



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Twenty-sixth Day of May,
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 Tuesday, 25 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 of Parliament as well as those watching the live broadcast and the live streaming of the proceedings.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Alvick Maharaj tabled the Committee's review report on the 2018 General Election Joint Report by the Electoral Commission and the Supervisor of Elections.

The Chairperson 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.

8. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

9. MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE HONOURABLE ATTORNEY-GENERAL PURSUANT TO SECTION 145(1) OF THE CONSTITUTION AND STANDING ORDER 131

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved a motion for the purposes of section 145(1) of the Constitution and pursuant to Standing Order 131 that Parliament approve –

- (a) a Government Guarantee for the 12 month period from 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022 (Guarantee Period) for the Fiji Development Bank (Bank);
- (b) the Government Guarantee a sum of \$170 million for the Guarantee Period; and
- (c) that the Bank pay a guarantee fee of 0.075% on the cumulative utilised guarantee credit.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

10. 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 'Review of Audit Report on the Procurement of Biomedical Equipment – Ministry of Health & Medical Services and

the Audit of Rural Postal Offices Quarterly Returns' which was tabled on 16 May 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

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 BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Vijay Nath moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism Annual Report 2015' which was tabled on 6 August 2019.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

13. QUESTIONS

99/2021 Hon. Pio Tikoduadua asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether the laws identified by the International Labour Organisation's Committee of Experts in its report which was

released in February 2021 as being contradictory to the interests of trade unions will be repealed.

- 100/2021 Hon. Selai Adimaitoga asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Mineral Investigation Programme.
- 101/2021 Hon. Ratu Tevita Navurelevu to ask the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the review of the Police Act 1965.
- 102/2021 Hon. Dr Salik Govind asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports – Can the Minister inform Parliament on actions against bogus employment agencies' advertisements for overseas employment.
- 103/2021 Hon. Niko Nawaikula asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the implementation of the Foreign Investment Regulations, specifically the provisions on reserved activities.
- 104/2021 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how the 'Fijian Made – Buy Fijian' campaign contributes towards generating economic activity during this pandemic.
- 105/2021 Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether it will allow citizens and former citizens who have received COVID-19 vaccination to travel to Fiji without having to go through 14 days quarantine.
- 106/2021 Hon. Alipate Nagata asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister briefly inform Parliament on the Ministry's recent emergency de-silting model and how it will mitigate the risk of community flooding.

Written Question

- 107/2021 Hon. Simone Rasova to asked the Minister for Fisheries – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –
- (a) volume and value of fish and associated products produced locally annually;
 - (b) volume and value of fish products exported and imported by Fiji annually; and
 - (c) total annual fisheries sector contribution to GDP,
- from 2018 to 2020.

The Hon. Speaker allowed Hon. Simone Rasova to ask Oral Question 96/2021 that was listed on the Order Paper for Tuesday, 25 May 2021. The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were given by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker allowed Hon. Lynda Tabua to ask Oral Question 101/2021.

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

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 27 May 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 8.15 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

26th May, 2021.