



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Eighteenth day of July, 2025

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.
2. Hon. Speaker took the Chair and read the Lord's Prayer.
3. MEMBERS PRESENT
 - (a) The Hon. Premila Kumar, Hon. Shalen Kumar, Hon. Ketan Lal, Hon. Viliame Naupoto, Hon. Manoa Kamikamica, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal and Hon. Sachida Nand conveyed their apologies to the Hon. Speaker for being unable to attend the sitting of Parliament.
 - (b) The Hon. Josaia Niudamu, Hon. Lynda Tabuya and Hon. Charan Singh obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament.

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 Thursday, 17 July 2025 as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

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

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the two pending rulings related to points of order raised by the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau and the Hon.

Filimoni Vosarogo against Hon. Rinesh Sharma, would be appended to the *Hansard* report of the sitting. Hon. Speaker also informed the Honourable Members that it the House would continue until all items listed on the Order Paper have been dealt with.

6. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 27 July 2025, that the following consequential Bills be debated, voted upon and be passed –

- (i) Tax Administration (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 11 of 2025);
- (ii) Income Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 12 of 2025);
- (iii) Value Added Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 13 of 2025);
- (iv) Customs (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 14 of 2025);
- (v) Customs Tariff (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 15 of 2025);
- (vi) Excise (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 16 of 2025);
- (vii) Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 17 of 2025);
- (viii) Water Resource Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 18 of 2025);
- (ix) Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 19 of 2025);
- (x) Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 20 of 2025);
- (xi) Maritime Transport (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 21 of 2025);
- (xii) Reserve Bank of Fiji (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 22 of 2025);
- (xiii) Insurance (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 23 of 2025);
- (xiv) Banking (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 24 of 2025); and
- (xv) Fair Reporting of Credit (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 25 of 2025).

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

The following Bills were enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji –

- 1. A Bill for an Act to amend the Tax Administration Act 2009 (Bill No. 11 of 2025);
- 2. A Bill for an Act to amend the Income Tax Act 2015 (Bill No. 12 of 2025);
- 3. A Bill for an Act to amend the Value Added Tax Act 1991 (Bill No. 13 of 2025);
- 4. A Bill for an Act to amend the Customs Act 1986 (Bill No. 14 of 2025);
- 5. A Bill for an Act to amend the Customs Tariff Act 1986 (Bill No. 15 of 2025);
- 6. A Bill for an Act to amend the Excise Act 1986 (Bill No. 16 of 2025);
- 7. A Bill for an Act to amend the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service Act 1998 (Bill No. 17 of 2025);

8. A Bill for an Act to amend the Water Resource Tax Act 2008 (Bill No. 18 of 2025);
9. A Bill for an Act to amend the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission Act 2010 (Bill No. 19 of 2025);
10. A Bill for an Act to amend the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service Act 2014 (Bill No. 20 of 2025);
11. A Bill for an Act to amend the Maritime Transport Act 2013 (Bill No. 21 of 2025);
12. A Bill for an Act to amend the Reserve Bank of Fiji Act 1983 (Bill No. 22 of 2025);
13. A Bill for an Act to amend the Insurance Act 1998 (Bill No. 23 of 2025);
14. A Bill for an Act to amend the Banking Act 1995 (Bill No. 24 of 2025); and
15. A Bill for an Act to amend the Fair Reporting of Credit Act 2016 (Bill No. 25 of 2025).

- (b) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Monday, 14 July 2025 that the Fiji National Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill 2025 be debated, voted upon and be passed

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Fiji National Provident Fund Act 2011 (Bill No. 26 of 2025), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

7. MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE HON. PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CIVIL SERVICE AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES, AND INFORMATION

The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises, and Information the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka moved pursuant to Standing Order 129, that a Special Committee on Sugar Industry be established to undertake a comprehensive review of the Sugar Industry in Fiji and to provide strategic recommendations for its transformation and long-term sustainability. The Special Committee must report back to Parliament at the November sitting of Parliament.

The Special Committee shall comprise the following Members of Parliament –

- (a) Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises, and Information – Chairperson;
- (b) Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics;

- (c) Hon. Viliame Gavoka, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation;
- (d) Hon. Manoa Kamikamica, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications;
- (e) Hon. Charan Singh, Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry;
- (f) Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Leader of the Opposition (or his nominee);
- (g) a Member designated by the Leader of the Opposition; and
- (h) Hon. Ioane Naivalurua, Minister for Policing, and Leader of the Group of 11 Bloc (or his nominee).

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

8. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

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

(a) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- (i) Energy Fiji Limited 2024 Annual Report.

(b) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs

- (i) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Annual Report 2019–2020;
- (ii) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Annual Report 2020–2021;
- (iii) Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption Annual Report 2020–2021;
- (iv) Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption Annual Report 2021–2022; and
- (v) Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption Annual Report 2022–2023.

(c) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

- (i) Fiji Ports Corporation Limited Annual Report 2020;
- (ii) Fiji Ports Corporation Limited Annual Report 2021;
- (iii) Fiji Ports Corporation Limited Annual Report 2022; and
- (iv) Fiji Ports Corporation Limited Annual Report 2023.

(d) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- (i) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2023 Audit Report Social Services Sector; and
- (ii) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2023 Financial Statements of Government.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that the following papers were for information only and would not be referred to any Standing Committee –

- (i) First Quarter Appropriation Statement Actual Expenditure 1 August 2024 to 31 October 2024;
- (ii) Mid-Year Fiscal Statement Actual Expenditure 1 August 2024 to 31 January 2025; and
- (iii) Reserve Bank of Fiji Quarterly Review March 2025.

9. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources' Annual Reports for the periods 2021–2022 and 2022–2023.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(b) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management 2018–2019 and 2019–2020 annual reports.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the iTaukei Affairs Board 2015-2022 annual reports.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

- (iii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport annual reports for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a

debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(c) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Standing Committee's review report on the Fiji Airports 2022 Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission's 2019–2020, 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 annual reports.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

- (iii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Standing Committee's review report on the Levuka Town Council 2018 Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

- (iv) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 annual reports.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

- (v) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Standing Committee's review report on the Fiji Police Force 2020–2021 Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament adjourns until Monday, 4 August 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker thanked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad and the Permanent Secretary Shiri Gounder and his dedicated team at the Ministry of Finance for the successful passing of the 2024–2025 National Budget and also thanked all Honourable Members and all those watching the live proceedings.

The Hon. Speaker adjourned Parliament until Monday, 4 August 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.21 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

18th July, 2025.