



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Saturday, Twenty-fourth Day of
December, 2022

1. The House met at 9:30 a.m. pursuant to notice.
2. The Secretary-General read the Prayer.
3. The Secretary-General read the Proclamation summoning the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji to meet.

4. LAYING ON THE TABLE A LIST OF NAMES OF THE ELECTED MEMBERS

The Secretary-General laid on the Table a list of the names of the elected Members of Parliament.

5. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OR AFFIRMATION

All Honourable Members took their Oath of Allegiance or made their Affirmation of Allegiance.

1. Hon. Akbar, Rosy Sofia
2. Hon. Bainimarama, Josaia Voreqe
3. Hon. Bainivalu, Alitia Vakatai Bavou Cirikiyasawa
4. Hon. Bala, Parveen Kumar
5. Hon. Bia, Alik
6. Hon. Bulitavu, Mosese Drecala
7. Hon. Chand, Hem
8. Hon. Ditoka, Sakiasi Raisevu
9. Hon. Gavoka, Viliame Rogoibulu
10. Hon. Immanuel, Esrom Yosef
11. Hon. Kamikamica, Manoa Seru Nakausabaria
12. Hon. Kiran, Sashi
13. Hon. Kirpal, Sanjay Salend

14. Hon. Koroilavesau, Semi Tuleca
15. Hon. Koya, Faiyaz Siddiq
16. Hon. Kumar, Premila Devi
17. Hon. Kumar, Shalen
18. Hon. Lal, Ketan Kirit
19. Hon. Lalabalavu, Ratu Atonio Rabici
20. Hon. Maharaj, Alvick Avhikrit
21. Hon. Naivalurua, Ioane
22. Hon. Nalumisa, Maciu Katamotu
23. Hon. Nand, Joseph Nitya
24. Hon. Nath, Vijay
25. Hon. Naupoto, Viliame
26. Hon. Niudamu, Ratu Josaia Bulavakarua
27. Hon. Pillay, Viam
28. Hon. Prasad, Biman Chand
29. Hon. Qereqeretabua, Lenora Salusalu
30. Hon. Rabuka, Sitiveni Ligamamada
31. Hon. Radrodro, Aseri Masivou
32. Hon. Ravu, Kalaveti Vodo
33. Hon. Rayalu, Vatimi Tidara Tuinasakea Kaunitawake
34. Hon. Reddy, Mahendra
35. Hon. Saukuru, Jese
36. Hon. Sayed-Khaiyum, Aiyaz
37. Hon. Seruiratu, Inia Batikoto
38. Hon. Sharma, Rinesh Rajesh
39. Hon. Singh, Agni Deo
40. Hon. Singh, Charan Jeath
41. Hon. Tabuya, Lynda Diseru
42. Hon. Tikoduadua, Pio
43. Hon. Tubuna, Sakiusa
44. Hon. Tuinaceva, Naisa Tatau
45. Hon. Tuisawau, Ro Filipe Qaraniqio
46. Hon. Tuiwailevu, Isikeli
47. Hon. Tunabuna, Tomasi Niuvotu
48. Hon. Turaga, Siromi Dokonivalu
49. Hon. Usamate, Jone
50. Hon. Vakalalabure, Ratu Rakuita Solesole Sauramaeva
51. Hon. Vanawalu, Iliesa Sovui
52. Hon. Vasu, Ifereimi
53. Hon. Vocea, Jovesa Rokuta
54. Hon. Vosarogo, Filimoni Wainiqolo Rasokisoki
55. Hon. Waqainabete, Ifereimi

6. ELECTION OF SPEAKER

First Nomination

Hon. Alvick Maharaj moved that H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau be elected as Speaker of the Parliament.

The Hon. Inia Seruiratu seconded the nomination.

The Hon. Alvick Maharaj gave a brief account of the nominee's credentials.

Second Nomination

The Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved that Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu be elected as Speaker of Parliament.

The Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau seconded the nomination.

The Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad gave a brief account of the nominee's credentials.

There being two nominations for the position of Speaker of Parliament, and pursuant to Standing Order 17(7), Parliament proceeded with secret ballot to elect the Speaker.

The results of the secret ballot were as follows –

H.E Ratu Epeli Nailatikau	–	27 votes
Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu	–	28 votes

Having received the greatest number of votes, Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu was declared as Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji. Pursuant to Standing Order 17(11), the ballot papers were destroyed in the presence of the scrutineers.

Hon. Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu was escorted to the Table by the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad and the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, to take the Oath of Allegiance and of Office of Speaker of Parliament.

7. ELECTION OF DEPUTY SPEAKER

First Nomination

The Hon. Lynda Tabuya moved that Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua be elected as the Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

The Hon. Charan Singh seconded the nomination.

Second Nomination

The Hon. Alvick Maharaj moved that Hon. Viliame Naupoto be elected as the Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

The Hon. Inia Seruiratu seconded the nomination.

There being two nominations for the position of Deputy Speaker of Parliament, and pursuant to Standing Order 19(6), Parliament proceeded with secret ballot to elect the Deputy Speaker.

The results of the secret ballot were as follows –

Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua	–	28 votes
Hon. Viliame Naupoto	–	27 votes

Having received the greatest number of votes, the Hon. Speaker declared Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua elected as Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji. Pursuant to Standing Order 19(10), the ballot papers were destroyed in the presence of the scrutineers.

Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua took the Oath of Allegiance and of Office of Deputy Speaker of Parliament.

8. ELECTION OF PRIME MINISTER

First Nomination

The Hon. Viliame Gavoka moved that Hon. Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka be elected as the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji.

The Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad seconded the nomination.

Second Nomination

The Hon. Alvick Maharaj moved that Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama be elected as Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji.

The Hon. Inia Seruiratu seconded the nomination

There being two nominations for the position of Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, and pursuant to Standing Order 13, Parliament proceeded with secret ballot to elect the Prime Minister.

The results of the secret ballot were as follows –

Hon. Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka	–	28 votes
Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama	–	27 votes

Having received more than half of all Members votes, the Hon. Speaker declared Hon. Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka elected as Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji. Pursuant to Standing Order 13(9), the ballot papers were destroyed in the presence of the scrutineers.

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 13, the House would suspend proceedings to allow the Hon. Prime Minister and his Cabinet to proceed to the State House to take before His Excellency the President, the Oath of Allegiance and of Office, which the President would administer.

9. ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

The Hon. Alvick Maharaj moved that the Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama be elected as Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Inia Seruiratu seconded the nomination.

There being only one nomination, the Hon. Speaker declared Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama elected as Leader of the Opposition.

10. MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE STANDING ORDERS

The Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that pursuant to section 71 of the Constitution, the Standing Orders of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji published and gazetted on 1st April 2019, be adopted by Parliament.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 128(2), the Standing Orders Committee would convene to review the Standing Orders and report back to Parliament within 14 sitting days.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 10(2), Parliament stood adjourned until a time appointed by His Excellency the President for the Opening of Parliament and for the President's speech. The Hon. Speaker further informed all Honourable Members that when the notification was received, they would be notified accordingly.

Parliament adjourned at 5.33 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

24 December 2022