



PARLIAMENT

NEWSLETTER

2022 Parliament Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 3 : July - September

October

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

November

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
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December

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

KEYS ● PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

SPEAKER THANKS MPs FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION DURING THE FINAL SESSION OF PARLIAMENT



Speaker H.E. Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau addressing Members of Parliament during the September Parliament sitting.

During the last sitting of Parliament on September 2, 2022, the Honourable Speaker of Parliament, His Excellency Ratu Epeli Nailatikau thanked all the Members for their contributions during the final session. The Leader of the Government in Parliament, Hon. Inia Seruiratu moved the motion to adjourn *sine die*, which was unanimously agreed to.

"Given that this is the final sitting of Parliament, I take this opportunity to thank you all for your contributions during this fourth and final session of Parliament, and of course for the duration of this term of Parliament."

"You have all served the country well. To those of you who are standing in the upcoming general election, I wish you all the very best."

"For me it has been an honour to have served with you all," Hon. Speaker added.

In anticipation of the dissolution and

questions pertaining to what happens after the dissolution, the MPs were given a list of frequently asked questions and responses for their reference. After the sitting, MPs took time to bid farewell to their colleagues as this was their last session in the Parliament Chambers.

The 2022 General Election is expected to be held before the end of this year.



Members of Parliament after the sitting.

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PARLIAMENTS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs



Speaker H.E. Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau presents at the workshop on the Role of Parliaments in Achieving Sustainable Development in Canada in August, 2022.

The Honourable Speaker of the Fijian Parliament, His Excellency Ratu Epeli Nailatikau has stressed that Parliaments play a crucial role in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals ('SDGs').

During the workshop on Role of Parliaments in Achieving Sustainable Development at the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Canada in August, 2022, the Speaker highlighted that Parliaments pass legislation and ratify international conventions which translate the SDGs into actionable goals.

"It is very important that Parliaments play an active role in the implementation of the SDGs through the review and passing of appropriate legislation. It is equally important that Parliamentary oversight of the SDGs is undertaken to hold Governments to account on these commitments," said Hon. Nailatikau.

He further emphasised the importance of making a difference in Parliament through the SDGs initiatives.

"During a three-day seminar on the SDGs for our Members of Parliament in 2019, I stressed that Parliament is uniquely placed to make a difference in development issues through the SDGs, through both its legislative responsibilities and its mandate to scrutinise the actions of the Government," said Hon. Nailatikau. Hon. Speaker further updated the Assembly on the initiatives that the Fijian Parliament has taken to promote SDGs in its daily Parliament work.

"Since 2016, the Fijian Parliament has undertaken a number of initiatives to



Speaker H.E. Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau with his counterpart, Hon. Keith Bain, Speaker of the Assembly of Nova Scotia.

promote the SDGs and mainstream it into its work. We had a Speaker's Debate series beginning in March 2016".

He further mentioned that since 2017, the Fijian Parliament facilitated capacity-building workshops and seminars, both locally and abroad for the Members of Parliament and the secretariat.

"In 2017, we undertook an SDG self-assessment exercise to review the progress of our engagement with the SDGs, and to identify some opportunities and challenges faced by Members of Parliament, the Standing Committees and the secretariat. The report was presented to Parliament in March 2018," said Hon. Nailatikau.

He added that through the SDGs initiatives, the Fijian Parliament continues to engage at inter-Parliamentary events such as CPA, IPU, the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF), the Asia-Pacific Parliamentary

Forum on Global Health (APPFH), and the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.

"The SDGs-related initiatives have no doubt strengthened the oversight work of our Standing Committees who now utilise the SDGs lens when undertaking review of legislation or scrutiny of Government Ministries and Departments," said Hon. Nailatikau.

He encouraged small islands states to continue to enhance their engagement with the SDGs.

"The SDGs provide a good framework to guide small island Governments in terms of national development plans and sustainable development policies. For Parliaments, the goals and indicators provide a means through which it can enhance its legislative and oversight functions in the area of sustainable development," added Hon. Nailatikau.

BUDGET BRIEFING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS



Speaker H.E. Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau during the workshop for the Civil Society Organisation on the 2022-2023 National Budget.

The Fijian Parliament, in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme Fiji Parliament Support Project (**'UNDP FPSP'**), hosted a Budget Briefing Workshop for the Civil Society Organisations (**'CSOs'**) at the Fiji Museum on Friday, 22 July 2022.

According to the Speaker of Parliament His Excellency Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, the workshop aimed to strengthen and inform civil society groups on the Parliamentary processes, such as the passing of the national budget.

"This is a continuation of our past efforts to strengthen Parliamentary openness and inclusivity in the Parliamentary processes such as the passing of the national budget, legislative reviews and oversight."

During his opening remarks, Hon. Nailatikau emphasised the importance of CSOs in the budget process.

"For civil society organisations, you play an important role in conveying information on

the budget process to your interest groups and local communities. You also have an important facilitator role in representing the needs, sentiments and aspirations of citizens to their representatives in Parliament."

"CSOs can help improve budget policies by providing information on public needs and priorities through their connections with citizens, communities and sectors," added Hon. Nailatikau.

He also acknowledged the immense contributions of the UNDP, and the governments of Australia, Japan and New Zealand for their continued assistance to the Fiji Parliament Support Project and also the contributions of the partnered Parliaments.

"I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of our partner Parliaments – the Australian Federal Parliament, and the Parliaments of New Zealand, Tonga and the State Parliament of Victoria – our

twin Parliament – who have lent us their senior Parliament staff to work alongside the Fijian Parliament staff in producing budget briefs for the Honourable Members of Parliament," said Hon. Nailatikau.

Workshop participant and Manager Finance for Live, Learn Environmental Education, Tevita Tuicakau hoped to understand the budget processes through the CSO workshop.

"I look forward to this workshop to better understand the budget process in Parliament, especially the major sectoral components such as education, health, infrastructure and the changes in revenue policies," said Mr Tuicakau.

Participant from the Rainbow Pride Foundation/Nausori District Council of Social Service, Mr Lee Domonakibau anticipated understanding and delivering information learned from the workshop in terms of the national budget to the community level.



Staff from the Parliaments of Victoria, Tonga and Australia analysing the 2022-2023 budget before the debate by the Members of Parliament. The Pacific Floating Budget project was supported by the UNDP Pacific Office.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS AND PROTOCOL : JULY – SEPTEMBER 2022

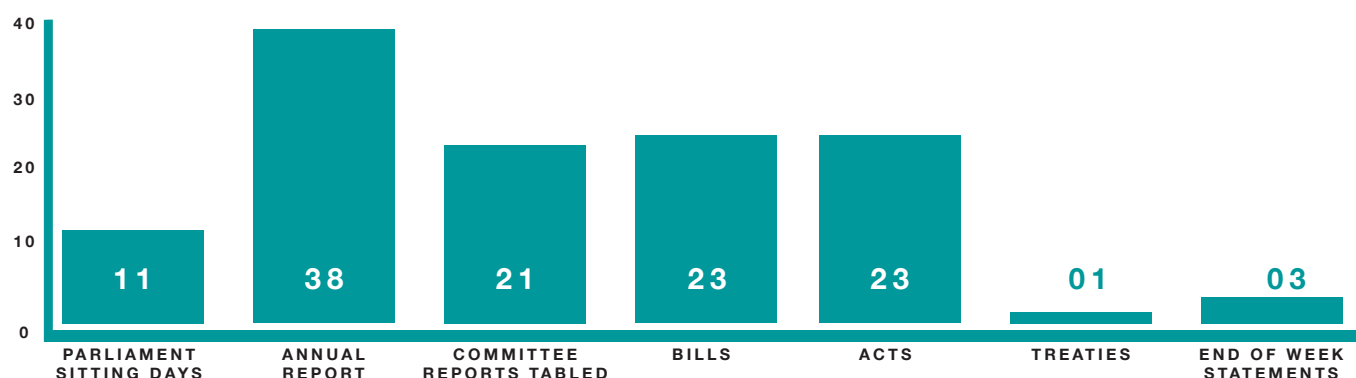
Overseas Conferences

No	CONFERENCE	DELEGATION	DATE	VENUE
01	51st Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference (POCC)	1. H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau 2. Ms Jeanette Emberson 3. Mr Josua Namoce 4. Mr Sakiusa Rakai	04 – 08 July	Melbourne, Australia
02	Virtual Meeting of the ACP-EU JPA Parliamentary Dialogue with Commissioner McGuinness - on the EU Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorist Financing (AML/CTF)	1. Hon. Alvick Maharaj	15 July	Brussels, Belgium
03	16th Biennial Australasian Council of Public Account Committees (ACPAC) and Pacific Network of Public Account Committees (PANPAC) Conference	1. Hon. Virendra Lal 2. Hon. Aseri Radrodoro 3. Mr Savenaca Koro	21 – 22 July	Wellington, New Zealand
04	65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Conference	1. H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau 2. Hon. Viam Pillay 3. Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa 4. Ms Jeanette Emberson 5. Mr Josua Namoce	20 – 26 August	Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
05	6th Asia-Pacific Parliamentarian Forum on Global Health (APPPGH)	1. Hon. Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete 2. Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu 3. Mr Abele Sakulu	24 – 25 August	Seoul, Republic of Korea

Courtesy Calls

No	COURTESY CALL	COUNTRY	DATE
01	Courtesy call by the new Non-Resident Ambassador of the Republic of Serbia to Fiji, H.E Mr Rade Stefanovic to the Speaker of Parliament, H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau.	Serbia	20 July
02	Courtesy call from the Members of the New Zealand Select Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence & Trade: 1. Hon. Jenny Salesa (Chair) 2. Hon. Gerry Brownlee (Deputy Chair) 3. Hon. Golriz Ghahraman MP 4. Hon. Ingrid Leary MP 5. Hon. Ibrahim Omer MP 6. Hon. Nicola Grigg MP 7. Mr Jack Hamlyn, Clerk of the Committee 8. Mr Colvin Inglis, Parliamentary Officer 9. Mr Michael Verkade, Senior Research Adviser	New Zealand	10 August
03	Courtesy call from the new Non-Resident Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Fiji, H.E Rashed Matar Alsiri Alqemzi to the Speaker of Parliament, H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau.	United Arab Emirates	14 September
04	Courtesy call from the new Non-Resident Ambassador of Romania to Fiji, H.E Radu Gabriel Safta to the Speaker of Parliament, H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau.	Romania	14 September
05	Courtesy call from the new Non-Resident Ambassador of Chile to Fiji, H.E Mr Ignacio Llanos Mardones to the Speaker of Parliament, H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau.	Chile	14 September
06	Courtesy call from the new Non-Resident Ambassador of Hungary to Fiji, H.E Dr Zsolt Gábor Hetes to the Speaker of Parliament, H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau.	Hungary	26 September
07	Courtesy call from the new Non-Resident Ambassador of Ireland to Fiji, H.E Mr Tim Wave on H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, Speaker of Parliament.	Ireland	26 September

PARLIAMENT SITTINGS : JULY – SEPTEMBER, 2022



STANDING COMMITTEES OF PARLIAMENT

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2022

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

NO. OF MEETINGS	COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED	PAPERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
24	1. Review Report of the Accident Compensation Commission Fiji 2018 Annual Report 2. Review Report of the Fiji Rice 2013–2017 Annual Reports 3. Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Meat Industry Board 2015–2017 Annual Reports	1. Fiji Revenue and Customs Service Annual Report 2018–2019 2. Energy Fiji Limited 2021 Annual Report 3. Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission Annual Report 4. Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism Annual Report 2018 2019

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

NO. OF MEETINGS	COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED	PAPERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
17	Nil	1. Ministry of Defence and National Security 2017–2018 Annual Report

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

NO. OF MEETINGS	COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED	PAPERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
16	1. Review of the Office of the Prime Minister and Department of Immigration 2018–2019 Annual Report 2. Review of the Fiji Corrections Service Annual Report 2017–2018 3. Review of the Electoral Commission Annual Report 2018 4. Review of the Electoral Commission Annual Report 2019	1. Parliament of the Republic of Fiji Annual Report 2017–2018 2. The Electoral Commission Annual Report 2020 3. The Electoral Commission Annual Report 2021

STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

NO. OF MEETINGS	COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED	PAPERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
16	1. Review Report of the Ministry of Agriculture Consolidated Annual Reports 1st August 2016–31 July 2017 and 1st August 2017–31 July 2018 2. Review of the Water Authority of Fiji Annual Report 2017 3. Review of the Consolidated Annual Reports for the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources 2014 and 2015	1. Ministry of Agriculture Annual Report 2018–2019 2. Ministry of Waterways Annual Report 2017–2018 3. Ministry of Forestry Annual Report 2019–2020

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

NO. OF MEETINGS	COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED	PAPERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
32	1. Review of the 2018–2019 and 2019–2020 Audit Reports on Municipal Councils 2. Review of the Performance Audit on the Licensing and Monitoring of River Gravel and Sand Extractions 3. Review of the Auditor-General's Report on Compliance Audits Relating to COVID-19 Response 4. Review of the Office of the Auditor-General's 2021 Annual Report 5. Review of the Auditor-General's Report on COVID-19 Compliance Audits- Management of Unemployment Benefits, Management of Concessional Loan Package to Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)	1. Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2018–2019 Financial Statements of Government

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL AFFAIRS

NO. OF MEETINGS	COMMITTEE REPORTS TABLED	PAPERS REFERRED TO COMMITTEES
31	1. Review of the Fiji Public Trustee Corporation Pte Limited 2019 and 2018 Annual Report 2. Review of the iTaukei Trust Fund Board 2019 Annual Report 3. Review of the Fiji National University 2020 Annual Report 4. Review of the Housing Authority 2016 and 2017 Annual Report 5. Review of the Public Rental Board 2018 Annual Report	1. Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji Annual Report 2020 2. Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management 2016–2017, 2017–2018 Annual Report 3. Land Transport Authority Annual Report 2014 4. Land Transport Authority Annual Report 2015 5. Land Transport Authority Annual Report 2016 6. Land Transport Authority Annual Report 2016–2017 7. iTaukei Trust Fund Board Annual Report 2020 8. Fiji Airports Annual Report 2020 9. Ministry of Waterways Annual Report 2017–2018 10. Ministry of Local Government Annual Report 2018–2019 11. Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations 1 August 2016–31 July 2017 Annual Report 12. Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations Annual Report 2017–2018 13. Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Annual Report 2018–2019 14. Ministry of Youth and Sports Annual Report 2019–2020 15. Fiji Sports Council Annual Report August 2017–July 2018 16. Levuka Town Council Annual Report 2012 17. Levuka Town Council Annual Report 2013 18. Tavua Town Council Annual Report 2015 19. Ba Town Council Annual Report 2019

COMMITTEES AT WORK



Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence met and discussed bilateral relations with the New Zealand Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee in August, 2022.



Standing Committee on Natural Resources with the Ministry of Waterways after submission on their 2017-2018 Annual Report in September, 2022.



Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, the Hon. Vijay Nath presenting the Review Report of the Fiji Rice 2013-2017 Annual Reports in August, 2022.



Standing Committee on Economic Affairs with the Pacific Fishing Company (PAFCO) after submission on their 2018 Annual Report in August, 2022.



Members of the Public Accounts Committee, Hon. Aseri Radrodoro and Hon. Virendra Lal during the 16th Biennial Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees Conference at the New Zealand Parliament in July, 2022.



Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Hon. Alvick Maharaj presenting the Review Report of the Fiji Public Trustee Corporation Pte Limited 2018-2019 Annual Report in August, 2022.



Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence with the Ministry of Communications during the submission on the Convention on Cybercrime in September, 2022.



Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources, the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal presenting the Ministry of Forestry 2019-2020 Annual Report in September, 2022.



Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, the Hon. Viam Pillay presenting the Review Report of the Public Rental Board 2018 Annual Report in August, 2022.

IN OTHER EVENTS



Speaker of Parliament H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau with the Fijiana Rugby Squad at the Grand Pacific Hotel in September, 2022.



The Non-Resident Ambassador of Chile to Fiji H.E Hon. Hugo Ignacio L. Mardones paid a courtesy visit to the Speaker of Parliament, H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau in September, 2022.



Group photo of the Speaker of Parliament, H.E. Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau with the New Zealand Parliament's Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee in August, 2022.



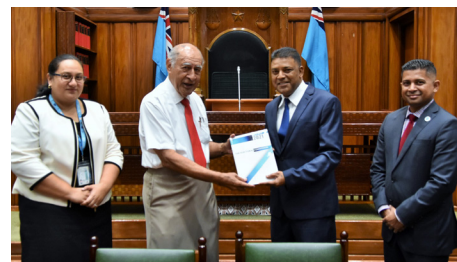
The Non-Resident Ambassador of Serbia to Fiji. Mr Rade Stefanovic paid a courtesy visit to the Speaker of Parliament, H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau in July, 2022.



Speaker of Parliament, H.E. Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau signed the condolence book for the late Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, at the British High Commission in September, 2022.



The Non-Resident Ambassador of United Arab Emirates to Fiji H.E Mr Rashed Marta Alsiri Algemzi paid a courtesy visit to the Speaker of Parliament, H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau in September, 2022.



Handing over of the 2021 Electoral Commission Annual Report to the Speaker H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and the Secretary-General to Parliament, Mrs Jeanette Emberson in July, 2022.



Courtesy call from the new Non-Resident Ambassador of Romania to Fiji, H.E Radu Gabriel Safta to the Speaker of Parliament, H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau.



Courtesy Call from Lance Corporal Shiu Reddy to the Speaker of Parliament, H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau. Mr Reddy was in the first lift of Alfa Company (A Coy) of the Fiji Battalion (Fiji Batt One) commanded by Lt. Col. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau in 1978.



Speaker of Parliament H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and Secretary-General to Parliament Mrs Jeanette Emberson with the President of the Legislative Council, Mr Nazih Elasmr and the Usher of the Black Rod of the Legislative Council from our twin Parliament, Parliament of Victoria.

FAREWELL FOR RETIREES



Speaker of Parliament H.E Hon. Ratu Epeli Nailatikau and Secretary-General to Parliament Mrs Jeanette Emberson with the three retirees, Ms Miriama Vereivalu (second from right), Mr Mitieli Uculoa (far-left) and Mr Ponipate Coalala (far-right) during their farewell party in July, 2022.

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven’.

The Fijian Parliament farewelled three retirees in September, Manager Finance Miriama Vereivalu, IT Technician Mitieli Uculoa and Storeman Ponipate Coalala.

Since the re-opening of Parliament in 2014, the three officers have been working tirelessly in their respective roles to support the Members of Parliament, staff and other stakeholders.

“I wish to thank all three of you most sincerely for your dedication and for the many contributions you have made through the years to make our team deliver. I know that you leave Parliament with many fond memories not just of what you have enjoyed doing, but what you have contributed which is gratefully valued by your colleagues.”

He reminded the retirees to enjoy the new freedom away from work and wished them well in their retirement plans.

“To Miri, Miti and Poni, you are still all looking very young and fit. I am sure that for you another life beckons. You all possess great credentials and I can tell that all three of you are already planning for the next phase of your working career. To put it plainly, you are all too young to retire,” Hon. Ratu Epeli added.

We wish our three colleagues all the very best in their future endeavours.

PARLIAMENT TOURS : JULY – SEPTEMBER 2022



Lil Champ International.



Indian Navy officers.



Member of the French National Assembly, Mrs Anne Genetet.



Constitution Day school winners Duavata Secondary School, Votualevu College, Lautoka Central College.



Lomawai Secondary School.



Future Leaders Academy.