



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Tenth day of February, 2022

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 the Hon. Josaia Bainimarama and the Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi.

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, 9 February 2022 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, those present in-person and those joining virtually.

Hon. Speaker also welcomed all those watching the live broadcast and the live streaming of the proceedings from the comfort of their home, office and use of electronic device.

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 of the 2018-2019 Audit Report on Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities and Entities and the 2018-2019 Audit Report on Statutory Authorities (Consolidated Report).

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.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Speaker informed that the Ministerial Statement had been withdrawn.

8. LIQUOR (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022 (BILL NO. 1 OF 2022)

The Acting Prime Minister, and Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 9 February 2022, that the Liquor (Amendment) Bill 2022 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Liquor Act 2006 (Bill No. 1 of 2022), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

9. TOBACCO CONTROL (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022 (BILL NO. 2 OF 2022)

The Acting Prime Minister, and Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 9 February 2022, that the Tobacco Control (Amendment) Bill 2022 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Tobacco Control Act 2010 (Bill No. 2 of 2022), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

10. FIJI NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022 (BILL NO. 3 OF 2022)

The Acting Prime Minister, and Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 9 February 2022, that the Fiji National University (Amendment) Bill 2022 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Fiji National University Act 2009 (Bill No. 3 of 2022), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

11. COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022 (BILL NO. 4 OF 2022)

The Acting Prime Minister, and Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 9 February 2022, that the Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill 2022 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1946 (Bill No. 4 of 2022), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

12. 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.

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

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

- (A) That the Investment Fiji 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 be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights;
- (D) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at the March sitting of Parliament; and
- (E) That upon presentation of the report on the Bill by the Standing Committee, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament at the March sitting of Parliament, 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 unanimously.

14. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Alexander O'Connor moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Annual Reports 2017-2018 and 2018-2019' which was tabled on 21 September 2021.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

15. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Ministry of Agriculture Annual Report for the Period 1st January to 31st July 2016' which was tabled on 22 September 2021.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

16. 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 the Performance Audit on the Management of Environment Impact Assessment' which was tabled on 21 September 2021.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

17. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Department of Forestry Annual Report for the Period 1st January to 31st July 2016' which was tabled on 22 September 2021.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

18. QUESTIONS

- 32/2022 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament what steps have been taken so far to achieve the critical reforms of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 33/2022 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the High Risk Water and Sanitation Programme.
- 34/2022 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the implementation of the Agricultural Assistance on Farm Response Package, Home Gardening Seed Packages and Improvement of Farm Genetic Attributes as part of the COVID-19 Response.
- 35/2022 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how the Ministry is supporting women engaged in the Agriculture sector.
- 36/2022 Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Free Education Grants for all educational institutions during the pandemic.
- 37/2022 Hon. Selai Adimaitoga to ask the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Transformative Institutional Capacity Development initiative.
- 38/2022 Hon. Aseri Radrodoro asked the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry, Foreign Affairs and Forestry – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament how the recent sugar price increase will impact stakeholders including the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC), landowners and farmers.

39/2022 Hon. Alexander O'Connor asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the progress of the Northern Connectivity Programme as announced in Parliament last year.

Written Questions

40/2022 Hon. Mikaele Leawere asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the benefits of the Community-Based Corrections Programme in particular –

- (a) how many offenders have participated in the programme and by Division since 2018; and
- (b) the number of community-based organisations by Division who have participated in the programme since 2018.

41/2022 Hon. Peceli Vosanibola asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –

- (a) how many lighthouses are looked after by the Ministry and listed by Division; and
- (b) the status of reconstruction of destroyed lighthouses, including the lighthouse at the Natubari Passage, Levuka.

42/2022 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the embryonic transfer (ET) programme and the percentage of cattle infected with tuberculosis in particular –

- (a) the total number of farms by Division which have benefitted from the ET programme annually since 2018; and
- (b) the total number and percentage of cattle infected with tuberculosis annually since 2018.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided 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). The Hon. Speaker allowed Question 37/2022 to be asked on Friday, 11 February 2022.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 11 February 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 10.05 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

10th February, 2022.