



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, First Day of September, 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. Parveen Bala, Hon. Mere Naulumatua, Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Salote Radrodro, Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi and Hon. Tanya Waqanika.

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, 31 August 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.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

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

- (a) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs
 - (i) Sugar Cane Growers Council – 2020 Annual Report;
 - (ii) Sugar Cane Growers Fund – Annual Report 2020;
 - (iii) Sugar Research Institute of Fiji – 2020 Annual Report;
 - (iv) Fiji Development Bank – Annual Report 2021;
 - (v) Reserve Bank of Fiji – Insurance Annual Report 2021;
 - (vi) Accident Compensation Commission Fiji – Annual Report 2019; and
 - (vii) Pacific Fishing Company Pte Ltd – Annual Report 2019.
- (b) Standing Committee on Social Affairs
 - (i) Ministry of Youth and Sports – Annual Report 2019-2020;
 - (ii) Fiji Sports Council – August 2017 to July 2018 Annual Report;
 - (iii) Levuka Town Council – Annual Report for the Year 2012;
 - (iv) Levuka Town Council – Annual Report for the Year 2013;
 - (v) Tavua Town Council – Annual Report for the Year Ended 2015; and
 - (vi) Ba Town Council – Annual Report for the Year 2019.
- (c) Standing Committee on Natural Resources
 - (i) Ministry of Forestry – Annual Report 2019-2020.
- (d) Standing Committee on Public Accounts
 - (i) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2018-2019 Financial Statements of Government.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Alvick Maharaj tabled the Committee's review of the Electoral Commission Annual Report for the year 2019.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights 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 Economic Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Vijay Nath tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Meat Industry Board 2015-2017 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.

(c) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Alvick Maharaj tabled the Committee's review report on the 2021 Annual Report of the Office of the Auditor-General.

The 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.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Alvick Maharaj tabled the Committee's review findings on the Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji on the Compliance Audit that were carried out on the –

- (a) Management of Unemployment Benefits; and
(b) Management of Concessional Loan Package to Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The 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.

8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

9. FIJI DEVELOPMENT BANK (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022 (BILL NO. 47 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 Monday, 29 August 2022 that the Fiji Development Bank (Amendment) Bill 2022 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Fiji Development Bank Act 1966, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

10. FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS REPORTING (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022 (BILL NO. 48 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 Monday, 29 August 2022 that the Financial Transactions Reporting (Amendment) Bill 2022 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	26
No	–	13
Not Voted	–	9
Abstain	–	1

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Financial Transactions Reporting Act 2004, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

11. ELECTORAL (AMENDMENT) BILL 2022 (BILL NO. 49 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 Monday, 29 August 2022 that the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2022 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	25
No	–	13
Not Voted	–	10
Abstain	–	1

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Electoral Act 2014, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

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. REFERRAL OF TREATY PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 130

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development moved that the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence reviews the Convention on Cybercrime.

Motion seconded.

The Hon. Speaker confirmed that he was provided with copies of the treaty and written analysis as required by Standing Order 130(2). Pursuant to Standing Order 130(3), the treaty was referred without debate, to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence for consideration and review.

14. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Suva City Council 2006–2015 Annual Reports; Ba Town Council 2006–2018 Annual Reports; Nadi Town Council 2004–2015 Annual Reports; Tavua Town Council 2006–2014 Annual Reports; Nausori Town Council 2005–2014 Annual Reports; Rakiraki Town Council 2011–2018 Annual Reports; Lautoka City Council 2006–2014 Annual Reports; Sigatoka Town Council 2005–2019 Annual Reports; Savusavu Town Council 2005–2010 Annual Reports; Lami Town Council 2004–2014 Annual Reports; Levuka Town Council 2005–2011 Annual Reports; Nasinu Town Council 2009–2010 Annual Reports; and Labasa Town Council 2004–2017 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 11 May 2022.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

15. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Fiji Roads Authority 2017/2018 and 2016/2017 Annual Report' which was tabled on 11 May 2022.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

16. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal moved that Parliament debates the 'Review Report of the consolidated 2016–2017, 2017–2018, 2018–2019 Ministry of Forestry Annual Reports' which was tabled on 11 May 2022.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

17. 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 Reserve Bank of Fiji Insurance 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 11 May 2022.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

18. QUESTIONS

- 160/2022 Hon. Pio Tikoduadua to ask the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry, Foreign Affairs and Forestry – With reference to the *Hansard* report of Monday, 16 August 2021, can the Prime Minister explain why he said that students at the University of the South Pacific are learning in an environment of corruption.
- 161/2022 Hon. Rohit Sharma to ask the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – With the increasing fuel prices and the withdrawal of private vessel operators servicing certain routes, can the Minister update Parliament on how Government is supporting Fijians living in maritime communities in terms of transportation and freight.
- 162/2022 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani to ask the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry, Foreign Affairs and Forestry – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the Ministry's strategies to reduce sugarcane production costs.
- 163/2022 Hon. Alipate Nagata asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry's strategies and plans to provide planting materials to support farmers.
- 164/2022 Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the progress and status of the clearing of drains and creeks in rural Tailevu and Rewa Delta.
- 165/2022 Hon. George Vegnathan to ask the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the implementation of the Palermo Convention on Human Trafficking.
- 166/2022 Hon. Peceli Vosanibola asked the Minister for Fisheries – Can the Minister inform Parliament on what performance targets and assessments the Ministry is implementing to improve the sectoral contribution to GDP.
- 167/2022 Hon. Selai Adimaitoga asked the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation – With the Ministry's additional budget under the Aging with Dignity allocation for the 2022-2023 financial year, can the Minister inform Parliament on the purpose and plans for this programme.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that Oral Question 160/2022 was withdrawn by Hon. Pio Tikoduadua, Oral Question 161/2022 was withdrawn by Hon. Rohit Sharma and Oral Question 162/2022 was withdrawn by Hon. Inosi Kuridrani. The Hon. Speaker allowed Oral Question 165/2022 to be asked on

Friday, 2 September 2022. The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers.

19. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 2 September 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 9.52 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

1st September, 2022.