



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Twenty-second 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 Tuesday, 21 September 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.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal tabled the Review Report of the Ministry of Agriculture Annual Report for the period 1st January – 31st July, 2016.

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 would be 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 Report of the Department of Forestry Annual Report for the period 1st January – 31st July, 2016.

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

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

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Alvick Maharaj tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Climate Change Bill 2021.

Hon. Speaker advised that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on 19 August 2021, the Standing Committee had reported back, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament during the week.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Speaker advised that there were no Ministerial Statements.

8. THIRD READING – ELECTORAL (REGISTRATION OF VOTERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 (BILL NO. 32 OF 2021)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Monday, 20 September 2021 that the

Electoral (Registration of Voters) (Amendment) Bill 2021 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012 (Bill No. 32 of 2021), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

9. THIRD READING – BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 (BILL NO. 33 OF 2021)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Monday, 20 September 2021 that the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration (Amendment) Bill 2021 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 1975 (Bill No. 33 of 2021), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

10. THIRD READING – INTERPRETATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 (BILL NO. 34 OF 2021)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Monday, 20 September 2021 that the Interpretation (Amendment) Bill 2021 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Interpretation Act 1967 (Bill No. 34 of 2021), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

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. QUESTIONS

210/2021 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua to ask the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament, the total amount of Government funding withheld from the University of the South Pacific to date.

211/2021 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry, Foreign Affairs and Forestry – Given that Fiji is a member of the International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR), can the Prime Minister provide an update on the Ministry's work to develop the bamboo industry in Fiji.

212/2021 Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament whether Fiji's classification guidelines for deaths of COVID-19 positive patients is different from the guidelines issued by WHO.

- 213/2021 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament how the Ministry plans to handle and facilitate teacher transfers for the 2022 Academic year, given the current situation.
- 214/2021 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether the Ministry has reviewed its 5-Year Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023.
- 215/2021 Hon. Sanjay Kirpal asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of new Nature Based Seawalls constructed to protect coastal communities.
- 216/2021 Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the actions taken by the Fiji Police Force to improve management of the Revolving Trust Account.
- 217/2021 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation – Can the Minister update Parliament on the work carried out by the REACH Project since its inception.

Written Question

- 218/2021 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua to ask the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister provide the number and type of complaints and legal proceedings registered and being acted upon by the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission, from 2018 to date.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were given by the respective Ministers. Oral Question 210/2021 was withdrawn by the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua. The Hon. Speaker allowed Hon. Pio Tikoduadua to ask Written Question 218/2021. The response to the Written Question was tabled by the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport the Hon. Faiyaz Koya.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Parliament adjourned at 6.13 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

22nd September, 2021.