



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Ninth Day of May, 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. Alexander O'Connor, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal and 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 Friday, 8 April 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, those in the public gallery and those watching the live broadcast of the proceedings. He also welcomed the PL 100 – Government and Politics students from the University of the South Pacific and delegates from the International Youth Fellowship from South Korea.

Pursuant to Standing Order 115(1), the Hon. Speaker informed the Parliament of the Hon. Sachida Nand's appointment to the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs to replace the Hon. George Vegnathan who would now focus on his membership in the Standing Committee on Social Affairs.

Hon. Speaker also addressed the Parliament on the vacated seat by the Hon. Niko Nawaikula.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The following reports were tabled and referred accordingly to the appropriate Standing Committees –

(a) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- (i) Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit – 2021 Annual Report.

(b) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

- (i) Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources – 2018-2019 Annual Report.

(c) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) iTaukei Trust Fund Board – 2019 Annual Report; and
- (ii) Fiji Public Trustee Corporation Pte Limited – 2019 Annual Report.

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 Review Report of the Fiji Commerce Commission 2016-2017 and Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission 2017-2018 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 8 February 2022.

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 'Review of the 2017-2018 Whole of Government Audit Reports Consolidated Report' which was tabled on 8 February 2022.

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. QUESTIONS

97/2022 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether an Environmental Impact Assessment has been carried out for the proposed naval base in Lami.

98/2022 Hon. Alexander O'Connor to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the Embryo Transfer Technology undertaken by the Ministry since 2018.

99/2022 Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the current status of the Curriculum Advisory Services with respect to the development of curricula to meet the need of our children.

100/2022 Hon. Rohit Sharma asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster

Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on how the Vuvale partnership has benefitted the relationship between the Republic of Fiji Military Forces and the Australian Defence Forces.

- 101/2022 Hon. Aseri Radrodro asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry’s plan for the removal and disposal of derelict ships at the Suva Harbour.
- 102/2022 Hon. Veena Bhatnagar asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how the Skilled Professionals Evaluation Committee can assist in addressing skills shortage as we move towards new and emerging industries.
- 103/2022 Hon. Ratu Tevita Navurelevu asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the benefits available from the Fiji Servicemen’s Aftercare Fund.
- 104/2022 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the recent revisions to the 2019/2020 poverty rates by the World Bank and the Fiji Bureau of Statistics.

The Hon. Speaker allowed the Hon. Alvick Maharaj to ask Oral Question 98/2022. The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers.

### 13. ADJOURNMENT

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

Parliament adjourned at 5.27 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

9<sup>th</sup> May, 2022.