



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Sixth day of August, 2024

1. The House met at 10.30 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. Joseph Nand and the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal.

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 Monday, 5 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 watching the live proceedings on television and the internet and also the distinguished guests in the gallery.

Hon. Speaker informed that Her Excellency the President of India would visit Parliament later and also address Parliament. As unanimously approved by the Business Committee in its meeting last week, on the arrival of Her Excellency, the Standing Orders and the order of the day would be suspended until such time that Her Excellency departs the Parliament Chambers.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no Committee reports for presentation.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no Ministerial Statements.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

113/2024 Hon. Penioni Ravunawa asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament if the Government has any plans to expand the dental care programme under the Private Public Partnership Health Care Scheme to the North, Western and Eastern Divisions in this new financial year.

114/2024 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu 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 Grant Funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency for Fiji Airports.

115/2024 Hon. Ioane Naivalurua asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament if the Government has any plans to renovate and improve the state of the public toilet facilities in all towns and cities.

116/2024 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the progress made in the development of Medical Tourism.

117/2024 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the utilisation of the \$4m allocation for the iTaukei Land Development in the 2023–2024 budget.

118/2024 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna 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 monitoring and evaluation measures in place for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises that have received assistance and funding.

- 119/2024 Hon. Sachida Nand asked the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the sale of fresh ginger to the Australia Ginger Farmers Association in the last 12 months as mentioned by the Minister in Parliament in March 2023.
- 120/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu to ask 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 to ask 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 to ask 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.

Written Questions

- 123/2024 Hon. Viam Pillay to ask the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –
- (a) tonnes of sugar cane crushed in the last 5 years;
 - (b) the amount of sugar and molasses produced; and
 - (c) the downtime of the mills, dates and cost to repairs

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that Oral Questions 118/2024, 120/2024, 121/2024, 122/2024 and 123/2024 would be deferred to a later sitting day in the week. The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

10. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

- (a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna moved that Parliament debates the ‘Consolidated Review Report of the Sugar Cane Growers Council 2019, 2020 and 2021 Annual Reports’ which was tabled on 12 July 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Sugar Corporation 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 12 July 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Deputy Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Wednesday, 7 August 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 3.30 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

6th August, 2024.