



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Fourth day of September, 2024

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

2. Hon. Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.

3. MEMBERS PRESENT

All Honourable Members were present except for the Hon. Jese Saukuru, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, Hon. Vijay Nath 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 Tuesday, 3 September 2024 as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

The Hon. Deputy Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting, those seated in the gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Standing Committee's Review Report for the Fiji Meat Industry Board Annual Reports 2018-2022.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(b) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Standing Committee's Review Report of the Rakiraki Town Council Annual Report for the Year 2019.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Standing Committee's Review Report of the Nadi Town Council Annual Report for the Year 2016.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 177/2024 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on what measures are in place to recover the outstanding Town and City rates in all the municipalities in Fiji.

- 178/2024 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the development of the Fiji National Labour Mobility Framework and Strategy with the International Organisation for Migration.
- 179/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the benefits of the recently held Fiji Pro Event.
- 180/2024 Hon. Ketan Lal asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Velovelo foreshore land at Lautoka which was under development for industrial purposes.
- 181/2024 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the outcomes of the 2021 Pacific Literacy and Numeracy Assessment.
- 185/2024 Hon. Aliko Bia 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 measures being undertaken by the Ministry of Environment to enforce the Litter Act 2008.
- 186/2024 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament as to when the damaged hanging bridge in Bua Lomanikoro which was severely damaged in 2015 will be replaced.
- 187/2024 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo to ask the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on any plans to upgrade existing water systems in rural areas under the Rural Water Scheme.
- 188/2024 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on what strategy was in place by the Fiji Aviation Academy in saving Fiji Airways over \$US10 million [FJD 22.7 million] in training bills annually.
- 189/2024 Hon. Sachida Nand asked the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways – Can the Minister update Parliament on which sectors were assisted under the \$2million Commercial Agriculture Development Programme in the 2023-2024 financial year.
- 190/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament of the current status of Standing Trees Compensation for Landowning Units whose land were leased to the State for water catchment purposes.

- 191/2024 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on what measures have been taken to curb the surge in drug-related offences among young people and the doubling of HIV cases among our youths in recent years.
- 192/2024 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed between the Suva City Council and Pacific Polytech.
- 193/2024 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament, if the criteria for the appointment of District Advisory Councillors has been strictly adhered to in all appointments since January 2023.

Written Questions

- 182/2024 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva asked the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways – Can the Minister inform Parliament on –
- (a) the number of farmers that were assisted in the dalo and yaqona farming programmes in the 2023-2024 financial year;
 - (b) the allocation breakdown in terms of provinces; and
 - (c) the expected return on investment from each farmer.
- 183/2024 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following in relation to the development of the Education Sector Plan which was funded by the Global Partnership for Education in 2022 –
- (a) the specific milestones that have been achieved from 2023;
 - (b) how much of the allocated funds have been utilised, and for what specific purposes; and
 - (c) what are the tentative dates for the completion of the Education Sector Plan and how will it be implemented.
- 184/2024 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how many health centres in our rural and maritime areas are earmarked for upgrade in this financial year.
- 194/2024 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on –
- (a) the number of road accidents and fatalities from January to July 2024;
 - (b) the number of infringement notices issued during the same period; and

- (c) the number of driver license holders given final warning, suspended or cancelled as a consequence of continuous infringement.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. Oral Questions 179/2024 and 187/2024 were withdrawn by the respective Honourable Members. The responses to Written Questions 182/2024, 183/2024, 184/2024 and 194/2024 were tabled by the respective Ministers.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Deputy Speaker informed Honourable Members that the Government Guarantee Motion was deferred to Thursday, 5 September 2024.

The Hon. Deputy Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 5 September 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 12.24 p.m.

Deputy Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

4th September, 2024.