



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Fifteenth 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 the Hon. Parveen Bala and Hon. Aliko Bia.

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 Thursday, 14 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

The Honourable speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting of Parliament. He also welcomed those in the gallery and those watching on television and the internet, thanking them for their continued interest in the proceedings of the Parliament. The Hon. Speaker also warmly welcomed the students and teachers of Nasinu Gospel Primary School.

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that he had received official communication from the Hon. Leader of the Opposition regarding his resignation as the Chairperson and member of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources. The resignation was accepted after ensuring compliance with Standing Order 117 clause (3), which states that a chairperson or deputy chairperson can only be replaced after serving for at least 12 months during the 4-year term of Parliament.

The Hon. Speaker also formally announced the following appointments to the Standing Committees pursuant to Standing Order 115 –

- (a) Hon. Jone Usamate as member of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources. The Hon. Speaker put, the Deputy Chairperson the Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu, on notice, to preside over the election of the new Chairperson at the next first meeting in the second session; and
- (b) Hon. Aseri Radrodro as member of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs replacing Hon. Sashi Kiran. Hon. Sashi Kiran would remain a member of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs.

The Hon. Speaker further mentioned that the Business Committee had unanimously agreed for all pending Parliamentary business from the last session of Parliament to be reinstated. The Hon. Speaker further informed that there were 103 Annual Reports with the respective six Standing Committees, 12 Committee reports pending debate in the House, and the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence had tabled its report on the Convention on Cybercrime on 14 July 2023. Pursuant to Standing Order 130 clause (4), it was the prerogative of the Hon. Attorney-General to give notice that he wishes to move a motion for the treaty to be approved by Parliament.

6. 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) Ministry of Civil Service – 2019–2020 Annual Report.
- (b) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs
 - (i) Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Limited – Annual Report 2018;
 - (ii) Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Limited – Annual Report 2019;
 - (iii) Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Limited – Annual Report 2020;
 - (iv) Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Limited – Annual Report 2021;
 - (v) Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Limited – Annual Report 2022;
 - (vi) Investment Fiji – Annual Report 2021–2022; and
 - (vii) Sugar Industry Tribunal – Annual Report 2019.
- (c) Standing Committee on Social Affairs
 - (i) iTaukei Affairs Board – Annual Report 2015–2016;
 - (ii) iTaukei Affairs Board – Annual Report 2017–2018;
 - (iii) iTaukei Affairs Board – Annual Report 2018–2019;
 - (iv) iTaukei Affairs Board – Annual Report 2019–2020;
 - (v) iTaukei Affairs Board – Annual Report 2020–2021;
 - (vi) iTaukei Affairs Board – Annual Report 2021–2022; and
 - (vii) Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Annual Report 2018–2019 and 2019–2020

Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that the following papers were for information only and would not be referred to any Standing Committee –

- (a) Medium Term Fiscal Strategy FY2024-2025 to FY2026-2027;
- (b) First Quarter Appropriation Statement Actual Expenditure 1 August 2023 – 31 October 2023;
- (c) Mid-Year Fiscal Statement Actual Expenditure 1 August 2023 to 31 January 2024;
- (d) Reserve Bank of Fiji Quarterly Review September 2023; and
- (e) Reserve Bank of Fiji Quarterly Review December 2023.

7. MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 97

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved, pursuant to Standing Order 97, that the Heritage Bill (Bill No. 25 of 2023) be restored to the Order Paper.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

8. RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE MOTION BY THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

Parliament resumed debate on the motion that the Parliament thanks His Excellency the President for His most gracious speech.

Debate ensued.

Speakers: Hon. Jone Usamate and the right of reply was delivered by the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament stands adjourned until Monday, 15 April 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions during the sitting week, and declared Parliament adjourned until Monday, 15 April 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 11.01 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

15th March, 2024.