



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Eighth 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, Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi and Hon. Pio Tikoduadua.

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 Monday, 7 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 review of the 2017–2018 Whole of Government Audit Reports (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.

(b) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Vijay Nath tabled the consolidated review report of the Fiji Commerce Commission 2016–17 and Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission 2017–18 Annual Reports.

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.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no Ministerial Statements.

8. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no Bills for consideration.

9. 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 'Consolidated Report on the Review of Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism 2016/17 and 2017/18 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 18 August 2021.

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 following reports –

- (a) 'Review of the 2018 Audit Report on Government Commercial Companies, Commercial Statutory Authorities and Other Entities' which was tabled on 17 August 2021; and
- (b) 'Review of the 2017-2018 Audit Report on Statutory Authorities' which was tabled on 18 August 2021.

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 SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Fiji National University 2019 Annual Report' which was tabled on 20 September 2021.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

13. MOTION BY THE DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Veena Bhatnagar moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Report on the Review of Investment Fiji 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 Annual Report' which was tabled on 19 August 2021.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

14. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Fiji Airports 2018–2019 Annual Report' which was tabled on 20 September 2021.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

15. QUESTIONS

11/2022 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the strategic management team announced by the Minister in Parliament in April 2019 to review the master plans for Fiji's main towns and which was to be led by prominent Singaporean architect Liu Thai Ker.

- 12/2022 Hon. Rohit Sharma asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the visitor arrivals after the reopening of borders and outlook for the tourism industry.
- 13/2022 Hon. Anare Jale asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the current status of the Government shipping franchise scheme.
- 14/2022 Hon. Veena Bhatnagar asked the Minister for Fisheries – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry’s response in assessing the damages sustained for aquaculture farms across Fiji due to the recent adverse weather conditions.
- 15/2022 Hon. Peceli Vosanibola asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Special Purpose Audit (special investigation) on lots allotment and awarding of tenders by Housing Authority.
- 16/2022 Hon. Selai Adimaitoga asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament if assistance has been provided to Co-operatives during the pandemic.
- 17/2022 Hon. Aseri Radrodro asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the current status of the Job Test for Heads of Schools.
- 18/2022 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on why inflation has increased recently.

### **Written Questions**

- 19/2022 Hon. Mikaele Leawere asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the Jobs for Nature Rehabilitation Programme (J-NR) in particular –
- (a) How many communities have participated in total and per Division; and
  - (b) the total number of projects funded per broad category in this Programme.
- 20/2022 Hon. Mitieli Bulanauca asked the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry, Foreign Affairs and Forestry – Can the Prime Minister provide the list of iTaukei lands approved by the iTaukei Land Trust Board for reversion from Crown Freehold under

section 18 of the iTaukei Land Trust Act, which have been submitted to the Department of Lands, in particular –

- (a) the list of iTaukei lands approved by the TLTB in the 1980s for reversion from Crown Freehold under section 18 of the iTaukei Land Trust Act and current status of such land.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The response to the Written Question would be tabled at a later sitting date as permitted under Standing Order 45(3). Written Question 20/2022 was withdrawn by the Hon. Mitieli Bulanauca.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Wednesday, 9 February 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 8.51 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

8<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.