



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Tenth Day of July, 2023

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. Alvick Maharaj and the Hon. Viliame Naupoto.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Lynda Tabuya, moved that the Minutes of the sitting of Parliament held on Friday, 30 June 2023 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, those in the public gallery and those watching the live broadcast of the proceedings. Hon. Speaker also welcomed the students and teachers from Suva Grammar School.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members on the unanimous decision of the Business Committee on Monday, 26 June 2023 as follows –

- (a) that the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance be exempted from the ordinary speaking time limitations for his Right of Reply to the Second Reading of the Appropriation Bill;
- (b) that the shadow Minister for Finance in delivering the response to the Budget Address would speak for the same time as the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance;
- (c) that the Parliament would sit beyond 4.30pm during the July sitting week;
- (d) that the votes taken during the Committee of Supply stage would be done through acclamation, as has been the practice. However, the final vote on the Head would be taken electronically;
- (e) Parliament would take limited refreshments, lunch and dinner breaks at the discretion of the Speaker; and
- (f) in the event, business for any given day is concluded earlier, that business would be brought forward accordingly.

Hon. Speaker also informed the Honourable Members on the publication of the 'Overview of the Fijian Parliament for the Period 2018 to 2022'. The publication informs readers of the statistical summary of Parliament's core work over the four-year Parliamentary term, and serves the purpose of informing citizens, Parliamentary stakeholders and interested groups about the work of Parliament.

6. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

7. SECOND READING OF THE 2023–2024 APPROPRIATION BILL 2023 (BILL NO. 3 OF 2023)

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved that a Bill to appropriate a sum of three billion, seven hundred sixty one million, nine hundred seventy nine thousand four hundred four dollars for the ordinary services of Government for the year ending 31 July 2024, be read a second time.

Motion seconded.

The following Members contributed to the debate –

Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Alitia Bainivalu, Hon. Parveen Bala, Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka, Hon. Aliko Bia, Hon. Viliame Gavoka, Hon. Mosese Bulitavu, Hon. Esrom Immanuel, Hon. Hem Chand, Hon. Manoa Kamikamica, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal, Hon. Sashi Kiran, Hon. Semi Koroilavesau, Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, Hon. Faiyaz Koya, Hon. Maciu Nalumisa, Hon. Premila Kumar, Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua, Hon. Shalen Kumar and Hon. Ketan Lal.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Tuesday, 11 July 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 9.25 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

10th July, 2023.