

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. The Speaker must not be a Member of Parliament. The Secretary-General presides over Parliament during the election of a Speaker.

ROLE OF THE SPEAKER

The Speaker has several responsibilities in Parliament, including:

- preside over Parliament sittings, much like a Chairperson runs a meeting;
- ensure 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.

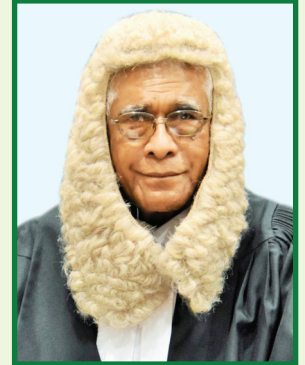
The control and administration of the Parliamentary precincts is vested in the Speaker, who, with the assistance of the Secretary-General to Parliament, undertakes other responsibilities such as the overall oversight of Parliament, including budgets, staffing, and the allocation of offices to Members of Parliament.

SPEAKER'S CHAIR

The Speaker's Chair is located at the front end of the Parliament Chamber, which faces the U-shaped seating arrangement for the Members of Parliament. It is the focal point of Parliamentary meetings, strategically placed so that the Speaker can see and hear everything in the Chamber.

THE MACE

The Mace is the symbol of the authority of Parliament entrusted by it to the Speaker.



*Hon. Speaker
Ratu Naiqama Lalabalavu*

