



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Seventeenth Day of February,
2020

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. Pio Tikoduadua.

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, 22 November 2019, 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 and members of the public seated in the gallery and those watching the live broadcast of the proceedings on television and the internet.

Hon. Speaker also informed the Members that he was still reviewing the three petitions received from the Opposition and once he takes a decision, they would be advised accordingly.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The following reports were tabled in Parliament and referred by the Hon. Speaker to the relevant Standing Committees for their deliberation –

(a) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) Ministry of iTaukei Affairs Annual Report for the year 2016 to 2017;
- (ii) Ministry of Youth and Sports Annual Report for the year 2017 to 2018;
- (iii) Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Report for August 2017 to July 2018;
- (iv) 2013 National Fire Authority Annual Report; and
- (v) Fiji Museum Annual Reports for 2015, 2016 and 2017.

(b) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- (i) Reserve Bank of Fiji August 2018 to July 2019 Annual Report; and
- (ii) Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism Annual Report for the year 2016 to 2017.

(c) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- (i) Auditor-General Report on Performance Audit on Management of Traffic Congestion.

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

- (i) 2018 Fiji Electoral Commission Annual Report.

(e) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

- (i) Ministry of Defence and National Security Annual Report for the year 2016 to 2017.

7. 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 Report on the Annual Review of the 2016/2017 Audit Report on Statutory Authorities.

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 Social Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay tabled the Committee's Report on the Annual Review of the Fiji Higher Education Commission for the Year Ended 31 July 2016.

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 is 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 Report on the Annual Review of the Department of Legislature Annual Report 2016 – 2017.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights 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.

(d) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay tabled the Committee's Report on the Annual Review of Film Fiji for the period January to December 2014 and January to December 2015.

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

8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment the Hon. Dr Mahendra Reddy delivered a Ministerial Statement. Hon. Inosi Kuridrani and Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad responded respectively.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that there were no Bills for consideration.

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 Report on the Fiji Ports Corporation Limited (FPCL) 2016 Annual Report' which was tabled on 12 July 2018.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. 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 '2014, 2015 and 2016 Annual Review of the Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations' which was tabled on 12 July 2018.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

12. SUSPENSION MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament moved under Standing Order 6 that so much of Standing Order 23(1) is suspended so as to allow the House to sit beyond 4.30 p.m. to complete all the remaining items as listed on Monday's Order Paper.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

13. MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE HON. JESE SAUKURU

The Hon. Jese Saukuru moved that Parliament hereby resolves to establish a Special Committee under Standing Order 129 to review Maritime/Outer Island Development Programmes. Parliament hereby appoints the following members of the Special Committee –

- (a) Hon. Viam Pillay, Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development (Chairperson);
- (b) Hon. Selai Adimaitoga, Assistant Minister for iTaukei Affairs;
- (c) Hon. Vijay Nath, Assistant Minister for Infrastructure and Transport;
- (d) Hon. Jese Saukuru, Shadow Minister for Regional Development; and
- (e) Hon. Anare Jale, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	21
No	–	27
Not Voted	–	3

Motion defeated.

14. QUESTIONS

1/2020 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua to ask the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament why the provision of four new dialysis machines at Lautoka Hospital and ten new dialysis machines at the National Kidney and Research Centre as announced in the Budget Address in June 2017 have not been provided.

2/2020 Hon. Viam Pillay to ask the Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister explain what is the role of the Department of National Trade Measurement and Standards in ensuring that consumers are not cheated in terms of volume, weight (and other measurements) when they purchase a particular product in the market place.

3/2020 Hon. Mikaele Leawere to ask the Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports – Can the Minister inform Parliament as to what the Ministry is doing in terms of OHS to ensure that workers at sea ports, airports and public health facilities are safe from any outbreak of coronavirus, meningococcal or other diseases.

- 4/2020 Hon. Joseph Nand to ask the Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the actions taken by the Ministry in reducing the number of non-compliance reported to the Ministry and ensuring that workers’ rights are well protected.
- 5/2020 Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka to ask the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister provide an update on the progress made thus far in the sale of Government Assets as stipulated in the 2019-2020 budget (page 322) which indicates that \$80m of revenue will be raised from such sale.
- 6/2020 Hon. Sanjay Kirpal to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister provide a brief update on what are the response plans for the Ministry in mitigating the risks posed to the livestock industry relating to climate change.
- 7/2020 Hon. Anare Jale to ask the Minister for Defence, National Security and Foreign Affairs – Can the Minister update Parliament on the current dispute over ownership of the Minerva Reefs and the progress made to resolve this dispute.
- 8/2020 Hon. Veena Bhatnagar to ask the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister provide an update on the number of applications processed by the Births, Deaths and Marriages office for the Parenthood Assistance Payment Scheme and the impact on civil registration.

Written Questions

- 9/2020 Hon. Peceli Vosanibola to ask the Minister for Forestry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the quantum of standing stock of pine trees, how much of this stock will be harvested over the next five years and replanting efforts to ensure sustainability of the pine industry.
- 10/2020 Hon. Aseri Radrodro to ask the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services – Can the Minister provide to Parliament the total number of households according to Divisions, who have treated piped water provisions and untreated piped water provisions.
- 11/2020 Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa to ask the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the list of schools damaged by TC Winston, status of rehabilitation and the associated costs.

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

Responses to the Written Questions would be tabled at a later sitting date by the respective Ministers, as permitted under Standing Order 45(3).

Hon. Speaker adjourned Parliament until 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 18 February 2020.

Parliament adjourned at 9.04 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

17th February, 2020.