



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Twenty-first 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. Ifereimi Vasu and the 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 Monday, 20 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 students and teachers of Yat Sen Secondary School.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the uncorrected *Hansard* report for Monday's sitting would be circulated as soon as it was finished.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no committee reports for tabling.

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. Jone Usamate subsequently responded.
- (b) The Minister for Youth and Sports the Hon. Jese Saukuru delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Viliame Naupoto subsequently responded.
- (c) The Attorney-General and Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Mosese Bulitavu subsequently responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 55/2024 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the progress of the refurbishment of the Ba Mission Hospital, for which a grant of \$710,801.00 was allocated, in the current financial year.
- 56/2024 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure 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 ‘Whole of Government’ approach in achieving the Sustainable Development Priorities.
- 57/2024 Hon. Penioni Ravunawa asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on its plans to review salary anomalies existing among the Dental and Allied Health professionals in the public sector.
- 58/2024 Hon. Sashi Kiran asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament on the action taken by the Ministry in dealing with bogus employment recruitment agencies in Fiji.
- 59/2024 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Minister update Parliament as to how the \$2 million allocated in this financial year for Public Private Partnership for Housing has been utilised.

- 60/2024 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Home Affairs and Immigration – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the repatriation of Chinese nationals from Nadi International Airport in 2017.
- 61/2024 Hon. Ioane Naivalurua asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on what specialist training and resources are being provided to teachers, to assist them in dealing with the huge problem of drug possession and drug use prevalent in our schools.

Written Questions

- 62/2024 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice – Can the Minister inform Parliament on –
- (a) the names of all the Justices of the Peace; and
 - (b) their physical addresses by District, Province and Division as at 31 March 2024.
- 63/2024 Hon. Premila Kumar 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 –
- (a) the total number of foreign investment applications received monthly by Investment Fiji from 2023 to date;
 - (b) how many foreign investment certificates were issued monthly and the investment value; and
 - (c) the number of foreign investment activities implemented monthly.
- 64/2024 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how many Agricultural farm access roads have been completed in this financial year and what are the future plans of the Ministry in this regard.
- 65/2024 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister provide a list of all the Solar Homes System projects that were scheduled to be undertaken in 2023-2024 financial year to include the following information –
- (a) the budget for each project;
 - (b) the dates each project was or is scheduled to be completed; and
 - (c) the percentage completion for each project as at 1 May 2024.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that the Hon. Premila Kumar had withdrawn her Written Question 63/2024. The Minister for Agriculture and Waterways the Hon. Vatimi Rayalu tabled his response to Written Question 64/2024. The responses to the remaining Written Questions would be submitted in accordance with Standing Order 45(3).

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- (a) The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –
- (i) That the Meteorological and Hydrological Services 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 not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committee of Parliament; and
 - (iv) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 23 May 2024, 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.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	28
No	–	23
Not Voted	–	0
Abstained	–	0

Motion agreed to.

10. 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.

11. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

- (a) The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that under Standing Order 6 that so much of Standing Order 130(2) to (4) is suspended so as to allow the Hon. Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to move his motions on the approval of Treaties without referring them to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Hon. Attorney-General and Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved that Parliament approves that Fiji signs and ratifies the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF); (i) Overarching Agreement, (ii) the Clean Economy Agreement, and (iii) the Fair Economy Agreement.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna moved that Parliament debates the 'Review Report of the Ministry of Sugar 2016–2017, 2017–2018, 2018–2019, 2019–20 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 17 April 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (d) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure moved that Parliament debates the 'Review of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji Annual Report 2018–2019' which was tabled on 17 April 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Wednesday, 22 May 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.32 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

21st May, 2024.