



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Twenty-third Day of
September, 2021

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 Hon. Pio Tikoduadua.

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, 22 September 2021 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 to the sitting of Parliament and all those watching the live broadcast and live-streaming of the proceedings.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The following reports were tabled and referred accordingly –

(a) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- (i) 2019-2020 Auditor-General's Report on Public Enterprises and Other Entities.

(b) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) Ba Town Council Annual Reports from 2011 to 2018;
- (ii) Labasa Town Council Annual Reports from 2004, 2006 to 2012, and 2014 to 2016;
- (iii) Lami Town Council Annual Reports from 2004 to 2014;
- (iv) Suva City Council Annual Reports from 2011 to 2015;
- (v) Tavua Town Council Annual Reports from 2011 to 2014;
- (vi) Levuka Town Council Annual Reports from 2005 to 2010;
- (vii) Lautoka City Council Annual Reports from 2011 to 2014; and
- (viii) Nasinu Town Council Annual Reports for 2009 and 2010.

- (c) Hon. Speaker advised all Honourable Members that the Fourth Quarter Appropriation Statement from 1st May to 31st July 2021 was being circulated for information only.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Hon. Speaker advised that there were no Committee reports for tabling.

8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu and the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua subsequently responded.

9. THIRD READING – CLIMATE CHANGE BILL 2021 (BILL NO. 31 OF 2021)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development the Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 19 August 2021, that the Climate Change Bill 2021 (Bill No. 31 of 2021) be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to establish a comprehensive response to climate change, to provide for the regulation and governance of the national response to climate change, to introduce a system for the measurement, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions and for related matters (Bill No. 31 of 2021), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

10. 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.

11. QUESTIONS

219/2021 Hon. Ratu Tevita Navurelevu asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the incidence and severity of COVID-19 infections in children under 18 years of age since the beginning of the second wave.

220/2021 Hon. Rohit Sharma asked the Prime Minister and Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Sugar Industry, Foreign Affairs and Forestry – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the Community Based Restoration and Sustainable Management of Mangrove Forests in the Rewa Delta which was funded by the International Tropical Timber Organization Project (ITTO).

221/2021 Hon. Anare Jale asked the Minister for Fisheries – Can the Minister update Parliament on the plan to increase seaweed farming in Maritime Provinces and how farmers will be assisted in transporting dried seaweed to markets.

- 222/2021 Hon. Alipate Nagata asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress made with regards to reducing Ozone Depleting Substances.
- 223/2021 Hon. Simione Rasova asked the Minister for Fisheries – Can the Minister update Parliament on the prospects of fish exports in this financial year (2021-2022).
- 224/2021 Hon. George Vegnathan asked the Minister for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the upgrade of the Golden Age Home in Labasa.
- 225/2021 Hon. Ro Teimumu Kepa asked the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing, Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the measures taken by the Republic of Fiji Military Forces to ensure proper maintenance of the Engineers Project Trust Fund in accordance with accounting standards and the Financial Management Act 2004.
- 226/2021 Hon. Selai Adimaitoga asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament how Non-Communicable Diseases have been managed during this COVID-19 outbreak.

Written Questions

- 227/2021 Hon. Pio Tikoduadua to ask the Attorney-General and Minister for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the boarded drone hardware for whole of Government from 2018 to date.
- 228/2021 Hon. Mikaele Leawere asked the Minister for Infrastructure, Meteorological Services, Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the utilisation of the Rural Roads Programme budgetary allocation, in particular –
- (a) number of rural roads upgraded annually since the 2018-2019 financial year to date; and
 - (b) a list by Division of rural communities where roads have been upgraded annually since the 2018-2019 financial year to date.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were given by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker allowed Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua to ask Written Question 227/2021. The responses to the Written Questions would be tabled at a later sitting date as permitted under Standing Order 45(3).

12. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 24 September 2021 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.46 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

23rd September, 2021.