



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Eighteenth 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 Monday, 17 February 2020, 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.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that two petitions were withdrawn by Hon. Lynda Tabuya on Monday.

The Hon. Speaker then delivered his rulings on the following –

- (a) the third petition by the Hon. Viliame Gavoka;
- (b) online signatures; and
- (c) standards for petitions to ensure that the requirements for tabling of petitions before Parliament were met.

The Opposition Members walked out of Parliament immediately after a point of order was raised by the Hon. Viliame Gavoka.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications tabled the 2019 Annual Report of the Office of the Auditor-General. The Hon. Speaker referred the report to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for its deliberation.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Alexander O'Connor tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

The Hon. Speaker informed that pursuant to Standing Order 121(1)(b) and Standing Order 130(4), the Standing Committee has reported back.

(b) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Vijay Nath tabled the Committee's Report on the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit 2018 Annual Report.

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.

(c) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Alexander O'Connor tabled the Committee's Report on the 2011 Asia-Pacific Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications.

The Hon. Speaker informed that pursuant to Standing Order 121(1)(b) and Standing Order 130(4), the Standing Committee has reported back.

(d) 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 Office of the President Annual Report 2015.

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.

(e) 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 National University for the year ended 31 December 2018.

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.

(f) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Alexander O'Connor tabled the Committee's Report on the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions.

The Hon. Speaker informed that pursuant to Standing Order 121(1)(b) and Standing Order 130(4), the Standing Committee has reported back.

(g) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Alvick Maharaj tabled the Committee's Report on its review of the 2016/2017 Auditor-General's Reports for Government Commercial Companies and Commercial 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.

8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

(i) Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Local Government, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Premila Kumar delivered a Ministerial Statement. There were no responses from the Opposition as they had walked out of Parliament.

- (ii) Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services the Hon. Jone Usamate delivered a Ministerial Statement. There were no responses from the Opposition as they had walked out of Parliament.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Hon. Speaker informed 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 Ministry of Health and Medical Services January to July 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 FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs the Hon. Alexander O'Connor moved that Parliament debates the Review Report of the Fiji Police Force Annual Report August 2016 to July 2017 which was tabled on 13 February 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

12. QUESTIONS

12/2020 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua to ask the Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports – Can the Minister inform Parliament how much funding Government will provide to Team Fiji for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

- 13/2020 Hon. Dr Salik Govind to ask the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services – Can the Minister advise Parliament on what the Ministry has in place to monitor flooding and measures of awareness to the general public.
- 14/2020 Hon. Mikaele Leawere to ask the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether the 200 primary school and 50 secondary school teacher vacancies announced in the 2019/2020 Budget have been filled by the Ministry as at 31 January 2020.
- 15/2020 Hon. Alipate Nagata to ask the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament what measures the Ministry has taken to control scabies as it is equally important as measles when it is linked to the development of rheumatic heart disease and kidney disease in children.
- 16/2020 Hon. Anare Jale to ask the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament if there is any reconsideration for the Provincial Council to appoint respective Chairpersons.
- 17/2020 Hon. Vijay Nath to ask the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Safety and Security Audit of Fiji's Civil Aviation which was conducted by the ICAO Coordinated Validation Mission (ICVM) which was held in Fiji last year.
- 18/2020 Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa to ask the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Prime Minister provide an update on the Government's plans in rebuilding the burnt Vale ni Bose of the iTaukei Trust Fund building in Nasova.
- 19/2020 Hon. Selai Adimaitoga to ask the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister provide an update on the draft Climate Change Bill and the progress so far.

Written Questions

- 20/2020 Hon. Mikaele Leawere to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the current status of drainage work being carried out by the Ministry in the following areas –
- (a) Lomary schools;
 - (b) Sigasiganilaca;
 - (c) Galoa Village;
 - (d) Nakoba Settlement;
 - (e) Draunikula Village; and

(f) Naboutini Village.

21/2020 Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka to ask the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister provide an update on the status of implementation of Government Capital projects (in the first 6 months) of the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

22/2020 Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau to ask the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Disaster Management and Meteorological Services – Can the Minister update Parliament of the Rewa Vutia Road including expected milestone and timelines.

Responses to Oral Questions 13/2020, 15/2020, 17/2020 and 19/2020 were given by the respective Ministers.

The Hon. Speaker ruled that Oral Questions 12/2020, 14/2020, 16/2020 and 18/2020, and Written Questions 20/2020, 21/2020 and 22/2020 had lapsed pursuant to Standing Order 45(6).

Hon. Speaker adjourned Parliament until 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 19 February 2020.

Parliament adjourned at 3.42 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

18th February, 2020.