



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Sixteenth day of April, 2024

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

2. Hon. Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.

3. MEMBERS PRESENT

All Honourable Members were present except for the Hon. Jone Usamate and Hon. Sanjay Kirpal.

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 Monday, 15 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. Deputy Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting, those seated in the gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet. She also welcomed the law students from the University of the South Pacific and the Kabara Cricket team.

## 6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### (a) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Esrom Immanuel tabled the Committee's Report on the 2021-2022 Auditor-General's Audit Report on Municipal Councils.

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.

### (b) Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure tabled the Committee's Report on the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption Annual Report from 1 August 2017 – 31 July 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.

## 7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Climate Change, Environment, Civil Service, Information, Public Enterprises and Veteran Affairs the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya subsequently responded.

## 8. QUESTIONS

### **Oral Questions**

11/2024 Hon. Aliko Bia asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the status and plan to complete the road that was initially developed to connect the southern end of Kadavu from Yawe to Lomati and to Daviqele.

12/2024 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure 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 Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Australia and Port Infrastructure Services.

- 13/2024 Hon. Sachida Nand asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – The Minister informed Parliament on 29 March 2023 that the Ministry would be rolling out the Fiji Women’s Economic Empowerment Plan (2023-2028) – Can the Minister update Parliament on how and when the plan was developed and how well it has been implemented thus far.
- 14/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the relocation of Nabavatu Village.
- 15/2024 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament on when will the upgrade on the road to Valewaqa Settlement in Vunilagi, Cakaudrove commence so that buses and other light PSV can start providing services to the residents.
- 16/2024 Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the establishment of the Office of the International Civil Aviation Organisation Pacific Liaison Officer for the Pacific Small Island Developing States.
- 17/2024 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how the Ministry is ensuring cane access roads are maintained well before harvesting season.
- 18/2024 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament on the reason(s) why the PALM registration is being suspended.

### **Written Question**

- 19/2024 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration – Can the Minister inform Parliament on –
- (a) the number of overseas workers who have entered the workforce from January 2023 until 31 January 2024, by country and trade/skill sectors; and
  - (b) the number of skilled and professional Fijians who left our shores for work, education or immigration in 2023 to date by sector and professional categories.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The response to the Written Question would be submitted in accordance with Standing Order 45(3).

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

10. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

- (a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Ministry of Local Government Annual Report 2018–2019' which was tabled on 21 November 2023.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Viliame Naupoto moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Policing Annual Report 2018–2019' which was tabled on 21 November 2023.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Public Rental Board 2020 Annual Report' which was tabled on 22 November 2023.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Deputy Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Wednesday, 17 April 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.23 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

16<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.