



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Fourteenth 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 Honourable Parveen Bala.

4. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OR AFFIRMATION

Sachida Nand took the Oath of Office for Members of Parliament and the Oath of Allegiance and delivered his maiden speech.

5. 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 Thursday, 13 July 2023 as previously circulated be taken as read and be confirmed.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

6. 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 informed that he looked forward to the Government's update to Parliament on Fiji's ongoing commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and the National Development Plan.

7. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The following reports were tabled and referred accordingly to the relevant Standing Committees –

(a) Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights

- (i) Office of the Prime Minister and Fijian Immigration Department 2019-2020 Annual Report;
- (ii) Office of the Prime Minister and Fijian Immigration Department 2020-2021 Annual Report; and
- (iii) Parliament of the Republic of Fiji 2018-2019 Annual Report.

(b) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- (i) Energy Fiji Limited 2022 Annual Report;
- (ii) Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit 2022 Annual Report; and
- (iii) Fiji Development Bank Annual Report 2022.

(c) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- (i) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2020 and 2021 Audit Report on Administration Sector;
- (ii) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2020 and 2021 Audit Report on Social Services Sector;
- (iii) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2020 and 2021 Audit Report on Economic Services Sector;
- (iv) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2020 and 2021 Audit Report on Infrastructure Sector; and
- (v) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2021–2022 Audit Report on Municipal Councils.

(d) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) Fiji National Sports Commission Annual Report August 2021-July 2022;
- (ii) Fiji Association of Sports and National Olympic Committee Annual Report 2022;
- (iii) Nadi Town Council Annual Report for the Year 2016;
- (iv) Rakiraki Town Council Annual Report for the Year Ended 2019; and
- (v) Fiji National University 2022 Annual Report.

- (e) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence
 - (i) Ministry of Defence, National Security and Policing 2018–2019 Annual Report;
 - (ii) Fiji Police Force Annual Report 2017/2018; and
 - (iii) Fiji Police Force Annual Report August 2019–July 2020.

- (f) Standing Committee on Natural Resources
 - (i) Ministry of Fisheries Annual Report 2021–2022.

Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that the Third Quarter Appropriation Statement – Actual Expenditure for 1 February 2023 to 30 April 2023 is for information only and would not be referred to any Standing Committee.

8. CONSEQUENTIAL BILLS

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 30 June 2023 and on Wednesday, 12 July 2023, that the following consequential Bills be debated, voted upon and be passed –

1. Tax Administration (Budget Amendment) Bill 2023 (Bill No. 4 of 2023);
2. Income Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2023 (Bill No. 5 of 2023);
3. Value Added Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2023 (Bill No. 6 of 2023);
4. Customs (Budget Amendment) Bill 2023 (Bill No. 7 of 2023);
5. Customs Tariff (Budget Amendment) Bill 2023 (Bill No. 8 of 2023);
6. Excise (Budget Amendment) Bill 2023 (Bill No. 9 of 2023);
7. Airport Departure Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2023 (Bill No. 10 of 2023);
8. Water Resource Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2023 (Bill No. 11 of 2023);
9. Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (Budget Amendment) Bill 2023 (Bill No. 12 of 2023);
10. Fiji National Provident Fund (Budget Amendment) Bill 2023 (Bill No. 13 of 2023);
11. Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (Budget Amendment) Bill 2023 (Bill No. 14 of 2023); and
12. Land Sales (Budget Amendment) Bill 2023 (Bill No. 15 of 2023).

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	29
No	–	23
Not Voted	–	2

The following Bills –

1. A Bill for an Act to amend the Tax Administration Act 2009 (Bill No. 4 of 2023);
2. A Bill for an Act to amend the Income Tax Act 2015 (Bill No. 5 of 2023);
3. A Bill for an Act to amend the Value Added Tax Act 1991 (Bill No. 6 of 2023);
4. A Bill for an Act to amend the Customs Act 1986 (Bill No. 7 of 2023);
5. A Bill for an Act to amend the Customs Tariff Act 1986 (Bill No. 8 of 2023);
6. A Bill for an Act to amend the Excise Act 1986 (Bill No. 9 of 2023);
7. A Bill for an Act to amend the Airport Departure Tax Act 1986 (Bill No. 10 of 2023);
8. A Bill for an Act to amend the Water Resource Tax Act 2008 (Bill No. 11 of 2023);
9. A Bill for an Act to amend the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service Act 1998 (Bill No. 12 of 2023);
10. A Bill for an Act to amend the Fiji National Provident Fund Act 2011 (Bill No. 13 of 2023);
11. A Bill for an Act to amend the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service Act 2014 (Bill No. 14 of 2023); and
12. A Bill for an Act to amend the Land Sales Act 1974 (Bill No. 15 of 2023),

were enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

9. LIQUOR (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023 (BILL NO. 16 OF 2023)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Tuesday, 11 July 2023, that the Liquor (Amendment) Bill 2023 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	29
No	–	23
Not Voted	–	2

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Liquor Act 2006 was enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

10. IMMIGRATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023 (BILL NO. 17 OF 2023)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Tuesday, 11 July 2023, that the Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2023 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	28
No	–	21
Not Voted	–	5

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Immigration Act 2003 was enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

11. INTERPRETATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023 (BILL NO. 18 OF 2023)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Tuesday, 11 July 2023, that the Interpretation (Amendment) Bill 2023 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Interpretation Act 1967 was enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

12. ELECTORAL (REGISTRATION OF VOTERS) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2023 (BILL NO. 18 OF 2023)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Tuesday, 11 July 2023, that the Electoral (Registration of Voters) (Amendment) Bill 2023 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012 was enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

13. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Viliame Naupoto tabled the Standing Committee's review report on the Convention on Cybercrime also known as the Budapest Convention that was tabled in Parliament on 1 September 2022.

The Hon. Speaker informed that pursuant to Standing Order 121(1)(b) and Standing Order 130(4)(a), the Standing Committee had reported back and Parliament would now await further notification from the Hon. Attorney-General.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Viliame Naupoto tabled the Standing Committee's review report on the Ministry of Defence and National Security 2017-2018 Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(b) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Standing Committee's review report on the Fiji Revenue and Customs Services 2018-2019 Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the Fiji Development Bank 2020-2021 Annual Reports.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

- (iii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Standing Committee's review report on the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism 2018-2019 Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(c) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated annual review report on the Ministry of Fisheries Annual Reports from 2018 to 2021.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(d) Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the Annual Reports of the Ministry of Civil Service from 2016 to 2019.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Lynda Tabuya moved that Parliament adjourns until Monday, 11 September 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker thanked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad for the successful passing of the 2023–2024 National Budget and also thanked all Honourable Members and all those watching the live proceedings.

The Hon. Speaker adjourned Parliament until Monday, 11 September 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.13 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

14th July, 2023.