



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Twenty-ninth day of September, 2025

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

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

3. ATTENDANCE

(a) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for absence from Parliament –

Hon. Manoa Kamikamica, Hon. Viliame Gavoka, Hon. Faiyaz Koya, Hon. Ketan Lal and Hon. Sanjay Kirpal.

(b) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Viliame Naupoto, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka and Hon. Mosese Bulitavu.

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, 8 August 2025 as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

The Hon. Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the September–October sitting period as well as those seated in the gallery, and those following the proceedings through television and online platforms.

1. Establishment of PIPA

The Hon. Speaker informed that the conclusion of the 5th Pacific Islands Parliaments Conference, held in Natadola on 28 August 2025, signified not the closure of the PIPG chapter but the establishment of the Pacific Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (PIPA), an institution intended to strengthen regional integration and amplify the collective voice of Pacific parliaments globally.

2. 2025 Fiji Youth Parliament

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that Parliament had successfully hosted the 2025 Fiji Youth Parliament from 8 to 12 September 2025, as part of Parliament's effort to nurture future leaders. He thanked Members who contributed to the training and mentorship of the Youth Parliamentarians and those that provided support during their debates. He also advised of the possibility of another Youth and Women's Mock Parliaments in the coming year as part of the continuous empowerment initiatives and process in national politics.

3. Request for Extension – Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

The Hon. Speaker also advised the Honourable Members of the request from the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, which was agreed to by the Business Committee, for an extension of reporting back time on the following Bills –

- (a) Credit Union Bill 2025; and
- (b) Employment Relations (Amendment) Bill 2025.

The request was unopposed by all Honourable Members.

4. Referral of Annual Reports

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members of the re-assignment of some annual reports.

5. Back-to-Office Report

The Hon. Speaker thanked Hon. Premila Kumar for her timely report on the Tongan Women's Practice Parliament Workshop which was held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, and that the report was available in the Library.

6. Hon. Sanjay Kirpal's Status

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that the Hon. Sanjay Kirpal has confirmed his intention of remaining an Opposition Independent Member for the remainder of the parliamentary term. The Hon. Speaker further informed that he would now recognise the Leader of the Opposition's group as the Group of 13 Bloc.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The following reports were tabled and referred to the relevant Standing Committees –

(a) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

- (i) 2024 Reserve Bank of Fiji Insurance Annual Report;
- (ii) 2024 Fiji Development Bank Annual Report;
- (iii) 2019-2021 Ministry of Commerce, Trade Tourism and Transport Annual Reports; and
- (iv) 2022-2023 Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection Annual Report.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau responded.
- (b) The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection, the Hon. Sashi Kiran delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal responded.
- (c) The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Rinesh Sharma responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 131/2025 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Given the ADB's April 2025 forecast of 3.0% GDP growth and inflation of 2.9% in May 2025, what new, targeted fiscal measures beyond the general budget will the government implement in Q3 and Q4 to ease the cost of essential goods for low-income households, and how will their impact be assessed over the next six months.
- 132/2025 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fiji and Vanuatu on development co-operation.
- 133/2025 Hon. Parveen Bala asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the relocation of squatter tenants from Nabua Muslim League settlement.

- 134/2025 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament on the impacts and advantages of transferring the compensation processing from the ACCF to the Ministry.
- 135/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the retention incentives the Ministry has in place for the following specific categories of health professionals, excluding nurses: medical officers, dental officers, medical laboratory scientists, medical imaging technologists/radiologists and pharmacists.
- 136/2025 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the FRCS compliance strategy on the revenue collection in the last financial year.
- 137/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the specific subjects where there is shortage of teachers in secondary schools.
- 138/2025 Hon. Aliko Bia asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the recent launching of the three key initiatives by Housing Authority, their objectives, target beneficiaries, and its impact on housing accessibility and affordability across Fiji.
- 139/2025 Hon. Viam Pillay to ask the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update the Parliament on FSC's plans to bring foreign workers to harvest sugar cane on areas affected by labour shortages.
- 140/2025 Hon. Esrom Immanuel asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Waste to Climate Action: Scaling Sustainable Composting in Fijian Schools initiative.

Written Question

- 141/2025 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the expected beneficiaries of the iTaukei Resource Owners Support and Development Fund for the 2025–2026 financial year with respect to the following –
- (a) the estimated number of land-owning groups (such as *mataqali* or *yavusa*) set to benefit, along with their provincial distribution;
 - (b) the criteria and scoring system that will guide eligibility and selection; and
 - (c) any pilot projects or case studies conducted or underway, including key successes and challenges encountered.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. Oral question 139/2025 was omitted pursuant to Standing Order 43(3), as the Hon. Speaker had allowed the Urgent Oral Question from the Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu. The response to Written Question 141/2025 was tabled by the respective Minister.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

10. SUSPENSION MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved pursuant to Standing Order 6 that so much of Standing Order 23(1) be suspended so as to allow the House to sit beyond 4.30 p.m. to complete the remaining items listed on the Order Paper.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

- (a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Kalaveti Ravu moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report on the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources Annual Reports for 2021–2022 and 2022–2023' which was tabled on 18 July 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report on the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management 2018–2019 and 2019–2020 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 18 July 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report on the iTaukei Affairs Board 2015-2022 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 18 July 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Tuesday, 30 September 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 5.49 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

29th September, 2025.