



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

---

## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Twenty-second 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. 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 Tuesday, 21 May 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 teachers and Year 8 students of Marist Brothers Primary School as well as Ms Rebecca Brown and Mr Bharath Mohan from the Australian High Commission.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 130(5), he had provided notification in the Gazette that the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework had been approved by Parliament.

The Hon. Speaker also informed that he had received notification from the Chairperson of the Emoluments Committee that she would table the Committee's report during the day.

The Hon. Speaker also reminded Members of the Standing Orders Committee of their meeting at the Small Committee Room during the lunch break.

## 6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### (a) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna tabled the Committee's consolidated review report on the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources annual reports for the years 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources 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) Special Committee on Emoluments

The Chairperson of the Special Committee on Emoluments the Hon. Lynda Tabuya tabled the Committee's report on the review of Salaries, Allowances, and Benefits of the Members of Parliament, President, and Speaker and Parliamentary Retirement Allowances Act 1989.

The Chairperson of the Special Committee on Emoluments moved a motion without notice pursuant to the resolutions of Parliament on Wednesday, 12 July 2023 and Monday, 11 September 2023, that a debate on the content and adoption of the report is initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

## 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 Hon. Jone Usamate subsequently responded.

(b) The 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.

(c) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Kalaveti Ravu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau subsequently responded.

- (d) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya subsequently responded.
- (e) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Alvick Maharaj subsequently responded.

## 8. QUESTIONS

### **Oral Questions**

- 66/2024 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the security measures taken by the Land Transport Authority to ensure its Operating System is safe and protected from possible hacking, tampering and manipulation.
- 67/2024 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the consultation TLTB is undertaking on Crown Grants and Native Grants.
- 68/2024 Hon. Sanjay Kirpal asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether the Leasehold Market Value is regulated by any Act or Regulations.
- 69/2024 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna to ask the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister update Parliament on the initiatives implemented to address gender inequality and promote social protection programmes for vulnerable groups, particularly women and children in the rural and maritime areas.
- 70/2024 Hon. Ketan Lal to ask the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister inform Parliament on specific actions currently undertaken to address the maintenance needs of the Golden Old Age Home in Lautoka.
- 71/2024 Hon. Alitia Bainivalu asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament on the approved review of the National Minimum Wage and the ten sectoral minimum Wages Regulations including the proposal of new job classifications within the current Wages Regulations.
- 72/2024 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the work that has been undertaken during this financial year to preserve historical monuments in Levuka.
- 73/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations – Can the Minister update

Parliament on the Fiji Volunteer Service established under the National Employment Centre Act 2009 and the joint School Employment Exposure Programme (SEEP).

### Written Questions

- 74/2024 Hon. Premila Kumar 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) a list of all commenced and continuing Capital Projects for the financial year 2023-2024; and
  - (b) indicate the status, that is, whether they are completed and/or still work in progress.
- 75/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on how many villagers and settlements have utilised the village beautification and improvement fund scheme.
- 76/2024 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the list of all rural water projects that were scheduled to be undertaken by the Water Authority of Fiji and the Public Works Department in this financial year 2023-2024 and to include the following information –
- (a) the budget for each project;
  - (b) the dates the project was scheduled or are scheduled to be completed; and
  - (c) the percentage completion of each project as of 1 May 2024.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna withdrew his Oral Question 69/2024 and the Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that the Hon. Ketan Lal had withdrawn his Oral Question 70/2024. The Minister for Agriculture and Waterways the Hon. Vatimi Rayalu tabled his response to Written Question 75/2024. The responses to the remaining Written Questions would be submitted in accordance with Standing Order 45(3).

### 9. 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.

10. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

11. MOTION FOR DEBATE – TREATY APPROVAL

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved that for the purposes of section 51 of the Constitution and pursuant to Standing Order 130(4), that Parliament approves the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention).

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 Thursday, 23 May 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 5.47 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2024.