

**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS FOR  
PARLIAMENTARY SITTING ON  
5<sup>TH</sup> – 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018**

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS:**

*Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018*

*Question 24/2018*

*Hon. Mosese Bulitavu to ask the Minister for Defence and National Security – Can the Minister inform this House how many places of worship were attacked since the last sitting of this House in September 2017 and what is the status of the investigation in respect of each of those reported attacks.*

**Answer:**

*Madam Speaker,*

*Since the last sitting of this House in September 2017 to February 2018, the Fiji Police Force has recorded and registered a total of 14 cases of Sacrilege. Out of these, three cases are being dealt with in Court whilst investigations are continuing with the other 11 cases.*

*Madam Speaker, the Fiji Police Force has a dedicated taskforce and are working round the clock investigating these cases of sacrilege and as a result arrests have been made.*

*Madam Speaker, My Ministry can assure every Fijian that the Fiji Police Force will not end their investigations with just those carrying out these attacks and will get anyone who has either benefitted from this crime or has in anyway assisted those perpetrators. The Fiji Police has a duty to protect life and property as no Fijian should feel intimidated or threatened for practicing any religion within any community.*

<b>SACRILEGE CASES</b>	
<b>Sept 2017 - Feb 2018</b>	
<b>Places of Worship</b>	<b>Status of Case</b>
Shiv Mandir, Namara Road, Nabua	Investigation Continuing
Nadera Catholic Church	Investigation Continuing
Caubati Mandir, Valelevu	Investigation Continuing
Tagusu Assemblies of God, Natalau, Sabeto	Investigation Continuing
Hope Assemblies of God, Natalau, Sabeto	Investigation Continuing
Maharishi Triaath Dhaam Temple, Sabeto	Investigation Continuing
Kalili Settlement Church, Lautoka	Investigation Continuing
Kavanagasau Temple, Sigatoka	Investigation Continuing
Shree Sathya Dharam Ramayan Mandali	Investigation continuing
Vunisinu Methodist Church	Investigation continuing
Waidalice Mandir Temple	Investigation continuing
Latter Day Saints Church	Case before Court
Vishnu Bhavan Temple	Case before Court
Gopal Sadu Mandir	Case before Court

**Note:** According to police investigations, break-ins into places of worship are simply motivated by the need for money. Most neighbourhood youths have observed that money is the major item of value that is kept at places of worship and this motivates perpetrators to break-in at these places.