



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Ninth day of August, 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. Viliame Gavoka, Hon. Semi Koroilavesau and Hon. Sachida Nand.

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, 8 August 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.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members on the successful hosting of the 2024 Women's Mock Parliament after a lapse of seven years.

Hon. Speaker also informed all Honourable Members that he had undertaken a review of the membership of the six Standing Committees and four Select Committees to ensure fair representation of the two Working Groups or Blocs in the Opposition.

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. **Standing Committee on Public Accounts**
Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva to replace the Hon. Hem Chand.
Alternate Members would be Hon. Taito Rokomatu and Hon. Hem Chand.
2. **Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights**
Hon. Jone Usamate to replace the Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu.
Alternate Members would be Hon. Alipate Tuicolo and Hon. Semi Koroilavesau.
3. **Standing Committee on Economic Affairs**
Hon. Aliko Bia to replace the Hon. Semi Koroilavesau.
Alternate Members would be Hon. Vijay Nath and Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva.
4. **Standing Committee on Natural Resources**
 - (a) Hon. Sachida Nand to replace the Hon. Joseph Nand.
 - (b) Hon. Taito Rokomatu to replace the Hon. Jone Usamate.
 - (c) Hon. Kalaveti Ravu to replace the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu.Alternate Members would be Hon. Virendra Lal and Hon. Alipate Tuicolo.
5. **Standing Committee on Social Affairs**
Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu to replace Hon. Alitia Bainivalu.
Hon. Ioane Naivalurua would replace the Hon. Parveen Bala.
Alternate Members would be Hon. Shalen Kumar and Hon. Penioni Ravunawa.
6. **Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence**
Hon. Rinesh Sharma would replace the Hon. Ioane Naivalurua.
Alternate Members will be Hon. Joseph Nand and Hon. Alipate Tuicolo.

SELECT COMMITTEES

1. **Business Committee**
Hon. Ioane Naivalurua to replace the Hon. Faiyaz Koya.
2. **Privileges Committee**
Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu to replace the Hon. Faiyaz Koya

Following the amendment of the Standing Orders on the Membership of the House Committee, the Whips of each party would now be represented on the Committee as follows –

3. **House Committee**
 - (a) Government Whip, Hon. Alitia Bainivalu.
 - (b) NFP Whip, Hon. Pio Tikoduadua.
 - (c) SODELPA Whip, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu.
 - (d) Group of 16 Bloc Whip, Hon. Jone Usamate.
 - (e) Group of 9 Bloc Whip, Hon. Viliame Naupoto.

With the confirmation of the two Working Groups/Blocs amongst the Opposition, the respective Whips would now be represented in the Standing Orders Committee as follows –

4. **Standing Orders Committee**

- 1) Group of 16 Bloc Whip, Hon. Jone Usamate.
- 2) Group of 9 Bloc Whip, Hon. Viliame Naupoto.

6. **PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS**

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

(a) **Standing Committee on Social Affairs**

- (i) Fiji Airways – Annual Report 2023;
- (ii) Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport – Annual Report 2017–2018;
- (iii) Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport – Annual Report 2018–2019;
- (iv) Fiji Roads Authority – Annual Report 2019–2020;
- (v) Fiji Roads Authority – Annual Report 2020–2021;
- (vi) Land Transport Authority – Annual Report 2017–2018;
- (vii) Land Transport Authority – Annual Report 2018–2019;
- (viii) Land Transport Authority Annual Report 2019–2020;
- (ix) Lautoka City Council – Annual Report 2015;
- (x) Lautoka City Council – Annual Report 2016; and
- (xi) Lautoka City Council – Annual Report 2017.

7. **QUESTIONS**

Oral Questions

- 149/2024 Hon. Viliame Naupoto asked the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the types of assistance the Ministry can provide to the public to assist in the prevention of cruelty to animals.
- 150/2024 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 Fiji and the International Peace Institute.

- 151/2024 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on plans to regularise the turmeric prices so that it can be a viable commodity for the local communities.
- 152/2024 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the progress and activities of the National Taskforce on Food Safety.
- 153/2024 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the investigations on the ferries wheel incident a year ago.
- 154/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the National Disaster Management Office partnership with Japan’s Quasi-Zenith Satellite System for early warning system.
- 155/2024 Hon. Sachida Nand to ask the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways – With the Ministry having embarked on an initiative with investors from Israel to address large scale production technologies, can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the dairy production facility project in the Central Division.
- 156/2024 Hon. Jovesa Vocea to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the strategies in place by the Ministry to revive dormant Co-operatives.
- 157/2024 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the utilisation of the \$2m allocation for the Village Improvement Scheme in the 2023–2024 budget.
- 158/2024 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the types of training offered to tenants of the Public Rental Board.

Written Questions

- 159/2024 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister provide Parliament the complete list of Capital Projects to be undertaken by

MSAF in the 2024–2025 financial year indicating the following for each project –

- (a) the project's budget;
- (b) the anticipated completion date; and
- (c) the projected benefits and beneficiaries of each project.

160/2024 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the status of the various light houses around Fiji, how many are operational and how many are not, and what are the plans to repair, replace and maintain the lighthouses.

The Hon. Speaker allowed the Hon. Jone Usamate to ask question 155/2024 and also informed that Oral Question 156/2024 had been withdrawn by the Hon. Jovesa Vocea. The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The responses to Written Questions 159/2024 and 160/2024 were tabled by the Minister.

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. Viliame Naupoto delivered his End of Week Statement and the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Climate, Change, Environment, Civil Service, Information, Public Enterprises and Veteran Affairs the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka subsequently responded.
- (b) Hon. Alvick Maharaj delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro subsequently responded.
- (c) Hon. Sashi Kiran delivered her End of Week Statement and the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Lynda Tabuya subsequently responded.

- (d) Hon. Ratu 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.

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, 2 September 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the back-to-office reports for the following were available in the Library for Honourable Members perusal. The Hon. Speaker also reminded Honourable Members who have attended official Parliamentary meetings abroad to submit their back-to-office reports to his office.

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions during the sitting week, and declared Parliament adjourned until Monday, 2 September 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 2.13 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

9th August, 2024.