

**MONDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2014**

The House met at 10.00 a.m. pursuant to notice.

The Secretary-General read the Prayer.

**PROCLAMATION**

The proclamation issued by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Fiji, appointing the time and place of the meeting of Parliament was read by the Secretary-General.

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH/AFFIRMATION OF ALLEGIANCE**

The following Members subscribed to the Administration of Oath/Affirmation of Allegiance and took their seats in the Chamber:

Hon. Rosy Sofia Akbar  
Hon. Josai Voreqe Bainimarama  
Hon. Veena Kumar Bhatnagar  
Hon. Mosese Drecala Bulitavu  
Hon. Joeli Ratulevu Cawaki  
Hon. Iliesa Delana  
Hon. Roko Tupou Takeiwai Senirewa Draunidalo  
Hon. Jiosefa Dulakiverata  
Hon. Lorna Eden  
Hon. Viliame Rogoibulu Gavoka  
Hon. Semesa Druavesi Karavaki  
Hon. Ro Teimumu Vuikaba Kepa  
Hon. Kiniviliame Kiliraki  
Hon. Jioje Konusi Konrote  
Hon. Semi Tuleca Koroilavesau  
Hon. Faiyaz Siddiq Koya  
Hon. Ratu Inoke Kubuabola  
Hon. Parveen Kumar  
Hon. Brij Lal  
Hon. Naiqama Lalabalavu  
Hon. Alvik Avhikrit Maharaj  
Hon. Suliano Matanitobua  
Hon. Alivereti Nabulivou  
Hon. Ruveni Nadabe Nadalo  
Hon. Osea Naiqamu  
Hon. Ratu Sela Vuinakasa Nanovo  
Hon. Vijay Nath  
Hon. Timoci Lesi Natuva  
Hon. Niko Nawaikula  
Hon. Sanjit Patel  
Hon. Viam Pillay  
Hon. Biman Chand Prasad  
Hon. Aseri Masivou Radrodoro

Hon. Salote Vuibureta Radrodro  
Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy  
Hon. Netani Rika  
Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum  
Hon. Inia Batikoto Seruiratu  
Hon. Neil Prakash Sharma  
Hon. Balmindar Singh  
Hon. Prem Singh  
Hon. Ashneel Sudhakar  
Hon. Viliame Manakiwai Tagivetaua  
Hon. Isoa Delamisi Tikoca  
Hon. Pio Tikoduadua  
Hon. Laisenia Bale Tuitubou  
Hon. Jone Usamate  
Hon. Anare Tuidraki Vadei  
Hon. Samuela Bainikalou Vunivalu  
Hon. Mereseini Vuniwaqa

### **ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

HON. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- Madam Secretary-General, I move that Dr. Jiko Fatafehi Luveni do take the Chair as Speaker of Parliament.

I am advised that Dr. Luveni has consented to this nomination.

Dr. Jiko Luveni has served in the civil service for over 20 years before joining the United Nations Population Fund, where she served in the Pacific Region for 15 years.

In 2008, she was invited in the Bainimarama Government as the Minister for Social Welfare and Poverty Alleviation. During this time, she was exposed to national and regional international conferences, where she performed chairmanship roles.

Given her experience in this forum, I believe she will be eminently suitable to fulfil the role of Speaker.

HON. J.R. CAWAKI.- Madam Secretary-General, I second the motion.

SECRETARY-GENERAL.- Honourable Members, are there any further nominations?

There being no further nominations, I declare Dr. Jiko Fatafehi Luveni, as the Speaker of Parliament. I would like to ask the proposer and the seconder to escort Dr. Jiko Fatafehi Luveni to the Table, to take the Oath of allegiance and of Office.

*(Dr. Luveni was escorted to her seat by honourable S.T. Koroilavesau and honourable J.R. Cawaki and sworn in as Speaker of Parliament)*

(Acclamation)

## COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

MADAM SPEAKER.- The honourable Prime Minister, honourable Ministers, the honourable Members of Parliament, the Secretary-General, distinguished guests and the people of Fiji: as your newly elected Speaker, I wish to express my gratitude for the great honour you have bestowed upon me. It is a privilege to hold such an important parliamentary office, as our nation move forward with reinvigorated parliamentary democracy.

Honourable Members, I could not let the moment pass without acknowledging the support of my family on whom I am deeply indebted.

At this juncture, I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in preparing me for this Office. I extend my utmost gratitude for the work that they have done and are continuing to do, to assist the Fijian Parliament fulfil its Constitutional role.

Honourable Members, this appointment marks an important event, being the first female Speaker in the history of Fiji. I hope this will go a long way to inspire all our young women to reach their full potential, even perhaps, by pursuing a political career.

I thank you all for electing me as the Speaker of Parliament. Your trust and confidence in me is appreciated, and I assure you that I will perform my duties to the best of my ability with impartiality and fairness in all the proceedings of Parliament. But whatever this appointment may symbolise, may you never forget that people have voted you in, and it is them you represent.

The onus is on you honourable Members to give value to a representative parliament. This is a people's summit because it is you, honourable Members, who represent their views for the betterment of our country.

Honourable Members, this responsibility demands nothing less than your vigilance to quality debates that would transcend into an effective representative and legislative institution. I implore all Members to pay due respect to the institution of Parliament and act accordingly, it is the centre of our democratic Fiji. Again, I am indeed humbled and honoured to be appointed as your Speaker.

I look forward to working with the Secretary-General and her staff, in ensuring that the best service is provided to you as honourable Members, who are appointed to ensure that the institution is relevant to our nation and the needs of our people.

I wish you all well in your parliamentary endeavours, and I look forward to serving Parliament as your Speaker.

## ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

HON. S.T. KOROILAVESAU.- Madam Speaker, I move that the honourable Ruveni Nadabe Nadalo be elected as Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

HON. J.R. CAWAKI.- Madam Speaker, I beg to second the motion

MADAM SPEAKER.- Are there any further nominations?

HON. J. DULAKIVERATA.- Madam Speaker, I move that the honourable Ratu Viliame Tagivetaua be elected as Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

HON. RATU S. NANOVO.- Madam Speaker, I beg to second the motion.

MADAM SPEAKER.- Since there is more than one nomination, honourable Members shall proceed with the casting of votes by ballot. I now call on the Chamber Orderlies to give ballot papers to Members.

*(Ballot papers were given to honourable Members)*

I would ask honourable Members to write the name of the person proposed for whom they wish to vote. Members are requested to fold the ballot papers so that the name written on it cannot be seen.

*(Honourable Members wrote their proposed name and folded their ballot paper)*

Honourable Members I will call on those who proposed the name of the Deputy Speaker to come forward and act as scrutineers, and observe the count at the Table.

*(Honourable S.T. Koroilavesau and honourable J. Dulakiverata were nominated to be scrutineers)*

The results of the secret ballot are as follows:-

Hon. Ruveni Nadave Nadalo	:	32 votes
Hon. Ratu Viliame Tagivetaua	:	18 votes

I now declare that the honourable Ruveni Nadabe Nadalo, having received the greatest number of votes, be elected as Deputy Speaker.

As required by the Standing Orders, in the presence of the scrutineers, the ballot papers will now be destroyed.

*(Honourable Ruveni Nadabe Nadalo took the Oath of Allegiance and Oath of Office before the Secretary General)*

(Acclamation)

## **ELECTION - LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION**

HON. RATU N.T. LALABALAVU.- Madam Speaker, I beg to move that the honourable Ro Teimumu Vuikaba Kepa be elected to the position of Leader of the Opposition.

HON. ROKO T.T.S. DRAUNIDALO.- Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure and honour to second the motion for the election of the honourable Ro Teimumu Vuikaba Kepa, as Leader of the Opposition.

MADAM SPEAKER.- Are they any further nominations?

There being no further nominations, I declare that the honourable Ro Teimumu Vuikaba Kepa be elected as Leader of the Opposition.

(Acclamation)

### STANDING ORDERS – ADOPTION OF

HON. P. TIKODUADUA.- Madam Speaker, I beg to move:

That pursuant to Section 71(2) of the Constitution, the Standing Orders of Parliament as gazetted, be adopted.

HON. L.B. TUITUBOU.- Madam Speaker, I beg to second the motion.

Question put.

Votes cast:

Yes	-	49
No	-	1

Motion agreed to.

MADAM SPEAKER.- Honourable Members, pursuant to Standing Orders 128(2), the Standing Orders Committee will review the Standing Orders and will report back to Parliament within 14 sitting days.

### ADJOURNMENT

MADAM SPEAKER.- I would like to request that visitors and guests are to remain seated until honourable Members leave by the main back door of the Chamber, to proceed directly to the main steps of the building facing Southern Cross Road, where an official photograph will be taken, before they will join their guests for refreshment at the Government Buildings car park.

Also, honourable Members, on the advice of the honourable Prime Minister, pursuant to Standing Orders 11, His Excellency the President has appointed Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 at 10.00 am, as the date and time for the sitting of Parliament.

I will now adjourn Parliament until 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2014, when His Excellency the President will deliver His Address to Parliament. The Parliament is now adjourned.

The Parliament adjourned at 11.55 a.m.