



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Fourteenth 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.

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 Wednesday, 13 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 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 updated the Honourable Members on the overall ICT upgrade of the conferencing system in the Chambers and its completion by the next April sitting week which also includes the interpretation and broadcasting of the vernacular captioning/translation. He also informed that he had received the notification from the Hon. Minister Ifereimi Vasu and the Hon. Assistant Minister Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu that they would deliver their responses in the vernacular and the translation would be included in the *Hansard* report.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that the new Opposition Whip is the Hon. Viliame Naupoto.

6. 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. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu, Hon. Penioni Ravunawa, Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna, Hon. Taito Rokomatu, Hon. Siromi Turaga, Hon. Rinesh Sharma, Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure, Hon. Alipate Tuicolo, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, Hon. Jovesa Vocea, Hon. Faiyaz Koya and Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo.]

The Hon. Speaker informed that the House would continue with the speakers on the Batting Order on Friday, 15 March 2024.

7. MOTION BY THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FINANCE, STRATEGIC PLANNING, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND STATISTICS

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved a motion for the purposes of section 145(1) of the Constitution and pursuant to Standing Order 131, that Parliament approves –

- (a) that the Government guarantee for the Fiji Development Bank (**'Bank'**) borrowings for the 12-months period from 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2025 (**'Guarantee Period'**) through the issuance of short and long term bonds, promissory notes, any RBF financing facility and other short-term borrowings;
- (b) that the Government guarantee for a sum of FJ\$130 million for the Guarantee Period; and
- (c) that the Bank pay a guarantee fee of 0.075% on the cumulative utilised guarantee.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked the Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 15 March 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 5.20 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

14th March, 2024.