



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Twelfth 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. Adi Litia Qionibaravi.

The Hon. Rosy Akbar joined the Parliament sitting virtually.

4. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OR AFFIRMATION

Mere Tuisalalo Naulumatua took the Oath of Office for Members of Parliament and the Oath of Allegiance, and subsequently delivered her maiden speech.

5. 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, 11 May 2022 as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

6. 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 the Years 12 and 13 Students of Navesau Adventist High School.

7. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

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

(a) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) Fiji Public Trustee Corporation Pte Limited – Annual Report 2018; and
- (ii) Fiji National University – 2020 Annual Report.

(b) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- (i) Fiji Rice Pte Limited – 2013-2017 Annual Report; and
- (ii) Investment Fiji – 2019-2020 Annual Report.

8. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no Committee reports for tabling.

9. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no Ministerial Statements.

10. STATE LANDS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022 (BILL NO. 26 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 Wednesday, 11 May 2022 that the State Lands (Amendment) Bill 2022 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	30 (including 1 acclamation)
No	–	14
Not Voted	–	7
Abstain	–	0

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the State Lands Act 1945 (Bill No. 26 of 2022), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

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

Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved that Parliament authorises the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs to assess the impact of direct initiatives to farmers in the agricultural sector in particular the distribution of seeds and seedlings for cash crop, help in the form of materials provided to dairy farmers, provision of irrigation pumps/piping, rice planting, ploughing and harrowing of land by the Ministry of Agriculture, handling of breeder goats/sheep and report back at the next sitting of Parliament.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	18
No	–	27 (including 1 acclamation)
Not Voted	–	6
Abstain	–	0

Motion defeated.

12. 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.

13. QUESTIONS

- 121/2022 Hon. Pio Tikoduadua asked the Minister for Education, Heritage and Arts, and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament who is paying the Suva City Council for its garbage collection services within the Nasinu municipal boundary.
- 122/2022 Hon. Virendra Lal to ask the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Child Protection Programme, which has an allocation of \$50,000 in the Revised 2021-2022 Budget.
- 123/2022 Hon. Simione Rasova asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the construction of seawalls in coastal villages in Kadavu.
- 124/2022 Hon. Veena Bhatnagar asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Following the enactment of the Investment Act 2021 and the Investment Fiji Act 2022, can the Minister inform Parliament on the actions taken by the Ministry to create awareness on the new processes.
- 125/2022 Hon. Peceli Vosanibola asked the Minister for Fisheries – Can the Minister update Parliament on the initiatives in place to ensure the supply of fish to PAFCO.
- 126/2022 Hon. George Vagnathan asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the impact of commercial Kava export to Australia which was approved by the Australian Government in December 2021.
- 127/2022 Hon. Tanya Waqanika asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the facilities available to women for PAP Smear Screening.
- 128/2022 Hon. Selai Adimaitoga asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on why Fiji's debt

remains sustainable and cannot be compared to the Sri Lankan crisis.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker advised Honourable Members that Oral Question 122/2022 would be deferred to Friday, 13 May 2022, in addition to the questions listed down for Friday's Order Paper.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 13 May 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.21 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

12th May, 2022.