



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Second Day of June, 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 Hon. Ratu Tevita Navurelevu.

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, 27 May 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 as well as those watching the live broadcast and the live streaming of the proceedings.

Hon. Speaker informed the Members that as part of the COVID-safe protocols the Secretariat undertook the cleaning and sanitising of the Parliament Office following the precautionary closure of Parliament to strengthen measures designed to reduce the risks and keep Honourable Members and the Parliament safe.

Hon. Speaker thanked the Honourable Minister for Health and Medical Services, his Permanent Secretary and team for prompt actions with the precautionary

measures undertaken on Parliament staff affected and the disinfection and decontamination of the Parliamentary Chambers and complex.

Hon. Speaker also noted the misinformation and concerns of Honourable Members on social media surrounding the cancellation of last Friday's sitting and closure of Parliament, and he urged all Honourable Members to be mindful of the current situation and note that actions taken by the Speaker and the Secretariat was to ensure minimal interruption to Parliamentary business such as Committee work, preparations and the Sittings and decision was taken for the safety of all including their families and friends.

#### 6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit 2020 Annual Report was tabled in Parliament and referred by the Hon. Speaker to the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs under Standing Order 38(2).

#### 7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Hon. Speaker informed that there were no Committee Reports for tabling.

#### 8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Hon. Speaker informed that there were no Ministerial Statements.

#### 9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

#### 10. QUESTIONS

128/2021 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Noting the announced budgetary assistance to the Government of Fiji by the Australian and New Zealand Governments totaling \$115 million, can the Minister advise Parliament how money will be spent by the Government of Fiji (and excluding Fiji National Provident Fund) on direct cash assistance to families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

129/2021 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament how the Ministry has been able to continue to provide core Health activities for non-COVID diseases.

130/2021 Hon. Jese Saukuru asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament if areas outside containment zones have been

included in the ration distribution considering that they have been locked out of their normal trading centres.

- 131/2021 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the number of Quarantine facilities and how they are managed.
- 132/2021 Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister update Parliament on the rollout of the GP partnership with the Ministry in helping out with outpatient care during the COVID outbreak.
- 133/2021 Hon. Alipate Nagata asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament how the Ministry is working with other stakeholders to ensure that all rural Fijians in maritime islands are protected against the fast spreading of the COVID-19 virus.
- 134/2021 Hon. Viliame Gavoka asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the vaccination programme for COVID-19.
- 135/2021 Hon. Dr Salik Govind to ask the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament how have the Turaga-ni-Koro's been assisting in the COVID-19 response.

### **Written Question**

- 136/2021 Hon. Niko Nawaikula asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament the details of the distribution of food rations during the two no-movement/24-hour curfew periods during the 2021 lockdown in the three containment areas Suva, Nasinu and Nausori –
- (a) the total cost of rations purchased by the Ministry for the ration packs;
  - (b) how many ration packs were prepared;
  - (c) how many ration packs were distributed in total for each lockdown period; and
  - (d) the number of packs distributed per suburb in the Suva, Nasinu and Nausori containment areas.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were given by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker allowed Hon. Alvick Maharaj to ask Oral Question 135/2021.

The response to the Written Question would be tabled at a later sitting date as permitted under Standing Order 45(3).

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. MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE HONOURABLE INOSI KURIDRANI

The Hon. Inosi Kuridrani moved that the Standing Committee on Natural Resources review the performance of non-sugar agriculture.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion defeated.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 3 June 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.22 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2021.