



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Nineteenth day of April, 2024

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. Manoa Kamikamica, Hon. Vijay Nath, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal and Hon. Aliko Bia.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that the Minutes of the sitting of Parliament held on Thursday, 18 April 2024 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, those seated in the gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet. He also welcomed the law students from the University of the South Pacific.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

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

(a) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audit Report on Follow Up of High Risk Ministries/Departments.

(b) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources – Annual Report 2021-2022.

7. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 39/2024 Hon. Ketan Lal to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the status of the redemption of student bus cards.
- 40/2024 Hon. Alitia Bainivalu asked the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Climate Change, Environment, Civil Service, Information, Public Enterprises and Veteran Affairs – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the establishment of the Fiji Public Sector Learning Institute (FPSLI).
- 41/2024 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – With the seaweed farming having huge potential in coastal communities and maritime islands, can the Minister inform Parliament on the current status of the Seaweed Programme.
- 42/2024 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on how it has progressed with budget implementation, concurrently with managing disaster operations during the course of the current financial year.
- 43/2024 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation – Considering the skilled labour shortage due to many workers leaving Fiji, can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on any plans to quickly upskill individuals to fill the vacancies in the tourism industry.
- 44/2024 Hon. Jovesa Vocea to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on what are the regional and national level strategies the Ministry is undertaking to make kava a 0.5 billion dollar industry.

45/2024 Hon. Viliame Naupoto asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament as to whether the Fire Report from the National Fire Authority on the Vatuwaqa Primary School fire in 2022 has been received.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker allowed the Opposition Whip to ask Oral Question 39/2024 in the absence of the Hon. Ketan Lal, and the Hon. Jone Usamate to ask Oral Question 43/2024 in the absence of the Hon. Faiyaz Koya. The Hon. Speaker allowed Oral Question 44/2024 to be deferred to a later sitting day.

8. END OF WEEK STATEMENTS

- (a) Hon. Sachida Nand delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways the Hon. Vatimi Rayalu subsequently responded.
- (b) Hon. Jone Usamate delivered his End of Week Statement and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad subsequently responded.
- (c) Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered her End of Week Statement and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka subsequently responded.
- (d) Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu delivered his End of Week Statement and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka subsequently responded.

9. SUSPENSION MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved under Standing Order 6 that so much of Standing Order 23(1) be suspended so as to allow the House to sit beyond 12.30 p.m. to complete the remaining items listed on the Order Paper.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

10. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament stands adjourned until Monday, 20 May 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions during the sitting week, and declared Parliament adjourned until Monday, 20 May 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 1.19 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

19th April, 2024.