



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Seventh 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. Jese Saukuru was absent.
 - (b) The Hon. Aliko Bia, Hon. Vijay Nath and Hon. Ketan Lal conveyed their apologies to the Hon. Speaker for being unable to attend the sitting of Parliament.
 - (c) The Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, Hon. Mosese Bulitavu, Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, Hon. Sachida Nand, Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Manoa Kamikamica and Hon. Sashi Kiran obtained approval from the Hon. 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 Wednesday, 6 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. Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting, those seated in the gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet. He also welcomed the Ambassador of the Peoples Republic of China, His Excellency Zhou Jian.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that two questions appear under the name of the Hon. Virendra Lal in the Order Paper and whilst it seemed to contravene Standing Order 41(4), it was because one of the questions was carried forward from Wednesday's Order Paper, as previously communicated.

The Hon. Speaker also informed Honourable Members that the first oral question had been brought forward from Friday's Order Paper and this adjustment was made in light of the Deputy Prime Minister the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica, being away on Friday to attend the ICT PIFs Ministerial Meeting.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no reports of Committees for presentation.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal responded.
- (b) The Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau responded.
- (c) The Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management the Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu responded.
- (d) The Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Premila Kumar responded.
- (e) The Minister for Justice, and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.
- (f) The Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Hem Chand responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 128/2025 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications – In light of the changing landscape of world trade and WTO rules-based trade, can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on what are the forward plans for Fiji in protecting its trade interests and its economy from the anticipated shocks especially in light of our vulnerability as a developing country.
- 98/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the status of Fiji ratifying the Beijing Convention, Beijing Protocol and the Montreal Convention.
- 110/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the current policy on schools placements and the measures being undertaken to ensure families can access schools close to their residence.
- 111/2025 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna to ask the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Fiji Women's Economic Empowerment National Action Plan (WEENAP) (2025-2030).
- 112/2025 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the details regarding access given to the RFMF Naval Division to Malau Port in Labasa as a Forward Operating Base.
- 113/2025 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Cooperation Agreement between the United Arab Emirates Red Crescent Authority and the Republic of Fiji.
- 114/2025 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Minister for Policing – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Korean National Police Agency and the Fiji Police Force.
- 115/2025 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the work programme for this year to repair the Nabouwalu to Labasa and the Savusavu highway.

- 116/2025 Hon. Esrom Immanuel asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Integrated Rural Development Framework and what progress has been made to ensure that it effectively addresses the current needs of rural communities.
- 117/2025 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament how the \$3m rural housing allocation in the 2024-2025 budget has been utilised.
- 118/2025 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs – Can the Minister update Parliament on the National Security Strategy 2025-2029 (NSS) and how it is guiding Government policies, strengthening inter-agency coordination, and addressing Fiji's key security threats.

Written Questions

- 119/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament how many classrooms in primary schools have a class roll of more than 30 students in a classroom.
- 120/2025 Hon. Penioni Ravunawa asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament how many recipients benefitted from the Pilot Tourism MSME Grant Fund announced in December 2024, and what criteria were used to determine eligibility and allocation.
- 121/2025 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister provide a country-by-country breakdown of visitor arrivals to Fiji in 2024, and indicate how these figures compare to pre-COVID levels in 2019.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The responses to Written Questions 119/2025, 120/2025 and 121/2025 were tabled by the respective Ministers.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) FIRST READING OF THE EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025 (BILL NO. 27 OF 2025)

The Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations the Hon. Agni Singh moved pursuant to Standing Order 84, that the Employment Relations (Amendment) Bill 2025 be read a first time. The motion was subsequently seconded.

The Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations tabled the four copies of the Employment Relations (Amendment) Bill 2025.

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).

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 84(1), the Employment Relations (Amendment) Bill 2025 had been read for the first time and the Employment Relations (Amendment) Bill 2025 would be listed on the Order Paper for Second Reading on Friday, 8 August 2025.

The Hon. Speaker encouraged Honourable Members to utilise the time to study and examine the Bill and prepare for debate which would primarily focus on the principles and merits of the Bill.

(b) CREDIT UNION BILL 2025 (BILL NO. 29 OF 2025)

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (a) That the Credit Union Bill 2025 be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (b) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (c) That the Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs;
- (d) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at the September-October sitting of Parliament; and
- (e) That upon presentation of the report on the Bill by the Standing Committee, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament, but that 2 hours be given to debate the Bill, 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 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 Insurance Annual Reports 2021 and 2022' which was tabled on 1 May 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua moved that Parliament debates the 'Review Report of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji 2022-2023 Annual Report' which was tabled on 1 May 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Kalaveti Ravu moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of the Ministry of Agriculture Annual Reports 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022' 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 Friday, 8 August 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.28 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

7th August, 2025.