



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Eighteenth 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 except for the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal and Hon. Vijay Nath.

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, 17 April 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 Year 12 students and teachers from the International School in Suva and hoped that the proceedings would give them a better perspective of how the Parliament works.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that confirmation had been received from the Land Transport Authority regarding matters pending before the courts pertaining to Oral Question 34/2024. Therefore, pursuant to Standing Order 44(13), Oral Question 34/2024 was withdrawn.

6. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad delivered his Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu subsequently responded.
- (b) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka delivered his Ministerial Statement. Hon. Faiyaz Koya subsequently responded.
- (c) The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered his Ministerial Statement. Hon. Mosese Bulitavu subsequently responded.
- (d) The Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration the Hon. Pio Tikoduadua delivered his Ministerial Statement. Hon. Viliame Naupoto subsequently responded.
- (e) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Kalaveti Ravu delivered his Ministerial Statement. Hon. Alvick Maharaj subsequently responded.

7. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 30/2024 Hon. Viam Pillay to ask the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Housing Rehabilitation Assistance provided to landowners through the Fiji Pine Trust after the devastation caused by TC Yasa.
- 31/2024 Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna asked the Minister for Youth and Sports – Can the Minister update Parliament on Fiji's bid to secure a licence to enter the National Rugby League (NRL) Premiership Competition with men and women rugby league teams in the 18th Extension Franchise.
- 32/2024 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament as to where the funding for the 5% pay increase for the FSC staff that was recently announced, will be sourced from.
- 33/2024 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on how the Ministry through the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), is working with stakeholders to address the issue of flooding due to drainage issues.

- 34/2024 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva to ask the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how the LTA issued 80 taxi permits whilst PSV permits and licenses were still frozen.
- 35/2024 Hon. Alitia Bainivalu 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 the importance of Fiji's National Standardisation Strategy, its requirement and benefits.
- 36/2024 Hon. Penioni Ravunawa asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the strategies in place to address the critical shortage of almost 30 vacancies for Medical Imaging Science Technologies in public hospitals.
- 37/2024 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on how the Ministry is aiming to improve Physical Education, Music, Arts and Crafts (PEMAC) in schools throughout Fiji.

Written Question

- 38/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the following –
- (a) the total number of State Land Sub-divisions for residential purpose that were developed from 2014 to 2022 by Division and District;
 - (b) the total number of State Land Sub-divisions for residential purpose that is currently under development by Division and District;
 - (c) the total number of State Land Leases issued for residential purpose from 2014 to 2022 by Division;
 - (d) the total number of State Land Notices of Approval of Lease issued for residential purpose from 2014 to 2022 by Division; and
 - (e) the total number of applications pending for grant of lease for residential purpose on a State Land Sub-division by Division and District as at 31 March 2024.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker allowed the Hon. Joseph Nand to ask Oral Question 30/2024 in the absence of the Hon. Viam Pillay. As communicated from the Chair earlier in the day, Oral Question 34/2024 was withdrawn pursuant to SO44(13). The response to Written Question 38/2024 was tabled by the Minister for Housing and Local Government the Hon. Maciu Nalumisa.

8. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

9. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

(a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna moved that Parliament debates the following –

- (i) 'Review Report of the Energy Fiji Limited 2021 Annual Report' which was tabled on 23 November 2023 (*Parliamentary Paper No. 146 of 2023*); and
- (ii) 'Review Report of the Energy Fiji Limited 2022 Annual Report' which was tabled on 23 November 2023 (*Parliamentary Paper No. 151 of 2023*)".

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

(b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Corrections Service Annual Report 2018–2019 and 2019–2020' which was tabled on 23 November 2023.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 19 April 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.05 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

18th April, 2024.