



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Twenty-Third day of May,  
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. Aliki 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 Wednesday, 22 May 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 teachers and Year 8 students of Marist Brothers Primary School as well as the Hon. Lou Jese from the Parliament of Vanuatu.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 130(5), he had provided notification in the Gazette that the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention) had been approved by Parliament.

## 6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### (a) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Consolidated Review Report of the Sugar Cane Growers Fund 2019 and 2020 Annual Reports.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report is initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

### (b) Standing Orders Committee

The Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources the Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo tabled the Committee's report on the review of the Standing Orders of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

The Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources the Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 128(3), that a debate on the content of the report is initiated later in the day. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

## 7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Climate Change, Environment, Civil Service, Information, Public Enterprises and Veteran Affairs the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya subsequently responded.
- (b) The Minister for Agriculture and Waterways the Hon. Vatimi Rayalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu subsequently responded.
- (c) The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate subsequently responded.
- (d) The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Mosese Bulitavu subsequently responded.
- (e) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Kalaveti Ravu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau subsequently responded.

## 8. QUESTIONS

### **Oral Questions**

- 77/2024 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the boundary dispute between the Ra and Ba provinces.
- 78/2024 Hon. Alitia Bainivalu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the Adaptive Social Protection Strategy and its Implementation Plan.
- 79/2024 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the progress of the EFL extension grid to Soa Village, Matuku Village, Wailalai and Bucalevu in Nakorotubu, Ra.
- 80/2024 Hon. Sashi Kiran asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament on plans to improve the workers compensation system in order to deliver better social justice to the workers in Fiji.
- 81/2024 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on how the Ministry plans to assist cane farmers obtain land lease renewals on leases that are expiring.
- 82/2024 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu to ask 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 progress of the Co-operative movement in Fiji and what more can be expected in the upcoming budget for co-operatives.
- 83/2024 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister inform Parliament as to how the \$1million allocation in this financial year for the Social Welfare Management Information System has been utilised.
- 84/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on action taken to improve the recognition of Indigenous Arts and Craft and also Contemporary Art.

### **Written Questions**

- 85/2024 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on the utilisation percentage of the approved 2023–2024 National Budget by April 2024 for –

- (a) each Ministry; and
- (b) each statutory organisation.

86/2024 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure 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 number of indigenous owned businesses that were awarded Government Contract from 2010 to 2022.

87/2024 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister provide a listing of all EFL grid extension projects budgeted for the financial year 2023-2024 to include the following –

- (a) the budget for each project;
- (b) the dates each project was or is scheduled to be completed; and
- (c) the percentage completion of each project.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu withdrew his Oral Question 82/2024. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica tabled his response to Written Question 86/2024. The responses to the remaining Written Questions would be submitted in accordance with Standing Order 45(3).

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

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved pursuant to 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.

10. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- (a) The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Lynda Tabuya moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –
- (i) That the Child Justice Bill 2024 be considered by Parliament without delay;
  - (ii) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
  - (iii) That the Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights;
  - (iv) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at the sitting of Parliament in August; and
  - (v) That upon presentation of the report on the Bill by the Standing Committee, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament, but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to her as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Lynda Tabuya moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –
- (i) That the Child Care and Protection Bill 2024 be considered by Parliament without delay;
  - (ii) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
  - (iii) That the Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights;
  - (iv) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at the sitting of Parliament in August; and
  - (v) That upon presentation of the report on the Bill by the Standing Committee, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament, but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to her as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management the Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –
- (i) That the National Disaster Risk Management Bill 2024 be considered by Parliament without delay;
  - (ii) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
  - (iii) That the Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights;
  - (iv) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at the sitting of Parliament in August; and
  - (v) That upon presentation of the report on the Bill by the Standing Committee, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament, but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to him as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. CORRECTIONS SERVICE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2024 (BILL NO. 2 OF 2024)

The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Monday, 20 May 2024 that the Corrections Service (Amendment) Bill 2024 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Corrections Service Act 2006, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

12. METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES BILL 2024 (BILL NO. 3 OF 2024)

The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Tuesday, 21 May 2024 that the Meteorological and Hydrological Services Bill 2024 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to provide for the Fiji Meteorological and Hydrological Services and the protection of livelihoods and property from meteorological and hydrological disasters and hazards and for related matters, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

13. 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) to increase the Government guarantee for the Fiji Sugar Corporation Limited's (FSC) domestic borrowings of \$75.0 million for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 May 2028 (Guarantee Period) by \$20.0 million; and
- (b) that the FSC be exempted from paying the guarantee fee.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

14. MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR LANDS AND MINERAL RESOURCES

The Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources the Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo moved that the amendments recommended by the Standing Orders Committee in its report on the review of the Standing Orders of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji be adopted by Parliament.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 24 May 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 8.27 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2024.