



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Twenty-seventh day of June,
2025

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to the decision of the Business Committee.
2. Hon. Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.

3. MEMBERS PRESENT

- (a) All Honourable Members were present except for the Hon. Siromi Turaga, Hon. Alitia Bainivalu, Hon. Kalaveti Ravu, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal and Hon. Viam Pillay.
 - (b) The Hon. Jese Saukuru conveyed his apologies for being unable to attend 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 Friday, 2 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 extended a warm welcome to all Honourable Members, invited guests seated in the gallery, and those watching the live proceedings via television and the internet.

The Hon. Speaker paid tribute to the late Hon. Vatimi Rayalu, after which a moment of silence was observed in his memory.

The Hon. Speaker emphasised the importance of the National Budget Address and the subsequent Budget Debates, describing them as key events in the Parliament's calendar and essential to fulfilling its constitutional responsibilities.

The Honourable Members were informed that the Business Committee had unanimously agreed to exempt the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics from the usual speaking time limits for the delivery of the National Budget Address. Each Member would be allotted 20 minutes for their contribution to the debate, with minimal breaks scheduled during the debate week.

6. FIRST READING OF THE 2025–2026 APPROPRIATION BILL 2025 (BILL NO. 10 OF 2025)

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved pursuant to Standing Orders 99 and 84(1), that the 2025–2026 Appropriation Bill 2025 (Bill No. 10 of 2025) be read a first time. The motion was subsequently seconded.

The Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance tabled four copies of the 2025–2026 Appropriation Bill 2025.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad delivered the National Budget Address.

A Bill for an act to appropriate a sum of four billion, two hundred fifty-three million, thirty thousand, five hundred and sixty-two dollars for the ordinary services of Government for the year ending 31 July 2026 (Bill No. 10 of 2025).

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 84(1), the 2025–2026 Appropriation Bill 2025 had been read for the first time and in accordance with Standing Order 99(3), the Appropriation Bill would be listed on the Order Paper for Second Reading on Monday, 14 July 2025.

7. CONSEQUENTIAL BILLS

Pursuant to Standing Order 51, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved that the following consequential Bills for the 2025–2026 National Budget be considered by Parliament without delay –

1. Tax Administration (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025;
2. Income Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025;
3. Value Added Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025;
4. Customs (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025;
5. Customs Tariff (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025;
6. Excise (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025;
7. Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025;
8. Water Resource Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025;
9. Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025;
10. Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025;
11. Maritime Transport (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025;
12. Reserve Bank of Fiji (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025;
13. Insurance (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025;
14. Banking (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025; and
15. Fair Reporting of Credit (Budget Amendment) Bill 2025.

Pursuant to Standing Order 51, that the Consequential Bills –

- (a) must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (b) must not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committees of Parliament;
- (c) must be debated and voted upon by Parliament immediately after the vote on the 2025–2026 Appropriation Bill 2025; and
- (d) that the time for the debate be limited to ensure that these Consequential Bills tabled today are debated and voted upon in the sitting of Parliament beginning on Monday, 14 July 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament adjourns until Monday, 14 July 2025 at 10.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

The Hon. Speaker encouraged all Honourable Members of Parliament to use the upcoming week to thoroughly prepare for the Budget Debates.

The Hon. Speaker also briefed Honourable Members on correspondence received from the Hon. Jone Usamate concerning the involvement of Independent Members in the promotion and support of a proposed new political party.

Additionally, the Hon. Speaker informed Parliament of the independent status of the Hon. Ketan Lal, noting that he is not affiliated with any parliamentary group and would continue to serve as an Independent Member for the remainder of the parliamentary term.

The Hon. Speaker expressed sincere gratitude to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, for delivering the 2025–2026 National Budget Address. Appreciation was also extended to all Honourable Members, invited guests, and those watching the live proceedings.

Parliament was then adjourned until Monday, 14 July 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 12.05 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

27th June, 2025.