



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Second day of October, 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. Viliame Gavoka obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for absence from Parliament.

(b) The Hon. Mosese Bulitavu was absent.

(c) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka, Hon. Manoa Kamikamica, Hon. Viliame Naupoto, Hon. Charan Singh, Hon. Sashi Kiran and Hon. Ketan Lal.

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 Wednesday, 1 October 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, those seated in the gallery, and those following the proceedings through television and online platforms.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members, that during the afternoon tea break, the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Fiji Group would hold a Pinktober Awareness Session which would mark the international month dedicated to breast cancer awareness which remains the most common cancer among women worldwide and continues to affect many families here in Fiji.

Hon. Speaker also informed that the response to Written Question 166/2025 from the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications had been conveyed accordingly and a copy uploaded on the Parliament's website.

He further advised that the back-to-office report from the Australian Study Visit, which included Melbourne, New South Wales and Canberra by the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights, was available in the Library.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no committee reports for tabling.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate responded.
- (b) The Minister for Youth and Sports the Hon. Jese Saukuru delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Joseph Nand responded.
- (c) The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Rinesh Sharma responded.
- (d) The Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Acting Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 168/2025 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – With ongoing skilled labour shortages affecting investment, can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament what new incentives or scholarship programmes will Government introduce to retain professionals in key sectors like healthcare and engineering.
- 169/2025 Hon. Esrom Immanuel asked the Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the rural road development in the Central Division.
- 170/2025 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the details of the Pharmacopeia agreement with the Government of India with respect to the procurement and supply of medical drugs.
- 171/2025 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu 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 status and achievements of the Co-operative Development Fund grant.
- 172/2025 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau to ask 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 how Government is addressing issues of cyberbullying, harassment and hate speech to ensure a safer online environment.
- 173/2025 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the benefits of the recently held Fiji Pro Event.
- 174/2025 Hon. Viam Pillay to ask the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of FSC trucks that were especially bought to assist farmers at a subsidised rate.
- 175/2025 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Government assistance programme aimed at supporting the transport of building materials to communities in the maritime zone.
- 176/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the steps taken by the Ministry to monitor the trafficking of drugs in schools.

177/2025 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the Loan and Grant Agreement with the Asia Development Bank on the Healthy Oceans and Water Supply Improvement Project.

Written Question

178/2025 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the number and types of development approvals granted by the Department of Town and Country Planning over the past year, including building approvals, subdivision applications and rezoning requests.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Deputy Speaker informed Honourable Members that the following questions had been withdrawn: Oral Questions 172/2025, 173/2025 and 174/2025.

The response to Written Question 178/2025 was tabled by the respective Minister.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) Fiji Learning Institute for Public Service Bill 2025

The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (i) That the Fiji Learning Institute for Public Service Bill 2025 be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (ii) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (iii) That the Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights;
- (iv) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at a later sitting of Parliament; and
- (v) That upon presentation of the report on the Bill by the Standing Committee, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament, with the right of reply given to him as the member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

(b) Burial and Cremation (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (i) That the Burial and Cremation (Amendment) Bill 2025 be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (ii) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (iii) That the Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights;
- (iv) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at the November-December sitting of Parliament; and
- (v) That upon presentation of the report on the Bill by the Standing Committee, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament, with the right of reply given to him as the member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

(c) Quarantine (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (i) That the Quarantine (Amendment) Bill 2025 be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (ii) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (iii) That the Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights;
- (iv) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at the November-December sitting of Parliament; and
- (v) That upon presentation of the report on the Bill by the Standing Committee, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament, with the right of reply given to him as the member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

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 Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved a motion for the purpose of section 145(1) of the Constitution and pursuant to Standing Order 131, that Parliament approves –

- (i) the increase in Government guarantee for the Fiji Sugar Corporation Limited ('FSC') domestic borrowings by \$100.0 million to \$300.0 million for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 May 2028 (Guarantee Period); and
- (ii) that the FSC be exempted from paying any guarantee fee.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of the Reserve Bank of Fiji August 2021–July 2024 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 6 August 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna moved that Parliament debates the 'Review Report of the Investment Fiji 2020–2021 Annual Report' which was tabled on 6 August 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Deputy Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 3 October 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 7.22 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

2nd October, 2025.