



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Second day of May, 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) All Honourable Members were present except for the Hon. Pio Tikoduadua.
 - (b) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for absence from the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal, Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu and Hon. Aseri Radrodro and Hon. Jese Saukuru.
 - (c) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Viliame Naupoto, Hon. Alipate Tuicolo, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, Hon. Sashi Kiran and Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua.

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, 1 May 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 sitting of Parliament, those seated in the gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet. Hon. Speaker also welcomed the final group of PL 100 School of Law and Politics Students from the University of the South Pacific.

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the uncorrected *Hansard* report for yesterday's sitting would be circulated once finalised.

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that he would deliver his rulings on the points of order raised on Thursday, 1 May 2025 by Hon. Minister Filimoni Vosarogo and Hon. Minister Ro Filipe Tuisawau, at a later sitting of Parliament; including the ones raised on the day.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

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

(a) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

- (i) Water Authority of Fiji Annual Report 2019–2020;
- (ii) Water Authority of Fiji Annual Report 2020–2021; and
- (iii) Water Authority of Fiji Annual Report 2021–2022.

(b) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- (i) Sugar Cane Growers Fund Annual Report 2023.

7. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

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| 60/2025 | Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament what criteria determines whether FRA or PWD handles specific infrastructure projects. |
| 61/2025 | Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the Government's strategy to maximise economic benefits from Fiji's growing cruise tourism sector. |
| 62/2025 | Hon. Semi Koroilavesau asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on the Ministry's plans to address the recent decline in tourism arrivals and improve industry performance. |

- 63/2025 Hon. Esrom Immanuel asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the Cybersecurity partnership with Australia, following the signing of the Cybersecurity Cooperation Memorandum of Understanding last year.
- 64/2025 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on what indications have been made or given with respect to the new trade platform of Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and its implications on Fiji.
- 65/2025 Hon. Lynda Tabuya to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on major tourism related investment projects for road and jetty upgrades in Vanua Levu under the *Na Vualiku* Programme.
- 66/2025 Hon. Parveen Bala to ask the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament when will the residents of Cuvu receive the 99 year lease which was announced on 12 March 2024 by the Government.
- 67/2025 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the efforts being undertaken to ensure a secure ITC Government Network.
- 68/2025 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the works already undertaken under the Fiji Tourism Development programme for the North.
- 69/2025 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu asked the Minister for Environment and Climate Change – Can the Minister update Parliament on Fiji's Initial Biennial Update Report (BUR) for submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Written Questions

- 70/2025 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – A total of \$171.3 million was allocated in the current budget for social protection programmes. Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –
- (a) how much funding has been used to date under each of the following programmes – Family Assistance, Child Protection, Social Pension, Disability Support, and Transport Assistance; and

- (b) how many Fijians have received support under each of these programmes so far.

71/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – With the ongoing disruptions to the regular water supply leading to the engagement of water carting services to supply water to households, can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –

- (a) the total cost incurred for water carting per year from 2022 to 2024;
- (b) the number of trucks currently engaged in watercarting; and
- (c) the mode through which payments are made to the contractors providing this service.

72/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the Ministry's policy regarding the employment of officers above the age of 60, including the number of such officers and their roles.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The response to Written Question 70/2025 was tabled by the Hon. Leader of the Government on behalf of the Hon. Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection. The response to Written Questions 71/2025 and 72/2025 would be submitted in accordance with Standing Order 45(3).

8. 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 12.30 p.m. to complete the remaining items listed on the Order Paper.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

9. END OF WEEK STATEMENTS

- (a) Hon. Jone Usamate delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources the Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo subsequently responded.
- (b) Hon. Faiyaz Koya delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga subsequently responded.

- (c) Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu delivered his End of Week Statement and the Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Penioni Ravunawa subsequently responded.

10. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament stands adjourned until Monday, 2 June 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions during the sitting week, and declared Parliament adjourned until Monday, 2 June 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.08 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

2nd May, 2025.