



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Twenty-fourth 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 Thursday, 23 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 from Marist Brothers Primary School and the Under 18 Rugby Team from Bucalevu Secondary School. He also welcomed the Ambassador of the Peoples' Republic of China His Excellency Zhou Jian.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

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

(a) Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights

Parliament of the Republic of Fiji – Annual Report 2019–2020.

(b) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) Nausori Town Council – Annual Report 2016;
- (ii) Nausori Town Council – Annual Report 2017;
- (iii) Nausori Town Council – Annual Report 2018;
- (iv) Nasinu Town Council – Annual Report 2016; and
- (v) Nasinu Town Council – Annual Report 2017.

(c) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

Sugar Research Institute of Fiji – Annual Report 2021.

(d) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- (i) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2022 Financial Statements of Government and 2022 Agency Financial Statements – Ministry of Finance; and
- (ii) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Crown Land Lease System.

Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that the following papers were for information only and would not be referred to any Standing Committee –

(a) Reserve Bank of Fiji Quarterly Review March 2024; and

(b) Third Quarter Appropriation Statement – Actual Expenditure from 1 February 2024–30 April 2024.

7. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

88/2024 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how the supply of cane in the Rakiraki area will be increased.

89/2024 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on key activities that the Aviation Industry is undertaking to support growth in the Tourism Sector.

- 90/2024 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau asked the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the total number of trees planted to-date, under the 30 million tree planting programme which targets reforestation and climate change mitigation.
- 91/2024 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration – Can the Minister inform Parliament what actions have been taken or are planned to be taken to ensure border security given the recent influx in criminal activities and illegal border entries.
- 92/2024 Hon. Viliame Naupoto asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the activities and findings of the External Review Committee appointed by the Higher Education Commission in November 2023 to assess Fiji's Universities.
- 93/2024 Hon. Alitia Bainivalu asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Nasinu Town Council taking ownership of their waste management operations from Suva Municipal Council.
- 94/2024 Hon. Sanjay Kirpal asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the requirements and procedure used by the Ministry to issue 5-year Foreshore Development leases.
- 95/2024 Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna asked 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 initiatives the Ministry is undertaking to promote economic diversification.

Written Questions

- 96/2024 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament on all Ground Water projects that were to be drilled and reticulated in both large and small islands in the 2023-2024 financial year to include the following information –
- (a) the budget of each project;
 - (b) the date each project was or is scheduled to be completed; and
 - (c) the percentage completion of each project.

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).

8. 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.

9. END OF WEEK STATEMENTS

(a) Hon. Faiyaz Koya delivered his End of Week Statement and the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga subsequently responded.

(b) Hon. Isikeli Tuiwailevu delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu subsequently responded.

(c) Hon. Rinesh Sharma delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu subsequently responded.

(d) Hon. Sashi Kiran delivered her End of Week Statement and the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry the Hon. Charan Singh subsequently responded.

10. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

11. 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 34 is suspended so as to allow the Chairperson of the Special Committee on Emoluments to move her motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

12. MOTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON EMOLUMENTS

The Chairperson of the Special Committee on Emoluments the Hon. Lynda Tabuya moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 22 May 2024 and sections 3, 12 and 13 of the Parliamentary Remunerations Act 2014, that Parliament debates and approves the recommendations in the report of the Special Committee on Emoluments which was tabled on Wednesday, 22 May 2024, and that this determination to take effect from 1 August 2024 and expire on 31 December 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	40
No	–	7
Abstention	–	5

Motion agreed to.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament stands adjourned until Friday, 28 June 2024 at 10.00 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 Friday, 28 June 2024 at 10.00 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 5.33 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

24th May, 2024.