



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Fourth day of August, 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 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua, Hon. Viam Pillay and Hon. Sanjay Kirpal conveyed their apologies to the Hon. Speaker for being unable to attend the sitting of Parliament.
 - (b) The Hon. Jese Saukuru, Hon. Joseph Nand were absent
 - (c) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Jovesa Vocea and Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka
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, 18 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

The Hon. Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting, those seated in the gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that, in accordance with Standing Order 114 clause (1), the Speaker and the Business Committee had unanimously agreed to revise the composition of the Standing Committees. Each committee will now consist of six members—four representing the Government and two representing the Opposition. The approved change will take effect from Monday, 18 August 2025. Pursuant to Standing Order 115 clause (4), the Government's membership across all six Standing Committees –

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

- Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure, Chairperson;
- Hon. Lynda Tabuya;
- 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. Lynda Tabuya.

(d) **Standing Committee on Social Affairs:**

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

(e) **Standing Committee on Natural Resources:**

- Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna, Chairperson;
- Hon. Taito Rokomatu;
- Hon. Shalen Kumar; and
- Hon. Inosi Kuridrani.

(f) **Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence:**

- Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua, Chairperson;
- Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu;
- Hon. Penioni Ravunawa; and
- Hon. Shalen Kumar.

Hon. Speaker further informed Honourable Members, that the Hon. Rinesh Sharma had complied with the sanction outlined in his ruling which was appended to the official Hansard report of 18 July 2025. This was in respect to the points of order raised by the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau and the Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo.

Hon Speaker informed that the back-to-office report for the 54th Presiding Officers' and Clerks' Conference, which was held in Nauru is now available in the Library for perusal and reference

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) Ministry of Civil Service Annual Report 2022-2023;
- (ii) Fiji Broadcasting Corporation Pte Limited Annual Report 2023;
- (iii) Fiji Revenue and Customs Service Annual Report 2022-2023;
- (iv) Ministry of Sugar Industry Annual Report 2020-2021; and
- (v) Fiji National University Annual Report 2024.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.
- (b) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry, and Acting Minister for Agriculture and Waterways the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau responded.
- (c) The Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Hem Chand responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

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| 73/2025 | Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the review report of the three major universities in Fiji. |
| 74/2025 | Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises, and Information – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the establishment of the whole of Government Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Unit. |

- 75/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether the spread of dengue fever is now under control.
- 76/2025 Hon. Aliko Bia asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry's efforts to identify groundwater sources to assist communities that do not have access to clean drinking water.
- 77/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the reasons why Tavua residents continuously face water cuts on a regular basis and what is being done to rectify the problem.
- 78/2025 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu to ask the Minister for Justice, and Acting Attorney-General – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the key recommendations from the Fiji Law Reform Commission's Electoral Law Review 2025 and how will they impact the upcoming electoral processes.
- 79/2025 Hon. Joseph Nand to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the investigation after an empty bullet shell casing was found on a Fiji Airways flight that arrived in Nadi from Sydney earlier this year.
- 80/2025 Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on specific outcomes and deliverables that have been achieved under the Great Council of Chiefs (GCC) Regulations 2024 in advancing iTaukei governance, economic empowerment, and cultural preservation since its enactment.
- 81/2025 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on how many dairy land leases have been renewed since 2023.
- 82/2025 Hon. Esrom Immanuel asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on all State Lease payments and arrears due as of June 2025.

Written Questions

- 83/2025 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister provide the following to Parliament –
- (a) a detailed breakdown of how the \$66 million allocated for Free Education has been utilised; and
 - (b) what measurable impact has it had on classroom resources, teacher-student ratios, and student performance.

84/2025 Hon. Penioni Ravunawa asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the detailed financial summary of the estimated tourism revenue generated from each major market (Australia, New Zealand, USA, China, UK) during the period July 2023 to June 2024.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. Oral question 78/2025 was withdrawn by Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu. Hon. Speaker allowed Hon. Jone Usamate to ask Oral Question 79/2025.

The responses to Written Questions 83/2025 and 84/2025 were tabled by the respective Ministers.

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. Tomasi Tunabuna moved that Parliament debates the 'Review Report of the Ministry of Forestry Annual Report 2022–2023' which was tabled on 13 March 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of the Water Authority of Fiji January to July 2018 and 2018-2019 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 13 March 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Rinesh Sharma moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of the Savusavu Town Council 2014 and 2015 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 1 May 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, 5 August 2025 at 10.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 5.27 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

4th August, 2025.