



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Twentieth day of May, 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. Premila Kumar and the 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 Friday, 19 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 the Ambassador of Japan His Excellency Mr Rokuichiro Michii.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that a medical team will be stationed at the Level 2 foyer from Tuesday through Thursday to conduct medical checks and wellness assessments. He also informed that Parliament would host a Women's Mock Parliament focusing on the theme, 'Women in Leadership' and

preparations were underway, to ensure the successful implementation of the initiative.

The Hon. Speaker conveyed to all Honourable Members, the decision of the House Committee (which the Business Committee had endorsed) as follows –

- (a) that Honourable Members may remove their coats only after the Prayers each day;
- (b) safari wear is deemed formal attire, and can be worn during Parliament sittings as well as Committee meetings; and
- (c) provision of lunch during Parliament sitting weeks would resume from this week.

The Hon. Speaker also informed the Honourable Members that the Business Committee agreed to uphold the practice adopted in the April sitting on speaking times during the debates on the Standing Committee review reports as follows –

- (a) the mover would have up to 5 minutes to open the debate and up to 5 minutes for the right of reply;
- (b) there would only be two speakers from each side of the House; and
- (c) each of the two speakers would have up to 10 minutes to speak.

Hon. Speaker further informed all Honourable Members that the response to Written Question 9/2024 from the Hon. Prime Minister had been received and would be conveyed to the Hon. Premila Kumar, and a copy uploaded on the Parliament's website.

The Hon. Speaker also informed all Honourable Members that he had received confirmation from the SODELPA Party Leader the Hon. Aseri Radrodro that the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu was the new SODELPA Whip.

Finally, the Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the Chairperson of the Emoluments Committee had communicated that the Emoluments Committee would table its report at a later sitting.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

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

- (a) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs
 - (i) Fiji Meat Industry Board – Annual Report 2021; and
 - (ii) Fiji Meat Industry Board – Annual Report 2022.
- (b) Sanding Committee on Social Affairs
 - (i) Consumer Council of Fiji – Annual Report 2021–2022.

- (c) Sanding Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights
- (i) Ministry of Justice – Annual Report 2018–2019;
 - (ii) Ministry of Justice – Annual Report 2019–2020;
 - (iii) Ministry of Justice – Annual Report 2020–2021; and
 - (iv) Ministry of Justice – Annual Report 2021–2022.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) 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 Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu subsequently responded.
- (b) The Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Mosese Bilitavu subsequently responded.
- (c) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Alvick Maharaj subsequently responded.
- (d) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya subsequently responded.
- (e) The Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Hem Chand subsequently responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 46/2024 Hon. Rinesh Sharma asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the lessons learnt from the study tour of cane farmers to India.
- 47/2024 Hon. Jovesa Vocea to ask 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 recent development in the Vuvale Partnership between Australia and Fiji.
- 48/2024 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Youth and Sports – Can the Minister inform Parliament as to what measures have been put in place to prevent the repeat of future incidents like the Fijiana Sevens players sleeping on airport benches outside Sydney airport.

- 49/2024 Hon. Alitia Bainivalu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the Operational Partners’ Agreement for Global Environment Facility (GEF) for Community Based Integrated Natural Resource Management (CBINRM).
- 50/2024 Hon. Viam Pillay to ask the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on what was the price of a tonne of Fiji’s sugar in the international market for the 2023 Cane Crushing Season.
- 51/2024 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the re-introduction of the School Counselling Services.
- 52/2024 Hon. Mosese Bulitavu asked the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether Fiji has sufficient supply of tuna to support the Government’s recent announcement of its intention to sell more tuna internationally.

Written Questions

- 53/2024 Hon. Premila Kumar to ask the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Climate Change, Environment, Civil Service, Information, Public Enterprises and Veteran Affairs – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament on –
- (a) the names of Chairpersons and Board Members of all statutory organisations and Government-owned commercial entities;
 - (b) the names of expatriate CEO, Chairpersons and Board Members of all statutory organisations and Government-owned commercial entities; and
 - (c) the selection criteria used to appoint these members.
- 54/2024 Hon. Sanjay Kirpal asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on –
- (a) the total monthly revenue collection from August 2023 to April 2024; and
 - (b) the total monthly VAT Collection from August 2023 to April 2024.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that Oral Question 47/2024 was dropped from the Order Paper as it had been addressed by the Hon. Prime Minister’s Ministerial Statement. Oral Question 50/2024 was withdrawn by the Hon. Viam Pillay. The Hon. Speaker allowed the Hon. Viliame Naupoto to ask Written Question 53/2024. The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The responses to the Written Questions would be submitted in accordance with Standing Order 45(3).

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- (a) The Hon. Attorney-General and Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –
- (i) That the Corrections Service (Amendment) Bill 2024 be considered by Parliament without delay;
 - (ii) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
 - (iii) That the Bill must not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committee of Parliament; and
 - (iv) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 23 May 2024, but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to him as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	28
No	–	23
Not Voted	–	0
Abstained	–	0

Motion agreed to.

- (b) The Minister for Youth and Sports the Hon. Jese Saukuru moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –
- (i) That the Anti-Doping Bill 2024 be considered by Parliament without delay;
 - (ii) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
 - (iii) That the Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights;
 - (iv) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at a later sitting of Parliament; and
 - (v) That upon presentation of the report on the Bill by the Standing Committee, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament, but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to him as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

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

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved pursuant to Standing Order 6 that so much of Standing Order 23(1) be suspended so as 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. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

- (a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption Annual Report 1 August 2017–31 July 2018' which was tabled on 16 April 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Esrom Immanuel moved that Parliament debates the 'Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audits of Municipal Councils for the year ended 2021–2022' which was tabled on 16 April 2024.

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 'Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Report 2020–2021 and 2021–2022' which was tabled on 17 April 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Tuesday, 21 May 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.09 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

20th May, 2024.