



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Sixteenth 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. 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 Friday, 30 July 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 and all those watching the live broadcast and the live streaming of the proceedings.

Hon. Speaker advised all Honourable Members of the following pending Bills currently under consideration by the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights and which would be tabled at a later sitting date –

- (a) Trademarks Bill 2020;
- (b) Patents Bill 2020;
- (c) Designs Bill 2020; and
- (d) Heritage Bill 2021.

Hon. Speaker also addressed the House on the issue of Hon. Mosese Bulitavu's seat in Parliament.

6. 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 Performance Audit on the Access for Persons with Disabilities to Public Offices and Public Transport.

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 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 Patents Bill 2020 (Bill No. 46 of 2020).

Hon. Speaker informed that pursuant to the resolutions of Parliament on 11 December 2020 and earlier today, 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.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

(a) The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Tanya Waqanika and the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua responded respectively.

(b) The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Salote Radrodoro and the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad responded respectively.

8. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

9. QUESTIONS

145/2021 Hon. Pio Tikoduadua asked the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry and Foreign Affairs – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament whether the Ministry was consulted by the Fiji Sugar Corporation on its submission to FCCC (Fijian Competition

and Consumer Commission) seeking a 100% rise of processed sugar.

- 146/2021 Hon. Alexander O'Connor asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the actions currently taken by the Ministry in implementing the Health and Safety at Work (General Workplace Conditions) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 in workplaces throughout the country.
- 147/2021 Hon. Aseri Radrodro asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister clarify the 14-day wait period for recovered patients who contracted COVID-19 after receiving one dose of the vaccine.
- 148/2021 Hon. Alipate Nagata asked the Minister for Fisheries – Can the Minister explain what the Government is doing to address the challenges faced by our coastal subsistence and commercial fishermen during this pandemic.
- 149/2021 Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament if expenditures towards the Government's COVID-19 pandemic response are recorded using a reporting framework that enhances monitoring and evaluation.
- 150/2021 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister clarify when the COVID-19 positive patients should receive their vaccination.
- 151/2021 Hon. Tanya Waqanika asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the measures taken by the Ministry to ensure that students without access to internet connection and electronic devices, can still undertake lessons from their teachers for the duration of this second wave of COVID-19 infections.
- 152/2021 Hon. Veena Bhatnagar to ask the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service and Communications – Can the Minister update Parliament on the deployment of television services on the Walesi platform in the maritime areas.

Written Question

- 153/2021 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister provide an update to Parliament on the Ministry's beef extension and beef breeding programme for the periods 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 –
- (a) the annual average ratio of livestock officers to farmers;
 - (b) distribution of the new beef cattle breed by Division and Province; and
 - (c) the effect of the programme on domestic beef production.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were given by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker informed that Oral Question 152/2021 was withdrawn by the Hon. Veena Bhatnagar. The response to the Written Question would be tabled at a later sitting date as permitted under Standing Order 45(3).

10. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Tuesday, 17 August 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 3.46 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

16th August, 2021.