of the Consolidated Annual Reports for the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources 2011, 2012 and 2013.

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.

(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 on the Fiji Sugar Corporation Annual Reports from 2007 to 2019.

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.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu and the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad responded respectively.

8. 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 Review of the 2014 General Election Joint Report by the Fijian Electoral Commission and the Supervisor of Elections which was tabled on 16 May 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

9. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal moved that Parliament debates the Report of the Ministry of Fisheries 2016-2017 Annual Report which was tabled on 16 May 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

10. 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.

11. QUESTIONS

73/2021 Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad asked the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the actions taken in response to the grievances raised by the Labasa municipal market vendors in a petition to the Prime Minister on 6 January 2021.

- 74/2021 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Given that the building and construction sector is very important for the growth of an economy, can the Minister explain how the Ministry is ensuring that building and construction materials imported or manufactured in Fiji are compliant to quality and safety standards.
- 75/2021 Hon. Niko Nawaikula asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on plans to vaccinate the remaining population who are not covered by the first COVAX donation of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- 76/2021 Hon. Veena Bhatnagar asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry’s plans to mitigate the impact of the frequent flooding of smaller rivers and creeks.
- 77/2021 Hon. Simione Rasova asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the COVID-19 biosecurity measures at our ports of entry.
- 78/2021 Hon. George Vegnathan asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the plans for the reticulation water system in the Rewa delta.
- 79/2021 Hon. Alipate Nagata asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the ‘Cash for Cultivation’ programme announced recently.

### **Written Question**

- 80/2021 Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau asked the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the following –
- (a) the current number of individuals on work permits;
  - (b) the industries in which these permits are being issued; and
  - (c) the countries from which these work permit holders are citizens.

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

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 26 March 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 5.10 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

25<sup>th</sup> March, 2021