



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Seventh 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. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu, Hon. Parveen Bala, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal and Hon. Vijay Nath.

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, 6 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 Ambassador of Japan His Excellency Mr Rokuichiro Michii and the 3rd year students and Lecturers of Corpus Christi College.

6. MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED SITTING CALENDAR

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament adopts the amended 2024 sitting calendar for November and December.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

8. 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) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Alvick Maharaj and Hon. Penioni Ravunawa subsequently responded.
- (c) The Minister for Youth and Sports the Hon. Jese Saukuru delivered a Ministerial Statement and also tabled the National Sports, Recreation and Physical Activity Policy 2024. The Hon. Rinesh Sharma and Hon. Aliko Bia subsequently responded.
- (d) 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. Mosese Bulitavu subsequently responded.
- (e) The Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management the Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu and Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva subsequently responded.

- (f) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate and Hon. Viliame Naupoto subsequently responded. The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that Oral Question 126/2024 would be dropped as a result of the Ministerial Statement.

9. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 124/2024 Hon. Penioni Ravunawa asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the strategies to resolve the critical shortage of Dental Hygienists in public hospitals.
- 125/2024 Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna 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 Public Service Broadcasting Grant.
- 126/2024 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau to ask the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – Can the Minister inform Parliament as to why Cage Farming, which is widely practised in the world and especially in Asia, has yet to be implemented in Fiji.
- 127/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Memorandum of Understanding between Fiji and Australia on a Defence Pacific Air Programme.
- 128/2024 Hon. Shalen Kumar asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament as to when will people enjoy uninterrupted water supply in parts of Suva like Raiwaqa, Tamavua and Wailoku.
- 129/2024 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the Informal Settlement Upgrade Programme.
- 130/2024 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament what is Government doing to ensure our Fijian staff welfare and concerns are taken to the USP Council through our representatives.
- 131/2024 Hon. Sashi Kiran asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how the Ministry intends to assist unemployed persons in finding suitable employment locally.
- 132/2024 Hon. Sachida Nand asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the

utilisation of the \$500,000 in the 2023–2024 financial year for the progress of works for gas crematorium in the Navua, Western and Northern divisions.

133/2024 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways – Can the Minister update Parliament on the construction of seawalls in the villages situated in the Natewa Bay Peninsula.

Written Questions

123/2024 Hon. Viam Pillay asked 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.

134/2024 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 the Water Authority of Fiji 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.

135/2024 Hon. Vijay Nath to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on the number of yachts that have entered Fiji waters.

The Hon. Speaker reiterated that Oral Question 126/2024 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 responses to Written Questions 123/2024 and 134/2024 were tabled by the respective Ministers. The response to Written Question 135/2024 would be submitted in accordance with Standing Order 45(3).

10. 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.

11. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

12. 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 Industry Tribunal 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 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 Sugar Research Institute of Fiji 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 12 July 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 8 August 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.40 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

7th August, 2024.