



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Ninth 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 Tuesday, 8 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 report on the Office of the Auditor-General's (OAG) 2020 Annual Report and Assessing the Office of the Auditor-General's – Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) Performance Measurement Framework (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 all Honourable Members that there were no Ministerial Statements.

8. 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 Sports Commission August 2018 – July 2019 Annual Report' which was tabled on 20 September 2021.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

9. MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE HON. ACTING PRIME MINISTER, ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY

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 for the purposes of section 145 of the Fijian Constitution and pursuant to Standing Order 131 that Parliament approve –

- (a) that the Government guarantee the Fiji Development Bank ('FDB') borrowings for the 12 month period from 1 March 2022 to 28 February 2023 ('**Guarantee Period**') through the issuance of short and long-term bonds, promissory notes, term deposits, any RBF financing facility and other short-term borrowings;

- (b) that the Government guarantee the sum of \$200 million for the Guarantee Period; and
- (c) that a guarantee fee of 0.075% be applied on the cumulative utilised guarantee credit.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

10. 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 Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport 2016/2017 Consolidated and 2015 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 21 September 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 ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Vijay Nath moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 21 September 2021.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

13. 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 Ministry of Youth and Sports Annual Report 2018–2019 Annual Report' which was tabled on 21 September 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 Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation 2017 – 2018 Annual Report' which was tabled on 21 September 2021.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

15. QUESTIONS

- 21/2022 Hon. Pio Tikoduadua asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament of any financial relief to be provided to businesses that suffered losses as a result of flooding caused by TC Cody.
- 22/2022 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Fisheries – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the commercial recovery strategies for the inshore fishery sector.
- 23/2022 Hon. Jese Saukuru asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the computed tomography (CT) scan facility and the special asthma station at the Lautoka Hospital.
- 24/2022 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation – Can the Minister update Parliament on some of the newest trends in terms of the calls received on the domestic violence helpline.
- 25/2022 Hon. Mikaele Leawere asked the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry, Foreign Affairs and Forestry – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the arrangements in place for the administration of gazetted villages under the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944.
- 26/2022 Hon. George Vegnathan asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament why the World Bank has discontinued the annual Ease of Doing Business Report and what impact will it have on our business-related reforms.
- 27/2022 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on how many livestock farmers have received the fencing kits as announced in December 2021.
- 28/2022 Hon. Rohit Sharma asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the soundness of Fiji's financial system.

Written Questions

- 29/2022 Hon. Simone Rasova asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of OHS compliance in all primary and secondary schools in the rural and maritime areas –

- (a) listed by classification (Government or community owned) and Division; and
- (b) plans for compliance if the school has some defects.

30/2022 Hon. Mikaele Leawere asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of construction, rehabilitation and repair of the Serua landing and the Lomaloma jetty.

31/2022 Hon. Mitieli Bulanauca to ask the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of roadworks in the following areas –

- (a) Naviqiri, Nasau, Naivaka and Waisa/Natokalau, Kubulau roads; and
- (b) rebuilding of Nabilodra Bridge.

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). The Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources the Hon. Jone Usamate tabled his response to Written Question 30/2022. Written Question 31/2022 was withdrawn by the Hon. Mitieli Bulanauca.

16. MOTION BY THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER, ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, CIVIL SERVICE, COMMUNICATIONS, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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 Liquor (Amendment) Bill 2022 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, 10 February 2022, 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.

17. MOTION BY THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER, ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, CIVIL SERVICE, COMMUNICATIONS, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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 Tobacco Control (Amendment) Bill 2022 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, 10 February 2022, 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.

18. MOTION BY THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER, ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, CIVIL SERVICE, COMMUNICATIONS, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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 Fiji National University (Amendment) Bill 2022 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, 10 February 2022, 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.

19. MOTION BY THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER, ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY, CIVIL SERVICE, COMMUNICATIONS, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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 Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill 2022 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, 10 February 2022, 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.

20. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 10 February 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 9.36 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

9th February, 2022.