



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Twenty-eighth day of June, 2024

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to the decision of the Business Committee.

2. Hon. Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.

3. MEMBERS PRESENT

All Honourable Members were present except for the Hon. Pio Tikoduadua and Hon. Viam Pillay.

4. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

The Hon. Graham Leung took the Oath for Members of Parliament and the Oath of Allegiance having been appointed as the Attorney-General pursuant to section 96(3) and (4) of the Constitution.

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the Hon. Attorney-General would deliver his maiden speech on Monday, 8 July 2024.

5. 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, 24 May 2024 as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

6. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members, all invited guests seated in the gallery and all those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet.

The Hon. Speaker advised that the National Budget Address and the subsequent Budget Debates were significant events in the Parliament calendar and were essential and vital for Parliament to fulfil its constitutional obligation.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members of the unanimous decision of the Business Committee to exempt the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics from the ordinary speaking time limitations for the delivery of the National Budget Address. The Hon. Speaker also informed Honourable Members that the Business Committee had approved and agreed to the reduction of the Budget Debates to one week from 8 – 12 July, 2024.

7. FIRST 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 pursuant to Standing Orders 99 and 84(1), that the 2024–2025 Appropriation Bill 2024 (Bill No. 7 of 2024) be read a first time. The motion was subsequently seconded.

The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance tabled the four copies of the 2024–2025 Appropriation Bill 2024.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad delivered the National Budget Address.

A Bill 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 (Bill No. 7 of 2024).

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 84(1), the 2024–2025 Appropriation Bill 2024 had been read for the first time and in accordance with Standing Order 99(3), the Appropriation Bill would be listed on the Order Paper for second reading on Monday, 8 July 2024.

8. CONSEQUENTIAL BILLS

Pursuant to Standing Order 51, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved that the following consequential Bills for the 2024–2025 National Budget be considered by Parliament without delay –

1. Tax Administration (Budget Amendment) Bill 2024 (Bill No. 8 of 2024);
2. Income Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2024 (Bill No. 9 of 2024);
3. Value Added Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2024 (Bill No. 10 of 2024);
4. Customs (Budget Amendment) Bill 2024 (Bill No. 11 of 2024);
5. Customs Tariff (Budget Amendment) Bill 2024 (Bill No. 12 of 2024);
6. Excise (Budget Amendment) Bill 2024 (Bill No. 13 of 2024);
7. Airport Departure Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2024 (Bill No. 14 of 2024);
8. Fiji National Provident Fund (Budget Amendment) Bill 2024 (Bill No. 15 of 2024); and
9. Tertiary Scholarship and Loans (Budget Amendment) Bill 2024 (Bill No. 16 of 2024).

Pursuant to Standing Order 51, that the Consequential Bills –

- (a) must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (b) must not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committees of Parliament;
- (c) must be debated and voted upon by Parliament immediately after the vote on the 2024–2025 Appropriation Bill 2024; and
- (d) that the time for the debate be limited to ensure that these Consequential Bills tabled today are debated and voted upon in the sitting of Parliament beginning on Monday, 8 July 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament adjourns until Monday, 8 July 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker urged all Honourable Members to utilise the coming week to prepare well for the Budget debates week.

Hon. Speaker thanked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad for delivering the 2024–2025 National Budget Address and also thanked all Honourable Members, invited guests and all those watching the live proceedings.

The Hon. Speaker adjourned Parliament until Monday, 8 July 2024 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 11.59 a.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

28th June, 2024.