



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Fifteenth day of July, 2022

1. The House met at 8.00 p.m. pursuant to adjournment.

2. Hon. Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.

3. MEMBERS PRESENT

All Members were present except for the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi, Hon. Alipate Nagata, Hon. Jale Sigarara and Hon. Sanjay Kirpal.

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, 13 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 and all those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet.

The Hon. Speaker advised that the National Budget Address and the subsequent Budget Debates were significant events in the Parliament calendar and were essential and vital for Parliament to fulfil its constitutional obligation.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members of the unanimous decision of the Business Committee to exempt the Hon. Attorney-General and Minister for Economy from the ordinary speaking time limitations for the delivery of the National Budget Address.

The Hon. Speaker also informed Honourable Members that at the next sitting of Parliament, he would address the issue of the vacant seat of the Hon. Ratu Suliano Matanitobua.

6. FIRST READING OF THE 2022–2023 APPROPRIATION BILL 2022 (BILL NO. 27 OF 2022)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved pursuant to Standing Orders 99 and 84(1), that the 2022–2023 Appropriation Bill 2022 (Bill No. 27 of 2022) be read a first time. The motion was subsequently seconded.

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum delivered the National Budget Address.

A Bill to appropriate a sum of three billion, three hundred twenty million, two thousand, one hundred eighty four dollars for the ordinary services of Government for the year ending 31 July 2023 (Bill No. 27 of 2022).

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 84(1), the 2022–2023 Appropriation Bill 2022 had been read for the first time and in accordance with Standing Order 99(3), the Bill would be listed on the Order Paper for second reading on Monday, 25 July 2022.

7. CONSEQUENTIAL BILLS

Pursuant to Standing Order 51, the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved that the following consequential Bills for the 2022–2023 National Budget be considered by Parliament without delay –

1. Tax Administration (Budget Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2022 (Bill No. 28 of 2022);
2. Income Tax (Budget Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2022 (Bill No. 29 of 2022);
3. Value Added Tax (Budget Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2022 (Bill No. 30 of 2022);
4. Customs (Budget Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2022 (Bill No. 31 of 2022);
5. Customs Tariff (Budget Amendment) (No. 3) Bill 2022 (Bill No. 32 of 2022);
6. Excise (Budget Amendment) Bill 2022 (Bill No. 33 of 2022);

7. Superyacht Charter (Budget Amendment) Bill 2022 (Bill No. 34 of 2022);
8. Tertiary Scholarships and Loans (Budget Amendment) Bill 2022 (Bill No. 35 of 2022);
9. Insurance (Budget Amendment) Bill 2022 (Bill No. 36 of 2022);
10. Veterinary Surgeons (Budget Amendment) Bill 2022 (Bill No. 37 of 2022); and
11. Fisheries (Budget Amendment) Bill 2022 (Bill No. 38 of 2022).

Pursuant to Standing Order 51, that the Consequential Bills –

- (a) must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (b) must not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committees of Parliament;
- (c) must be debated and voted upon by Parliament immediately after the vote on the 2022–2023 Appropriation Bill 2022; and
- (d) that the time for the debate be limited to ensure that the Consequential Bills tabled today are debated and voted upon in the sitting of Parliament beginning on Monday, 25 July 2022.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Inia Seruiratu moved that Parliament adjourns until Monday, 25 July 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker urged all Honourable Members to utilise the coming week to prepare well for the Budget debates week.

Hon. Speaker thanked the Hon. Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development for delivering

the 2022–2023 National Budget Address and also thanked all Honourable Members and all those watching the live proceedings.

The Hon. Speaker adjourned Parliament until Monday, 25 July 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 11.01 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

15th July, 2022.