



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

---

## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Fourth Day of March, 2024

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 except for the Hon. Rinesh Sharma.

4. 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 advised all Honourable Members that the sitting was a special event in the Parliamentary calendar as it marked the Official Opening of the Second Session of the Third Term of the Fijian Parliament and would be officiated by His Excellency Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, President of the Republic of Fiji.

Hon. Speaker also apprised Honourable Members of the IT conferencing system upgrade in the Parliament Chambers including the refurbishment of the public gallery, change in carpet colour to the two-tone navy blue and grey, and the inclusion of the crafted '*tapa*' or motif design backdrop behind the Speaker's chair. The Hon. Speaker also informed Honourable Members of the historic Presiding Officer's Chair which dating back to 1939 with all its original art with the crown which signifies that Fiji is still a Member of the Commonwealth.

The Hon. Speaker also informed Honourable Members of the additional five screens on the walls which would allow the Parliament to boost its e-Parliament initiative and reduce the use of paper for the printing of Order Papers, Minutes of Proceedings and other documents. All such documents would be emailed to all Honourable Members and copies would be projected from the screens.

Hon. Speaker also advised all Honourable Members that it was customary for the Honourable Members of the Judiciary to join Parliament to hear the address of His Excellency the President. He called upon the Leader of the Government

in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau to invite the Judges to the Parliament Chambers.

5. ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI RATU WILIAME KATONIVERE

Hon. Speaker and the Leader of the Government in Parliament escorted His Excellency the President of the Republic of Fiji Ratu Wiliame Katonivere, to the Parliament Chambers.

His Excellency the President addressed Parliament.

At the conclusion of His Excellency's Address, the Hon. Speaker and the Leader of the Government in Parliament escorted His Excellency out of the Parliament Chambers.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament stands adjourned until Monday, 11 March 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that the 2024 Parliament Session had been opened by His Excellency the President, and he thanked all the Honourable Members present, those seated in the public gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet. The Hon. Speaker also reminded Honourable Members that at the next sitting, Parliament would proceed with the Motion to thank His Excellency the President for His most gracious speech and Honourable Members would speak in accordance with the batting order.

Hon. Speaker adjourned Parliament until Monday, 11 March 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 11.10 a.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

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