



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Second day of October,
2024

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.
2. Hon. Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.
3. ATTENDANCE
 - (a) The following Honourable Member gave apologies to the Hon. Speaker for absence from the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Pio Tikoduadua and Hon. Parveen Bala.
 - (b) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for their intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Sashi Kiran, Hon. Charan Singh, Hon. Vatimi Rayalu and Hon. Lynda Tabuya.
 - (c) The following Honourable Members were absent –

Hon. Aliko Bia, Hon. Joseph Nand, Hon. Vijay Nath and Hon. Shalen Kumar.

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, 1 October 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 Year 8 students and teachers of Yat Sen Primary School.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Ilesia Vanawalu tabled the Standing Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the Ministry of Health and Medical Services' 2016 to 2021 Annual Reports.

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.

(b) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Viliame Naupoto tabled the Standing Committee's Review Report on the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit 2023 Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence 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

(a) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya and Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva subsequently responded.

(b) The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate and Hon. Viliame Naupoto subsequently responded.

(c) The Minister for Youth and Sports the Hon. Jese Saukuru delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Rinesh Sharma and Hon. Taito Rokomatu subsequently responded.

- (d) 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. Ioane Naivalurua subsequently responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 238/2024 Hon. Taito Rokomatu 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 if there are plans to construct telecommunication towers in the Nasau District in Ra.
- 239/2024 Hon. Esrom Immanuel asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Partnership Arrangement between the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign and Trade and the Ministry of Housing.
- 240/2024 Hon. Ioane Naivalurua asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the operation procedures to monitor and regulate the movement of small boats travelling between islands.
- 241/2024 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on what measures are being undertaken to improve the water supply in the Nadi–Lautoka areas.
- 242/2024 Hon. Sachida Nand asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on when it is likely to have piped water supply for Vunitaqala Settlement in Navua to enable the community to have access to clean drinking water.
- 243/2024 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the National HIV Surge Strategy 2024–2027.
- 244/2024 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament if the Ministry has plans for the relocation of the Sigatoka rubbish dump, which is next to our heritage site and at the entrance to Sigatoka town.
- 245/2024 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 inform Parliament on how the Ministry is handling the increase in requests for Co-operative registration.

246/2024 Hon. Shalen Kumar to ask the Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration – With the establishment of the new Narcotics and Drugs Bureau, how does the Ministry plan to involve local communities in the fight against drug abuse and trafficking.

247/2024 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the current and planned water pipeline extension projects in the North.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker informed that Oral Question 246/2024 had lapsed pursuant to Standing Order 45(6).

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. SECOND READING OF THE AUDIT BILL 2024

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved pursuant to Standing Order 85 that the Audit Bill 2024 be read a second time.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker referred the Bill to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts pursuant to Standing Order 85(4)(a) and the Standing Committee must report back to Parliament in the December sitting.

11. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

- (a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of Tavua Town Council Annual Reports for the Years 2016–2018' which was tabled on 5 September 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Esrom Immanuel moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Special Investigation Report on Procurement of Goods and Services – 52nd Asian Development Bank Annual Meeting' which was tabled on 5 September 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 Thursday, 3 October 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.56 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

2nd October, 2024.