



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Fifteenth day of April, 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.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that the Minutes of the sitting of Parliament held on Friday, 15 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, those seated in the gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet. He also welcomed the PL100 law students from the University of the South Pacific.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the back-to-office report for the 28th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28), which was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates was available in the Library for reference. He also informed that the newly elected Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources was the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna and the newly elected Deputy Chairperson was the Hon. Jone Usamate.

Hon. Speaker also informed Honourable Members on the deliberation of the Business Committee meeting on Thursday, 11 April 2024 on the existing workload of the Standing Committees and the Chairmanship and Deputy for the Standing Committees. He further informed Honourable Members that the Hon. Prime Minister had agreed to the review the Chairmanship and Deputy and any changes would be communicated accordingly.

The Whips were put on notice to coordinate the number of speakers and speaking timings for the debates on the committee reports.

The Hon. Speaker also informed that the Parliament was now fully equipped to continue with the broadcasting of the vernacular translations, and that the timers on the walls would be programmed accordingly to the stipulated speaking times.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

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

(a) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- (i) Fiji Development Bank – Annual Report 2023; and
- (ii) Sugar Industry Tribunal – Annual Report 2020.

(b) Sanding Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji – Annual Report 2021;
- (ii) Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji – Annual Report 2022;
- (iii) Levuka Town Council – Annual Report for the Year 2016;
- (iv) Levuka Town Council – Annual Report for the Year 2017;
- (v) Nasinu Town Council – Annual Report 2011;
- (vi) Nasinu Town Council – Annual Report 2012;
- (vii) Nasinu Town Council – Annual Report 2013;
- (viii) Nasinu Town Council – Annual Report 2014;
- (ix) Nasinu Town Council – Annual Report 2015;
- (x) Savusavu Town Council – Annual Report 2011;
- (xi) Savusavu Town Council – Annual Report 2012;
- (xii) Suva City Council – Annual Report 2016;
- (xiii) Suva City Council – Annual Report 2017;
- (xiv) Suva City Council – Annual Report 2018;
- (xv) Tavua Town Council – Annual Report for the Year Ended 2017;
- (xvi) Tavua Town Council – Annual Report for the Year Ended 2018; and
- (xvii) National Fire Authority – Annual Report Year Ended 31st July 2017 .

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate subsequently responded.

- (b) The Minister for Agriculture and Waterways the Hon. Vatimi Rayalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Sachida Nand subsequently responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 1/2024 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the re-establishment of the Public Works Department and what it has achieved so far.
- 2/2024 Hon. Alitia Bainivalu asked the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Climate Change, Environment, Civil Service, Information, Public Enterprises and Veteran Affairs – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on Fiji's Membership of the Assembly of the Global Development Network (GDN).
- 3/2024 Hon. Sachida Nand asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament of the impact of the reduction of duty from 15% to 0% on imported chicken portions on the local poultry industry.
- 4/2024 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on how the proposed MSME Strategic Plan will benefit the MSMEs and increase their contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
- 5/2024 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the progress of drainage plans for farmers in Valley Road as nearly all farms were inundated with the recent flash flooding with substantial cash income being lost.
- 6/2024 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the forthcoming South Pacific Tourism Exchange (SPTe) 2024 event to be hosted by Fiji.
- 7/2024 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament how the Ministry is assisting farmers and cane harvesting co-operatives to prepare their harvesters and personnel for the crushing season.
- 8/2024 Hon. Sashi Kiran asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the strategic measures that the

Ministry is taking to address the issue of outdated education curriculum.

Written Questions

9/2024 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Climate Change, Environment, Civil Service, Information, Public Enterprises and Veteran Affairs to provide the following information on official overseas trips taken by Ministers and Assistant Ministers from 24 December 2022 to 31 March 2024 –

- (a) the total number of trips undertaken; and
- (b) how much was Government funded.

10/2024 Hon. Sashi Kiran asked the Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration –

- (a) how does the Fiji Police Force make an assessment on whether or not to establish a Community Post in an area;
- (b) what are the basic requirements to establish a Community Post;
- (c) the total number of Community Posts by District and Division and the year of its establishment; and
- (d) the total number of applications pending for the establishment of Community Posts by District and Division as at 31 March 2024.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The responses to the Written Questions would be submitted in accordance with Standing Order 45(3).

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

10. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

- (a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review of Levuka Town Council Annual Reports 2014 and 2015' which was tabled on 20 November 2023.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of Fiji National Provident Fund Annual Report 2022' which was tabled on 20 November 2023.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. SUSPENSION MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved under Standing Order 6 that so much of Standing Order 23(1) be suspended so as to allow the House to sit beyond 4.30 p.m. to complete the remaining items listed on the Order Paper.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

CONTINUATION OF MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

- (c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Consolidated Annual Report 2010–2018 of the Media Industry Development Authority of Fiji' which was tabled on 21 November 2023.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Tuesday, 16 April 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.00 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

15th April, 2024.