



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Seventeenth Day of August, 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. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OR AFFIRMATION

Mr Sachida Nand took the Oath of Office for Member of Parliament and the Oath of Allegiance.

The Hon. Sachida Nand delivered his maiden speech.

5. 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, 16 August 2021 as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting of Parliament and all those watching the live broadcast and the live streaming of the proceedings.

Hon. Speaker informed that written responses from the Hon. Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts to Written Questions 28/2021 and 117/2021 had been received and provided to the Honourable Members who asked them. The Hon. Speaker also informed that copies would be uploaded on the Parliament website.

## 7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### (a) 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 2018 Audit Report of the Office of the Auditor-General on Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities and Other Entities.

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.

### (b) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Vijay Nath tabled the Committee's review report on the Fiji Development Bank 2019 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 Natural Resources

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal tabled the Committee's review report on the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 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.

### (d) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal tabled the Committee's review report on the Ministry of Fisheries 2017-2018 annual report.

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.

(e) 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 review report on the Designs Bill 2020 (Bill No. 47 of 2020).

Hon. Speaker informed that pursuant to the resolutions of Parliament on 11 December 2020 and 16 August 2021, the Standing Committee had tabled its report accordingly, and the Bill was now ready for debate and vote by Parliament at a later sitting day.

8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs the Hon. Josaia Bainimarama delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Mitieli Bulanauca and the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua responded respectively.
- (b) The Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment the Hon. Dr Mahendra Reddy delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Inosi Kuridrani and the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad responded respectively.
- (c) The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau and the Hon. Pio Tikoduadua responded respectively.

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 Income Tax (Amendment) (No. 2) 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 Thursday (19 August 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. 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.

11. QUESTIONS

154/2021 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament who will carry out the study into industrial hemp as outlined under Head 50 of the 2021-2022 Budget Estimates.

155/2021 Hon. Sanjay Kirpal asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the measures taken by the Fiji Police Force to maintain its routine operations whilst handling COVID-19.

156/2021 Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister update Parliament on the details regarding aircraft leased by Fiji Airways including loans and lease payments.

157/2021 Hon. George Vegnathan asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on how the domestic repatriation of Fijians between Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and maritime islands is being facilitated.

158/2021 Hon. Viliame Gavoka asked the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament if there are plans to harvest and value add mahogany in Fiji.

159/2021 Hon. Selai Adimaitoga asked the Minister for Fisheries – Can the Minister update Parliament on how the Ministry will further increase

women's participation through its activities and initiatives in the 2021-2022 Budget year.

- 160/2021 Hon. Salote Radrodru asked the Minister for Fisheries – Can the Minister explain why there is a long delay in the construction of the Wainigadru and Koro ice plants.
- 161/2021 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister update Parliament on the distribution of household packs to those in lockdown and in home isolation.

### **Written Questions**

- 162/2021 Hon. Salote Radrodru asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the planned or proposed activities funded in the allocation for the same in the 2021-2022 Budget.
- 163/2021 Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua asked the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the development of Navua township, in particular –
- (a) whether a Master Plan for the development of the Navua township is currently being or will be developed;
  - (b) how and when will the Ministry consult the people of Navua and stakeholders in the process of devising such a Master Plan; and
  - (c) whether a Master Plan for the development of Navua township is already in place and what is its current status.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were given by the respective Ministers. The responses to the Written Questions 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, 18 August 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 5.26 p.m.

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

17<sup>th</sup> August, 2021.