



Parliament of the Republic of Fiji

SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

The Speaker is the Presiding Officer of the Parliament.

Choosing the Speaker

The Speaker is elected on the first day of the meeting of a new Parliament after a general election and whenever otherwise required to fill a vacancy in the office. Parliament elects the Speaker by simple majority and the appointee must not be a member of parliament. The Secretary-General presides over Parliament during the election of a Speaker.

Roles of the Speaker

The Speaker has several responsibilities in Parliament, including:

- ★ preside over Parliament sittings, much like a chairperson runs a meeting;
- ★ make sure that the rules of the Parliament, known as the standing orders, are obeyed; and
- ★ participate in ceremonial occasions, such as the hosting of foreign heads of state who address the Parliament.

When there is no Parliament sitting, the Speaker undertakes other responsibilities, such as the overall responsibility for the Department of Legislature, including budgets, staffing and allocation of offices to members of Parliament with the assistance of the Secretary-General to Parliament.

Speaker's Chair

The Speaker's Chair is located at one end of the Parliament facing the U-shaped seating. It is the focus of parliamentary meetings, positioned so that the Speaker can see and hear everything that happens in the chamber and so that everyone in the chamber can see the Speaker.

The Speaker's microphone is always switched on, unlike those of other members of the House. This means that the Speaker can always be heard and so is able to maintain order in the chamber.

The Mace

The Mace represents the authority of the Parliament.



*Hon. Speaker
Dr. Jiko Luveni*



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