



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Third 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.

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 Wednesday, 2 June 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 Hon. Speaker informed that there were no Committee Reports for tabling.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

8. MOTION BY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, CIVIL SERVICE AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (A) That the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (Amendment) Bill 2021 be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (B) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (C) That the Bill must not be referred to a standing committee or other committee of Parliament; and
- (D) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament tomorrow (Friday, 4 June 2021), but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to him as the member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

9. MOTION BY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, CIVIL SERVICE AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (A) That the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2021 be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (B) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (C) That the Bill must not be referred to a standing committee or other committee of Parliament; and
- (D) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament today (Thursday, 3 June 2021), but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to him as the member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

10. MOTION BY THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, CIVIL SERVICE AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (A) That the Customs Tariff (Amendment) Bill 2021 be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (B) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (C) That the Bill must not be referred to a standing committee or other committee of Parliament; and
- (D) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on (Friday, 4 June 2021), but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to him as the member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

11. INVESTMENT BILL 2020 (BILL NO. 49 OF 2020)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved a motion pursuant to the resolutions of Parliament on Friday, 11 December 2020 and Thursday, 27 May 2021, that the Investment Bill 2020 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to establish legal, social and economic principles for the development of investment activity in Fiji, define the rights, duties and responsibilities of domestic and foreign investors and for related matters (Bill No. 49 of 2020), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

12. MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE HON. PIO TIKODUADUA

The Hon. Pio Tikoduadua moved that this Parliament approves a sum of \$50 million from the COVID-19 support aid funds provided by Governments of New Zealand and Australia to be disbursed as income support to the unemployed and affected small and medium businesses as a result of the outbreak of the pandemic.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion defeated.

13. 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.

14. QUESTIONS

137/2021 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – What measures has the Ministry planned for the COVID-safety of our children post-lockdown when school resumes.

138/2021 Hon. Veena Bhatnagar asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of new Nature Based Seawalls constructed to protect coastal communities.

139/2021 Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the Government's plan to feed and assist families whose breadwinners have been laid off or terminated due to the pandemic but who are ineligible for social welfare payments or FNPF assistance.

- 140/2021 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Licensing process of river gravel extraction.
- 141/2021 Hon. Lynda Tabuya asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament the possibility of those over 50 years to get \$10,000-\$20,000 out of their FNPF as a one-off payment for COVID as was done in 1987 where members were allowed to take out funds from FNPF for house, loan payments or other needs.
- 142/2021 Hon. Sanjay Kirpal asked the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament what measures have the Municipal Councils put in place during the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the safe operations in our Towns and Cities.
- 143/2021 Hon. Viliame Gavoka asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether soft loan facility is being offered to those in need of finance for business during this lockdown.
- 144/2021 Hon. Selai Adimaitoga asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress on the implementation of its ‘Cash for Cultivation Programme’.

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

15. PUBLIC HEALTH (AMENDMENT) BILL 2021 (BILL NO. 5 OF 2021)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved a motion pursuant to the resolution of Parliament earlier today, that the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2021 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Public Health Act 1935 (Bill No. 5 of 2021), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 4 June 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 8.40 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2021.