



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

---

## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Thirteenth Day of July, 2023

1. The House met at 10.00 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

2. Hon. Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.

3. MEMBERS PRESENT

All Honourable Members were present.

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 Wednesday, 12 July 2023 as previously circulated and subject to the corrections pertaining to the Hon. Attorney-General's speech, 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 informed all Honourable Members that he has approved the Hon. Parveen Bala's request to present his evidence on Monday, 11 September 2023. Hon. Bala has been informed that there would be no further deferment, and in the event that he failed to present his evidence on the said day, that the matter would be immediately referred to the Privileges Committee.

Hon. Speaker informed Parliament that a letter had been received from the Hon. Sashi Kiran on a matter of *prima facie* breach of Parliamentary privilege by an Honourable Member, and that the matter would be addressed at a later date.

6. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

7. RESUMPTION OF COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY ON THE 2023–2024 APPROPRIATION BILL 2023 (BILL NO. 3 OF 2023)

Parliament resumed the Committee of Supply on a Bill for an Act 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 (Bill No. 3 of 2023).

Hon. Speaker vacated the Speaker's Chair and re-convened the Committee of Supply as Mr Chair.

Members debated and voted on the following –

Head 21 – Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts

Amendment in the name of Hon. Premila Kumar.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Head 21.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 21 agreed to.

Head 22 – Ministry of Health and Medical Services

Amendment in the name of Hon. Penioni Ravunawa.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Penioni Ravunawa.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Ketan Lal.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Penioni Ravunawa.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Penioni Ravunawa.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Penioni Ravunawa.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Penioni Ravunawa.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Penioni Ravunawa.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Penioni Ravunawa.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Head 22.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 22 agreed to.

### Head 23 – Ministry of Housing

Amendment in the name of Hon. Premila Kumar.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Ketan Lal.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Head 23.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 23 agreed to.

#### Head 24 – Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection

Amendment in the name of Hon. Ketan Lal.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Jone Usamate.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Hem Chand.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Ketan Lal.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Head 24.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 24 agreed to.

#### Head 25 – Ministry of Youth and Sports

Amendment in the name of Hon. Alipate Tuicolo.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Alipate Tuicolo.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Head 25.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 25 agreed to.

#### Head 26 – Higher Education Institutions

Amendment in the name of Hon. Ketan Lal.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Ketan Lal.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.



Amendment in the name of Hon. Ketan Lal.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Head 26.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 26 agreed to.

#### Head 30 – Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways

Amendment in the name of Hon. Inia Seruiratu.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Viliame Naupoto.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Viam Pillay.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of Hon. Ketan Lal.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Head 30.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 30 agreed to.

#### Head 31 – Ministry of Fisheries

Question put on Head 31.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 31 agreed to.

#### Head 32 – Ministry of Forestry

Question put on Head 32.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 32 agreed to.

### Head 33 – Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Alvick Maharaj.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Head 33.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 33 agreed to.

### Head 34 – Ministry of Trade, Co-operative and Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Faiyaz Koya.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Ketan Lal.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Premila Kumar.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Faiyaz Koya.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Ketan Lal.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Head 34.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 34 agreed to.

Head 35 – Ministry of Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Viam Pillay.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Ketan Lal.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Alvick Maharaj.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Head 35.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 35 agreed to.

### Head 37 – Ministry of Local Government

Question put on Head 37.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 37 agreed to.

### Head 38 – Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation

Question put on Head 38.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 38 agreed to.

### Head 40 – Ministry of Public Works and Meteorological Services, and Transport

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Head 40.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 40 agreed to.

### Head 41 – Water Authority of Fiji

Question put on Head 41.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 41 agreed to unanimously.

### Head 43 – Fiji Roads Authority

Question put on Head 43.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 43 agreed to unanimously.

### Head 49 – Peacekeeping Missions

Question put on Head 49.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 49 agreed to unanimously.

### Head 50 – Miscellaneous Services

Question put on Head 50.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 50 agreed to unanimously.

Mr Chair reiterated that Heads 51 and 52 were standing appropriations or 'below the line' appropriations. He further stated that neither Head is voted upon because they must be paid and were therefore already catered for.

Mr Chair informed the Honourable Members, that they had completed the Estimates and that they would now move to considering the Schedules and Clauses of the 2023–2024 Appropriation Bill 2023 (Bill No. 3 of 2023) as required by Standing Order 101.

Mr Chair further advised Honourable Members that since the Estimates had not been amended, Standing Order 101 prevented any amendments being moved and made at that stage.

Standing Order 101(3) also prevented any debate on the questions.

### Schedule 1

Question put.

Schedule 1 agreed to unanimously.

## Schedule 2

Question put.

Schedule 2 agreed to unanimously.

## Clause 1

Question put.

Clause 1 agreed to unanimously.

## Clause 2

Question put.

Clause 2 agreed to unanimously.

## Clause 3

Question put.

Clause 3 agreed to unanimously.

Mr Chair informed the Honourable Members that the Committee of Supply had concluded and resumed the Speaker's Chair.

## 8. THIRD READING OF THE 2023–2024 APPROPRIATION BILL 2023 (BILL NO. 3 OF 2023)

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that the Committee of Supply had agreed to the 2023–2024 Appropriation Bill 2023 (Bill No. 3 of 2023) without amendment.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved that the 2023–2024 Appropriation Bill 2023 (Bill No. 3 of 2023) be read a third time and be passed.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	29
No	–	24



Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act 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 (Bill No. 3 of 2023), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

Hon. Speaker informed that Parliament had passed the 2023–2024 National Budget and thanked all Members for their contributions to the significant and integral process. Hon. Speaker also congratulated the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad on the successful passing of the 2023-2024 National Budget.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 14 July 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 8.40 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

13th July, 2023.