



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Twenty-third Day of March,
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 except for the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Hon. Osea Naiqamu and Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu.

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, 22 March 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 the Honourable Members that responses to written questions were received from the following Ministers –

- (a) Hon. Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – These are written questions 9/2021 and 19/2021; and
- (b) Hon. Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – These are written questions 10/2020, 43/2020, 52/2020, 112/2020, 125/2020, 146/2020 and 47/2021.

Hon. Speaker also reminded Honourable Members that the Ministry of Health and Medical Services officials would undertake the face-to-face registrations for the COVID-19 vaccine from the morning refreshments break onwards.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) 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 Review Report on the 2005 Agreement Establishing the Pacific Islands Forum.

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

(b) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal tabled the Committee's consolidated annual review of the Department of Forestry 2014 and 2015 annual reports.

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

(c) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Alvick Maharaj tabled the Committee's review report on the Provincial Councils, Volume 3 for the period 2006 to 2010.

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.

(d) 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 Consumer Council of Fiji for the year ended 31 July 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.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Hon. Speaker informed that there were no Ministerial Statements for the day.

8. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Alvick Maharaj moved that Parliament debates the Examination of Audit Reports of Government Ministries and Departments for the year ended 31 July 2016 (Volumes 1–4) which was tabled on 14 May 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

9. 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.

10. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Alvick Maharaj moved that Parliament debates the Review of the Department of Legislature Annual Report 2014-2015 which was tabled on 15 May 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. QUESTIONS

56/2021 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament how and where body parts, especially amputated limbs from patients at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital, are disposed of.

57/2021 Hon. Sanjay Kirpal asked the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the economic benefits generated through the increased First Home Ownership Grant assistance announced in the 2020-2021 budget.

58/2021 Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the alternative arrangements to support students affected by the closure of the Technical Colleges.

59/2021 Hon. George Vegnathan asked the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how the building permit applications and approvals in the municipalities have been affected during the pandemic.

60/2021 Hon. Viliame Gavoka asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether the Ministry will prepare legislation to guide the work of members of the Fiji Building Designers Association.

61/2021 Hon. Alipate Nagata asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister explain how the Republic of Fiji Military Forces personnel within Fiji's contingents to Peacekeeping Missions are coping during the pandemic.

- 62/2021 Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the role of the National Employment Center and the selection of workers for the overseas labour schemes.
- 63/2021 Hon. Jale Sigarara asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister explain as to how effective the Building and Permit Evaluation Committee has been on fast tracking building permit approvals.

Written Question

- 64/2021 Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –
- (a) the full list of nursing stations and their individual coverage area per Province;
 - (b) the full list of health centres and their individual coverage area per Province; and
 - (c) the full list of sub-divisional hospitals and their individual coverage area per Province.

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).

12. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Wednesday, 24 March 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 8.22 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

23rd March, 2021.