



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Eleventh day of March, 2024

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 Hon. Parveen Bala.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, moved that the Minutes of the sittings of Parliament held on Friday, 24 November 2023, and Monday, 4 March 2024, 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 to the sitting of Parliament. He also welcomed all those watching the live broadcast and the live-streaming of the proceedings from their home, office and electronic device.

Hon. Speaker wished all Honourable Members and all Fijians a happy and blessed Commonwealth Day. He also informed the Honourable Members that Commonwealth Day is a celebration of unity, diversity, and the links that are shared in the modern Commonwealth.

The theme for this year, 'One Resilient Common Future: Transforming Our Common Wealth', resonates deeply with the Parliament of Fiji, embodying the

spirit of collaboration that defines the Commonwealth. It emphasises our shared responsibility to build a resilient and inter-connected world.

The Hon. Speaker also informed the Honourable Members of the unanimous decision of the Business Committee –

- (a) That the Parliament may sit beyond 4.30 p.m. from Monday to Thursday, and beyond 12.30 p.m. on Friday; and
- (b) Lunch breaks may be limited to one hour.

The Hon. Speaker also took the opportunity to wish all women Honourable Members of Parliament a belated International Women's Day and that in commemoration of the same, the Deputy Speaker the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua would preside over the House proceedings at different times from Monday through Wednesday.

## 6. MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Climate Change, Environment, Civil Service, Information, Public Enterprises and Veteran Affairs the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka moved that the Parliament thanks His Excellency the President for His most gracious speech.

Motion was seconded by the Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau.

Debate ensued.

[Speakers: Prime Minister the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Hon. Alitia Bainivalu, Hon. Ketan Lal, 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 and Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu.]

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Deputy Speaker thanked the Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Tuesday, 12 March 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.16 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

11<sup>th</sup> March, 2024.