



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Eleventh 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. Ro Teimumu Kepa, Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua 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 Tuesday, 10 May 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.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Social Affairs

(a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay tabled the Committee's Report on the annual review of the National Fire Authority (NFA) Annual Report for 2015.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social 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) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay tabled the Committee's Report on the review of the following municipal council Annual Reports –

- (i) Suva City Council 2006 – 2015 Annual Reports;
- (ii) Ba Town Council 2006 – 2018 Annual Reports;
- (iii) Nadi Town Council 2004 – 2015 Annual Reports;
- (iv) Tavua Town Council 2006 – 2014 Annual Reports;
- (v) Nausori Town Council 2005 – 2014 Annual Reports;
- (vi) Rakiraki Town Council 2011 – 2018 Annual Reports;
- (vii) Lautoka City Council 2006 – 2014 Annual Reports;
- (viii) Sigatoka Town Council 2005 – 2019 Annual Reports;
- (ix) Savusavu Town Council 2005 – 2010 Annual Reports;
- (x) Lami Town Council 2004 – 2014 Annual Reports;
- (xi) Levuka Town Council 2005 – 2011 Annual Reports;
- (xii) Nasinu Town Council 2009 – 2010 Annual Reports; and
- (xiii) Labasa Town Council 2004 – 2017 Annual Reports.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social 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.

- (c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay tabled the Committee's Report on the annual review of the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) Annual Reports for 2017/2018 and 2016/2017.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social 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.

Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Vijay Nath tabled the Committee's Report on the Consolidated Review Report of the Reserve Bank of Fiji Insurance Annual Reports for the years 2019 and 2020.

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.

Standing Committee on Natural Resources

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal tabled the Committee's Report on the Ministry of Forestry Annual Reports for 2016 – 2017, 2017 – 2018 and 2018 – 2019.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources 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

The Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment the Hon. Dr Mahendra Reddy delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Inosi Kuridrani and the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad responded respectively.

8. QUESTIONS

- 113/2022 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament when will the historical sites on Ovalau undergo improvement and renovation.
- 114/2022 Hon. Howard Politini asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Fiji Police Force’s foreign peace keeping programme.
- 115/2022 Hon. Aseri Radrodro asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the conditions and availability of public convenience facilities at jetties and wharves around the country.
- 116/2022 Hon. Selai Adimaitoga asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on plans to develop Fiji’s turmeric industry considering its favourable performance in the export market.
- 117/2022 Hon. Ratu Tevita Navurelevu asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament of any assistance it provides towards the rehabilitation of pine access roads in rural and maritime areas.
- 118/2022 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on lymphatic filariasis and what preventative measures have been taken to eliminate it.
- 119/2022 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on its dredging plan at the Waidamu River in the district of Bau.
- 120/2022 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Attorney-General, and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Fiji

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers.

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

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (a) That the State Lands (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, (12 May 2022), but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to him as the Member moving this motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 12 May 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 3.31 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

11th May, 2022.