



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Twelfth 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.

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 Tuesday, 11 July 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 informed Honourable Members that the following Ministers had provided their Written Questions –

- (a) Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Climate Change, Environment, Civil Service, Information, Public Enterprises and Veteran Affairs the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, to Written Question 50/2023 asked by the Hon. Alvick Maharaj;
- (b) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives and Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica, to Written Question 48/2023 asked by the Hon. Esrom Immanuel;
- (c) Minister for Public Works and Meteorological Services, and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, to Written Questions 49/2023, 62/2023 and 75/2023 asked by the Hon. Jone Usamate and 77/2023 asked by the Hon. Alvick Maharaj; and
- (d) Minister for Housing and Local Government the Hon. Maciu Nalumisa to Written Question 86/2023 asked by the Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu.

Hon. Speaker delivered his ruling on the point of order raised on Tuesday, 11 July 2023 by the Hon. Semi Koroilavesau.

## 6. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

## 7. MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Lynda Tabuya moved, that the amendments recommended by the Standing Orders Committee in the review of the Standing Orders of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji be adopted by Parliament.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	28
No	–	20
Not Voted	–	5

Motion agreed to.

8. MOTION BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND STRATEGIC PLANNING, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics Hon. Biman Prasad moved that pursuant to Standing Order 107, that the amendments to the Excise (Budget Amendment) Bill 2023, which was tabled in Parliament on 30 June 2023 as Bill No. 9 of 2023, be considered by Parliament during the debate on Friday, 14 July 2023 along with the other Consequential Bills.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

9. MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Lynda Tabuya moved, that pursuant to Standing Order 129, that the Emoluments Committee be established to review the salaries and allowances of Members of Parliament as provided for under the Parliamentary Remunerations Act 2014, and the Emoluments Committee must report back to Parliament at the September sitting.

The Members of the Emoluments Committee shall comprise the following –

- (a) Hon. Lynda Tabuya;
- (b) Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau;
- (c) Hon. Aseri Radrodro;
- (d) Hon. Alvick Maharaj; and
- (e) Hon. Mosese Bulitavu.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

10. RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE SECOND READING OF THE 2023–2024 APPROPRIATION BILL 2023 (BILL NO. 3 OF 2023)

Parliament resumed debate on the Second Reading on 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.

The following Members contributed to the debate –

Hon. Rinesh Sharma, Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna, Hon. Viliame Naupoto, Hon. Siromi Turaga, Hon. Alvick Maharaj, Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure, Hon. Jone Usamate, Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, Hon. Jovesa Vocea, Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad delivered his right of reply.

Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 99(3), the 2023-2024 Appropriation Bill 2023 (Bill No. 3 of 2023) had been read a second time and without any question being put, the Bill and the Estimates stood referred to the Committee of Supply.

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

Parliament resolved into Committee of Supply on 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 (Bill No. 3 of 2023).

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

Members debated and voted on the following –

Head 1 – Office of the President

Question put on Head 1.

Head 1 agreed to unanimously.

Head 2 – Office of the Prime Minister

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Vijay Nath.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Head 2.

Head 2 agreed to.

### Head 3 – Office of the Attorney-General

Question put on Head 3.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 3 agreed to.

### Head 4 – Ministry of Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics

Question put on Head 4.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 4 agreed to.

### Head 5 – Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Josaia Niudamu.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Semi Koroilavesau.

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 5.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 5 agreed to.

#### Head 6 – Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration

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 6.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 6 agreed to.

#### Head 7 – Ministry of Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations

Question put on Head 7.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 7 agreed to.

#### Head 8 – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Question put on Head 8.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 8 agreed to.

#### Head 9 – Independent Bodies

Question put on Head 9.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 9 agreed to.

#### Head 13 – Independent Commissions

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Vijay Nath.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Head 13.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 13 agreed to.

#### Head 14 – Fiji Corrections Services

Question put on Head 14.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 14 agreed to.

#### Head 15 – Ministry of Justice

Question put on Head 15.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 15 agreed to.

#### Head 17 – Ministry of Civil Service

Question put on Head 17.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 17 agreed to.

#### Head 18 – Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management

Question put on Head 18.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 18 agreed to.

#### Head 19 – Republic of Fiji Military Forces

Question put on Head 19.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 19 agreed to unanimously.



Head 20 – Fiji Police Force

Question put on Head 20.

Hon. Speaker called for the vote by acclamation.

Head 20 agreed to unanimously.

The Hon. Speaker adjourned the Committee of Supply and resumed the Speaker's Chair.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 12 July 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 12.40 a.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

12th July, 2023.