



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Eighth day of August, 2025

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.
2. Hon. Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.
3. ATTENDANCE
 - (a) The Hon. Jese Saukuru was absent.
 - (b) The Hon. Aliko Bia, Hon. Vijay Nath, Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Hon. Premila Kumar and Hon. Manoa Kamikamica conveyed their apologies to the office of the Speaker for being unable to attend the sitting of Parliament.
 - (c) The Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal, Hon. Joseph Nand and Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure obtained approval from the office of the 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, 7 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. Deputy Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting, those seated in the gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet.

Standing Committees Membership – Government

The Hon. Deputy Speaker informed all Honourable Members that in light of recent developments within Cabinet during the sitting week, it had become necessary to review the membership of the Standing Committees to ensure compliance with Standing Order 114(2). The office of the Speaker had now received confirmation from the Hon. Government Whip, and the revised committee memberships would take effect from Monday, 18 August 2025.

The Hon. Deputy Speaker informed that in accordance with Standing Order 115(4), the Government's representation across all six Standing Committees are as follows –

(a) Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights:

- Hon. Ratu Rakuira Vakalalabure, Chairperson;
- Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu;
- Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu; and
- Hon. Sachida Nand.

(b) Standing Committee on Public Accounts:

- Hon. Esrom Immanuel, Chairperson;
- Hon. Jovesa Vocea;
- Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva; and
- Hon. Sachida Nand.

(c) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs:

- Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna, Chairperson;
- Hon. Alipate Tuicolo;
- Hon. Kalaveti Ravu; and
- Hon. Shalen Kumar.

(d) Standing Committee on Social Affairs:

- Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu, Chairperson;
- Hon. Ratu Rakuira Vakalalabure;
- Hon. Alipate Tuicolo; and
- Hon. Alikia Bia.

(e) Standing Committee on Natural Resources:

- Hon. Inosi Kuridrani;
- Hon. Taito Rokomatu;
- Hon. Shalen Kumar; and
- Hon. Kalaveti Ravu.

The Standing Committee on Natural Resources would elect their new Chairperson at their very next meeting.

(f) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence:

- Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua, Chairperson;
- Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu;
- Hon. Penioni Ravunawa; and
- Hon. Taito Rokomatu.

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) Office of the Prime Minister and Fijian Immigration Department Annual Report 2021–2022;
- (ii) Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation Annual Report 2021–2022;
- (iii) Fiji Teachers Registration Authority Annual Report 2022–2023;
- (iv) Rakiraki Town Council Annual Report January–July 2020; and
- (v) Rakiraki Town Council Annual Report 2020–2021.

(b) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- (i) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2023 Audit Report General Administration Sector;
- (ii) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2024 Audit Report Economic Services Sector;
- (iii) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2024 Audit Report Infrastructure Sector;
- (iv) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2024 Audit Report Social Services Sector;
- (v) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Performance Audit on Implementation of Climate Change Adaptation Actions in Fiji; and
- (vi) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Provincial Councils Volume 7.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Minister for Policing the Hon. Ioane Naivalurua delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.
- (b) The Minister for Immigration the Hon. Viliame Naupoto delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Alvick Maharaj responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 122/2025 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Minister for Policing – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between the Republic of Indonesia National Narcotics Board and the Ministry.
- 123/2025 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on the exact timeline for the completion of the Labasa Airport upgrade.
- 124/2025 Hon. Joseph Nand to ask the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the Land Transport Authority's installation of standalone traffic centre cameras.
- 125/2025 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu asked the Minister for Environment and Climate Change – Can the Minister update Parliament on Fiji's participation in the GEF Pacific Constituency Meeting and how Fiji plans to strengthen its environmental project oversight and accountability.
- 126/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister outline the Government's strategy to maintain the Fiji Airways' Hong Kong route alongside the planned expansion to Shanghai.
- 127/2025 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the plans and measures the Ministry has in place to combat and address the termite infestation in schools.
- 129/2025 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the implementation of the HIV Outbreak Response Plan.

Written Question

- 130/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how many new ECE Centres, Primary Schools and Secondary Schools have been built in the last three years indicating the year it was established.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Deputy Speaker allowed the Hon. Virendra Lal to ask Oral Question 124/2025. The response to Written Question 130/2025 was tabled by the respective Minister.

9. 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.

10. END OF WEEK STATEMENTS

The Hon. Deputy Speaker informed Honourable Members that the Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu had withdrawn his End of Week Statement.

- (a) Hon. Semi Koroilavesau delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu subsequently responded.
- (b) Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua delivered her End of Week Statement and the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alita Bainivalu subsequently responded.
- (c) Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu subsequently responded.

The Hon. Speaker, upon resuming the Chair thanked the Hon. Deputy Speaker for indulging the Chair, and then clarified further to the point of order that had been raised in the morning by the Hon. Alvick Maharaj with respect to the interpretation of Standing Order 34(5).

11. SECOND READING OF THE EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025

The Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations the Hon. Agni Singh moved pursuant to Standing Order 85 that the Employment Relations (Amendment) Bill 2025 be now read a second time

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Employment Relations Act 2007 to provide for employment contracts, employment disputes, sexual harassment, offences, civil penalty provisions, fixed penalty notices, functions and powers of labour officers, labour inspectors and related matters (Bill No. 27 of 2025).

Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 85(4), the Bill had now been read for the second time. Pursuant to Standing Order 85(4)(a), the Bill was being referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs. The Hon. Speaker further informed that whilst Standing Order 121(1)(a) ordinarily required the Committee to report back within 30 days, in this instance, the Committee would instead report at the next sitting.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament adjourns until Monday, 29 September 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions throughout the week and all those watching the live proceedings.

The Hon. Speaker adjourned Parliament until Monday, 29 September 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 3.50 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

8th August, 2025.