



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Thirty-first Day of August,
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. Viliame Gavoka, Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa, Hon. Mere Naulumatua, Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad and Hon. Adi Litia Qionibaravi.

Virtual attendance: Hon. Parveen Bala.

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, 30 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 REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay tabled the Committee's Report on the annual review of the Housing Authority annual reports for 2016 and 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.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Viam Pillay tabled the Committee's Report on the annual review of the Public Rental Board annual report for 2018.

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) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal tabled the Committee's review report on the Ministry of Agriculture 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 annual reports.

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.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal tabled the Committee's review report on the Water Authority of Fiji 2017 annual report.

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.

- (iii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal tabled the Committee's review report on the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources 2014 and 2015 annual reports.

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.

(c) 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 2018.

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.

(d) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Vijay Nath tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Fiji Revenue and Customs Services 2017-2018 annual report.

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.

(e) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Alvick Maharaj tabled the Committee's Review Report on Compliance Audits Relating to COVID-19 Response.

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.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

8. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no Bills for consideration.

9. 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 National Provident Fund 2019, 2020 and 2021 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 10 May 2022.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

10. 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 Film Fiji 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017 and Film Fiji 1 January to 31 July 2016 Annual Report' which was tabled on 10 May 2022.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. 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 Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment 2015, 2016, 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 10 May 2022.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

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. 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 National Fire Authority 2015 Annual Report' which was tabled on 11 May 2022.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

14. QUESTIONS

147/2022 Hon. Mere Naulumatua to ask the Minister for Employment, Productivity, Industrial Relations, Youth and Sports – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress made by the Ministry to create employment opportunities.

153/2022 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry's plans to promote agriculture export.

154/2022 Hon. Ratu Tevita Navurelevu asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress made by law enforcement agencies in the seizure of hard drugs including crystal methamphetamine, cocaine and heroin.

- 155/2022 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 Maritime Essential Services Centre project funded by the Australian Government.
- 156/2022 Hon. Simione Rasova asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the development of farm access roads nationwide.
- 157/2022 Hon. Sanjay Kirpal asked the Minister for Fisheries – Can the Minister update Parliament on the significance of the US during the PIFS meeting on the increase in US Government annual contribution under the US Treaty Agreement.
- 158/2022 Hon. Anare Jale asked the Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the measures taken to improve inter-island ferry services to maritime islands which has affected the delivery of supplies.
- 159/2022 Hon. Joseph Nand to ask the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the economic benefits of the direct Nadi / Vancouver flight.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that the response to Written Question 152/2022 has been received and conveyed accordingly, and a copy made available on the Parliament's website.

The Hon. Speaker allowed Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau to ask Oral Question 147/2022 and Hon. Rohit Sharma to ask Oral Question 159/2022. The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 1 September 2022 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 7.03 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

31st August, 2022.