



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Twentieth Day of August, 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 Thursday, 19 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 and all those watching the live broadcast and the live streaming of the proceedings.

Hon. Speaker informed that the written response from the Hon. Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development to Written Question 163/2021 had been received and provided to the Honourable Member who asked. The Hon. Speaker also informed that a copy would be uploaded on the Parliament website.

## 6. QUESTIONS

- 182/2021 Hon. Pio Tikoduadua asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether a report on the internal inquiry conducted into quarantine facility protocol breaches by soldiers has been produced.
- 183/2021 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the engagement of employers from Australia and New Zealand on both the seasonal worker programme and the Pacific Labour Scheme during this pandemic.
- 184/2021 Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the data trend of this second wave of COVID-19 infections and the projected number of cases by 31st October 2021, the target date for vaccination of the target population.
- 185/2021 Hon. Veena Bhatnagar asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister inform Parliament on details of how the Ministry intends to roll out sanitary pads for girls in schools.
- 186/2021 Hon. Mikaele Leawere asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the minimum wage review conducted in 2019.
- 187/2021 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the development projects that will be carried out by the Municipal Councils in this fiscal year.
- 188/2021 Hon. Salote Radrodoro asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether counselling services are easily available to Frontline workers.
- 189/2021 Hon. Alexander O'Connor asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister update Parliament on the unemployment assistance.

### **Written Question**

- 190/2021 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the progress of dredging of the mouth of the Sigatoka River, in particular –
- (a) progress made in dredging works since 2018 to date;
  - (b) the Ministry's plans for the Sigatoka River; and

- (c) the reason(s) for the non-removal of the dredging machine owned by the China Railway First Group (CRFG) since it has been there since 2018.

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).

## 7. END OF WEEK STATEMENTS

- (a) The Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua delivered her End of Week Statement and the Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports the Hon. Parveen Bala subsequently responded.
- (b) The Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi delivered her End of Week Statement and the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs the Hon. Josaia Bainimarama subsequently responded.
- (c) The Hon. Alvick Maharaj delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport the Hon. Faiyaz Koya subsequently responded.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Inia Seruiratu moved that Parliament stands adjourned until Monday, 20 September 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members and declared Parliament adjourned until Monday, 20 September 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 12.31 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

20<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.