



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Second day of September, 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. Vijay Nath, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal and the Hon. Alvick Maharaj.

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, 9 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. The Hon. Speaker also welcomed the students and teachers of Ketei District School.

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the following written responses had been received from the respective Ministers, and that copies were available on the Parliament's website –

- (a) the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, to Written Question 107/2024 asked by the Hon. Penioni Ravunawa; and Written Question 148/2024 asked by the Hon. Premila Kumar;
- (b) the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka, to Written Question 135/2024 asked by the Hon. Vijay Nath;
- (c) the Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro, to Written Question 51/2023 asked by the Hon. Premila Kumar; and
- (d) the Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, to Written Question 159/2023 asked by the Hon. Jovesa Vocea.

The Hon. Speaker also informed all Honourable Members that he had instructed the secretariat to compile a list of all overdue written questions and these would be announced later in the week.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The following reports were tabled and referred accordingly to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence –

- (a) Ministry of Civil Service – 2020-2021 Annual Report;
- (b) Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit – 2023 Annual Report;
- (c) Office of the Attorney-General – 2006 Annual Report;
- (d) Office of the Attorney-General – 2007 Annual Report;
- (e) Office of the Attorney-General – 2008 Annual Report;
- (f) Office of the Attorney-General – 2009 Annual Report;
- (g) Office of the Attorney-General – 2010 Annual Report;
- (h) Office of the Attorney-General – 2011 Annual Report;
- (i) Office of the Attorney-General – 2012 Annual Report;
- (j) Office of the Attorney-General – 2013 Annual Report;
- (k) Office of the Attorney-General – 2014 Annual Report;
- (l) Office of the Attorney-General – 2015 Annual Report;
- (m) Office of the Attorney-General – 2016-2017 Annual Report;
- (n) Office of the Attorney-General – 2017-2018 Annual Report;
- (o) Office of the Attorney-General – 2018-2019 Annual Report;
- (p) Office of the Attorney-General – 2019-2020 Annual Report;
- (q) Office of the Attorney-General – 2020-2021 Annual Report;
- (r) Office of the Attorney-General – 2021-2022 Annual Report;
- (s) Office of the Attorney-General – 2022-2023 Annual Report;
- (t) Legal Aid Commission – Annual Report 2018-2021; and
- (u) Legal Aid Commission – Annual Report 2021-2023.

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 and the Leader of the Group of 9 Bloc the Hon. Ioane Naivalurua subsequently responded.
- (b) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya and Hon. Penioni Ravunawa subsequently responded.
- (c) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau and Hon. Viliame Naupoto subsequently responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 161/2024 Hon. Ioane Naivalurua asked 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 the current status and functions of the Pacific Island Development Forum.
- 162/2024 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure 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 Secured Transaction Reform including the Personal Property Securities Registry administered by the Reserve Bank of Fiji.
- 163/2024 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the status upgrade work at the Nautoloulou/Cora Road in Wainunu, Bua.
- 164/2024 Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna 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 Fiji's Plan on Pacer Plus.
- 165/2024 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the Government's future plans for the Committee on Better Utilisation of Land programme that was introduced in 2008.

- 166/2024 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Beijing Platform for Action 30 Year National Review Report.
- 167/2024 Hon. Alvick Maharaj to ask the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the benefits of the Public-Private Partnership approach for the healthcare sector.
- 168/2024 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on plans by the Fiji Roads Authority to extend the road from Tawake to Wainika village in the Udu Peninsula.
- 169/2024 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau asked the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the distribution of solar freezers to rural fishing communities.
- 170/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the outcomes of the 2020 Meeting of the Pacific Regional Council for Early Childhood Development.

Written Question

- 171/2024 Hon. Ioane Naivalurua asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament on –
- (a) the total number of fires from July 2021 to July 2024;
 - (b) the total number of casualties from July 2021 to July 2024;
 - and
 - (c) the causes of fire reported during the same period.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker allowed the Hon. Jone Usamate to ask Oral Question 167/2024 in the absence of the Hon. Alvick Maharaj. The response to Written Question 171/2024 was tabled by the respective Minister.

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

- (a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Esrom Immanuel moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Audit Reports on Public Enterprises and Other Entities for the audit year ending from 2019–2020 and 2021–2022' which was tabled on 8 August 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, 3 September 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 5.23 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

2nd September, 2024.