



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Twentieth Day of September, 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.

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, 20 August 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 of Parliament and all those watching the live broadcast and the live-streaming of the proceedings.

Hon. Speaker advised that responses to the following written questions had been received and uploaded on the Parliament website –

- (a) Written Question 72/2021 by Hon. Mikaele Leawere from the Hon. Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports;

- (b) Written Questions 137/2021, 153/2021, 172/2021 and 190/2021 by Hon. Jese Saukuru and Hon. Inosi Kuridrani. The responses were from the Hon. Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment; and
- (c) Written Questions 116/2021 by Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua and 162/2021 by Hon. Salote Radrodro. The responses were from the Hon. Minister for Health and Medical Services.

Hon. Speaker also addressed the House on issues pertaining to the vetting process for questions and motions.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The following reports were tabled and referred accordingly –

- (a) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs
 - (i) 2018-2019 Ministry of Sugar Industry Annual Report; and
 - (ii) 2020 Fiji Sugar Corporation Annual Report.
- (b) Standing Committee on Natural Resources
 - (i) 2015 Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources Annual Report.

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 review report on the Annual Review of the Fiji National University for 2019.

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 would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

- (b) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay tabled the Committee's Annual Review on the Fiji Airports report for 2018-2019.

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 would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(c) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay tabled the Committee's Annual Review of the Fiji National Sports Commission for the period August 2018 to July 2019.

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 would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

(a) The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Salote Radrodro and the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua responded respectively.

(b) The Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment the Hon. Dr Mahendra Reddy delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Inosi Kuridrani and the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad responded respectively.

9. MOTION BY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, CIVIL SERVICE, COMMUNICATIONS, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (A) That the Electoral (Registration of Voters) (Amendment) Bill 2021 be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (B) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (C) That the Bill must not be referred to a Standing committee or other Committee of Parliament; and
- (D) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Wednesday (22 September 2021) but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to him as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

10. MOTION BY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, CIVIL SERVICE, COMMUNICATIONS, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (A) That the Interpretation (Amendment) Bill 2021 be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (B) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (C) That the Bill must not be referred to a Standing committee or other Committee of Parliament; and
- (D) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Wednesday (22 September 2021) but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to him as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

11. MOTION BY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, CIVIL SERVICE, COMMUNICATIONS, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (A) That the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021 be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (B) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (C) That the Bill must not be referred to a Standing committee or other Committee of Parliament; and
- (D) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Wednesday (22 September 2021) but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to him as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

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. QUESTIONS

191/2021 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament why there is no laboratory Technician at the Levuka Hospital for at least two months.

192/2021 Hon. Alexander O'Connor asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on why were the 2019-2020 Household and Income Expenditure Survey results released in August this year flawed.

193/2021 Hon. Anare Jale asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the assistance provided to people in maritime provinces who depend on tourists to purchase their handicrafts.

194/2021 Hon. Alipate Nagata asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – The Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development has been allocated a sum of \$500,000 for Water and Sanitation in the current budget. Can the Minister inform Parliament how the Ministry intends to utilise this allocation in this financial year.

195/2021 Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi asked the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry, Foreign Affairs and Forestry – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament on the Ministry's programme and initiatives to encourage the learning and transfer of indigenous ecological knowledge and environmental management.

- 196/2021 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament if there are plans to allow Private General Practitioners to administer COVID-19 vaccines to members of the public.
- 197/2021 Hon. Salote Radrodro asked the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism in place to monitor the impact of the Ministry’s Elimination of Violence Against Women programmes.
- 198/2021 Hon. Veena Bhatnagar asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament what the Fiji Police Force will do to address complaints against Police and police services.

Written Question

- 199/2021 Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress in the implementation of the Naboro landfill upgrade, in particular –
- (a) progress made in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 on the construction of stage 2 of the landfill; and
 - (b) progress made in 2020-2021 for stage 2 cell 3 of the landfill and plans for completion of this stage in the 2021-2022 financial year.

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

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Tuesday, 21 September 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 5.49 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

20th September, 2021.