



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Seventh day of April, 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. Adi Litia Qionibaravi and Hon. Niko Nawaikula.

The Hon. Alvick Maharaj joined the Parliament sitting virtually.

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, 6 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 to the sitting, those in the public gallery and those watching the live broadcast of the proceedings.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Vijay Nath tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the Energy Fiji Limited 2019 and 2020 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.

(b) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Joseph Nand tabled the Committee's Report on the Auditor-General's report on the Compliance Audit Report.

The Deputy 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 there were no Ministerial Statements.

8. INVESTMENT FIJI BILL 2022 (BILL NO. 5 OF 2022)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved a motion pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 10 February 2022, that the Investment Fiji Bill 2022 (Bill No. 5 of 2022) be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	27 (including 1 acclamation)
No	–	18
Not Voted	–	5
Abstain	–	1

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to continue the Investment Fiji Board as Investment Fiji for the purpose of promoting and facilitating investment and export in Fiji and for related matters (Bill No. 5 of 2022), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

9. MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE HON. PROF. BIMAN PRASAD

Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved that Parliament approves that the Standing Committee on Social Affairs undertakes an inquiry into the causes of poverty and report back to Parliament.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	14
No	–	27 (including 1 acclamation)
Not Voted	–	10
Abstain	–	0

Motion defeated.

10. 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.

11. QUESTIONS

80/2022 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the alternatives available to patients in the Western Division who need CT scan services given the absence of a working CT scanner at the Lautoka Hospital.

- 81/2022 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Given the changing weather patterns, can the Minister update Parliament on the current and future plans of the Fiji Meteorological Service to enhance weather and flood forecasting.
- 82/2022 Hon. Niko Nawaikula to ask the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of utilisation of the Climate Action Trust Fund.
- 83/2022 Hon. Veena Bhatnagar asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Teachers Helpline which was launched on 22 February 2022.
- 84/2022 Hon. Ratu Jone Seniloli asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of implementation of the Lautoka market ventilation and light project.
- 85/2022 Hon. George Vegnathan asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on drainage works done this year around Fiji to support the agriculture sector and protect communities.
- 86/2022 Hon. Aseri Radrodro to ask the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update to Parliament on the progress made in the construction of the new jetty for commuters travelling between Taveuni and Vanua Levu (replacing Natuvu).
- 87/2022 Hon. Alipate Nagata asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the latest update on visitor arrivals and forward bookings after the reopening of international borders and its impact on the economy.

### **Written Question**

- 88/2022 Hon. Simione Rasova asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the implementation of the Seafaring Entrepreneur Assistance subsidy for fiberglass boats, engines and equipment for rural and maritime zones, in particular –
- (a) how many recipients were assisted since 2021, by Division; and
- (b) the value of the allocated funds utilised so far since 2021.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker allowed the Hon. Inosi Kuridrani to ask Oral Question 82/2022. Oral Question 86/2022 was withdrawn by the Hon. Aseri Radrodro. The response to the Written Question would be tabled at a later sitting date as permitted under Standing Order 45(3).

12. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 8 April 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 7.36 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

7<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.