



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Eighth day of July, 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 Friday, 28 June 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, those in the public gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet. The Hon. Speaker also acknowledged the presence of the Australian High Commissioner H.E Ewen McDonald.

The Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that the Business Committee, in its meeting on Wednesday, 26 June 2024, and in addition to the communications on Friday, 28 June, had unanimously agreed to the following –

- (a) the shadow Minister for Finance in delivering the response to the Budget Address would speak for the same amount of time that the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance used in delivering the National Budget Address;
- (b) all remaining Government Members would have up to 10 minutes to respond to the Budget Address, with the exception of the Hon. Attorney-General who would have 20 minutes as he would be delivering his maiden speech;
- (c) all remaining Opposition Members would have up to 15 minutes to respond to the Budget Address;
- (d) Parliament would sit extended hours into the evenings;
- (e) Parliament would take limited breaks including lunch and dinner; and
- (f) in the event, business for any given day is concluded earlier, that business would be brought forward accordingly.

6. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

7. SECOND READING OF THE 2024–2025 APPROPRIATION BILL 2024 (BILL NO. 7 OF 2024)

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved that a Bill for an Act to appropriate a sum of three billion, nine hundred fifty five million, eight hundred nineteen thousand, four hundred and seventy nine dollars for the ordinary services of Government for the year ending 31 July 2025, be read a second time.

The motion was seconded.

The following Members contributed to the debate –

Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, Hon. Parveen Bala, Hon. Alitia Bainivalu, Hon. Aliko Bia, Hon. Graham Leung, Hon. Mosese Bulitavu, Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka, Hon. Hem Chand, Hon. Viliame Gavoka, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal, Hon. Esrom Immanuel, Hon. Semi Koroilavesau, Hon. Manoa Kamikamica, Hon. Faiyaz Koya, Hon. Sashi Kiran, Hon. Premila Kumar, Hon. Shalen Kumar, Hon. Maciu Nalumisa, Hon. Ketan Lal, Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua, Hon. Virendra Lal, Hon. Aseri Radrodoro and Hon. Kalaveti Ravu.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Tuesday, 9 July 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 7.16 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

8th July, 2024.