



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Twenty-ninth day of April, 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) All Honourable Members were present except for the Hon. Pio Tikoduadua.

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

Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad.

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 Monday, 28 April 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 also welcomed another group of PL 100 School of Law and Politics Students from the University of the South Pacific.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the secretariat had received the written response from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad to Written Question 27/2025 asked by the Hon. Premila Kumar. The response had been conveyed to the Hon. Premila Kumar and a copy uploaded on the Parliament's website.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs 2017-2019 and 2019-2022 annual reports.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(b) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Committee's review report on the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 121(1)(b) and Standing Order 130(4), the Standing Committee has reported back.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) Annual Reports for the financial years 2020–2021 and 2021–2022.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

(c) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the Fiji Development Bank ('FDB') Annual Reports for 2022 and 2023.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs moved a motion without notice pursuant to Standing Order 121(5) that a debate on the content of the report would be initiated at a future sitting. The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

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 Environment and Climate Change the Hon. Mosese Bulitavu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Premila Kumar responded.
- (c) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau responded.
- (d) The Minister for Youth and Sports the Hon. Jese Saukuru delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Rinesh Sharma responded.
- (e) The Minister for Youth and Sports the Hon. Jese Saukuru delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate responded.
- (f) The Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Hem Chand responded.
- (g) The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Alvick Maharaj responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 28/2025 | Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways – Can the Minister update Parliament on the intentions of the Ministry to revive banana and coffee planting. |
| 29/2025 | Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure 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 operationalisation of the global sourcing derogation for fish under the Interim Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union. |
| 30/2025 | Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Policing – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether Fiji has the capability to conduct forensic tests, such as DNA analysis. |

- 31/2025 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the Mount Kasi Mining Operation.
- 32/2025 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the anticipated timeline for the resumption of international flights from Nausori International Airport.
- 33/2025 Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the key sustainability challenges identified in tourism operations and how will it guide necessary adjustments to ensure better alignment with Fiji's National Sustainable Tourism Framework.
- 34/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament if some PhD and Masters students at the University of South Pacific have been without lecturers since July last year.
- 35/2025 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna 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 Trade Enhancement Programme and its efforts to support the MSMEs in the service sector.
- 36/2025 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the review of the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944.
- 37/2025 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu 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 outcomes of the Fiji-PNG Business Mission, and how it is expected to contribute to strengthening bilateral trade and unlocking new opportunities for Fijian businesses.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Hon. Speaker informed 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 Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report on the Lautoka City Council 2015–2017 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 11 March 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 'Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption Annual Report 2018–2020 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 12 March 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua moved that Parliament debates the 'Review Report of the Fiji National Sports Commission August 2022–July 2023 Annual Report' which was tabled on 12 March 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 Wednesday, 30 April 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 9.35 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

29th April, 2025.