



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

---

## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Eighth 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. Semi Koroilavesau.

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 Wednesday, 7 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 also welcomed the Year 5 students and teachers of International School Suva.

## 6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Esrom Immanuel tabled the consolidated Committee report for the review of the 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 Audit Reports on Public Enterprises and Other Entities.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts 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.

## 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. Faiyaz Koya and Hon. Mosese Bulitavu subsequently responded. The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that Oral Question 140/2024 would be dropped as a result of the Ministerial Statement.
- (b) The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Alvick Maharaj and Hon. Penioni Ravunawa subsequently responded.
- (c) The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Lynda Tabuya delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal and Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu subsequently responded.
- (d) The Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Ketan Lal and Hon. Ioane Naivalurua subsequently responded.
- (e) The Minister for Youth and Sports the Hon. Jese Saukuru delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Rinesh Sharma and Hon. Alipate Tuicolo subsequently responded.
- (f) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu and Hon. Viliame Naupoto subsequently responded.

## 8. QUESTIONS

### **Oral Questions**

- 118/2024 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna 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 monitoring and evaluation measures in place for

- the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises that have received assistance and funding.
- 120/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the registration of vacant Traditional Title Holder(s).
- 121/2024 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 the additional VAT on goods received from overseas.
- 122/2024 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 inform Parliament of the process that was undertaken to facilitate the installation of telecommunication towers in our rural and maritime areas.
- 136/2024 Hon. Penioni Ravunawa to ask the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the new 100-beds hospital funded by the Government of India in Nasinu.
- 137/2024 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu 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 Ministry’s plans to adopt more International Standards and Guidelines in the Building and Construction sector to make the industry more effective and efficient.
- 138/2024 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services, and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the state of the infrastructure regarding the bridges and roads in remote areas, in particular, the Sigatoka Valley Road.
- 139/2024 Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Memorandum of Understanding between Peace Corps Fiji and the Ministry.
- 140/2024 Hon. Faiyaz Koya 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 what measures the Ministry of Civil Service is taking to improve productivity across the civil service in light of increased salary adjustments as highlighted in the budget.
- 141/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu 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 Fiji: Sustainable and Resilient Recovery Programme.

- 142/2024 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the specific details on how the budget will support small-scale sugarcane farmers from larger producers.
- 143/2024 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure 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 Co-operative Development Fund and its execution.
- 144/2024 Hon. Parveen Bala asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how the mill breakdown issues are being addressed.
- 145/2024 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna 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 establishment of the United States Agency for International Development Office in Suva.

### Written Questions

- 146/2024 Hon. Jone Usamate to ask the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister provide Parliament the complete list of Capital Projects to be undertaken by the Land Transport Authority 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.
- 147/2024 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the number of agricultural state leases (sugarcane areas) which are in breach of state lease conditions.
- 148/2024 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 the total amount of loan raised by the Government from December 2022 to July 2024, how it was utilised, and what percentage was allocated to operational expenses versus capital expenditure.

The Hon. Speaker informed that Oral Question 136/2024 had been withdrawn by the Hon. Penioni Ravunawa. The Hon. Speaker reiterated that Oral Question 140/2024 had dropped as a result of the Ministerial Statement earlier in the day. The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The response to Written Question 146/2024 was tabled by the Minister. The Hon. Speaker allowed the Government Whip the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu to table the written response for Written Question 147/2024. The

response to Written Question 148/2024 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. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of the Ministry of Forestry 2019–2020, 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 12 July 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 Friday, 9 August 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.23 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

8<sup>th</sup> August, 2024.