



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Thirtieth day of September, 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. Shalen Kumar 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. Kalaveti Ravu, Hon. Viliame Naupoto, Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna, Hon. Aseri Radrodro and Hon. Inosi Kuridrani.
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, 29 September 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 as well as those seated in the gallery, and those following the proceedings through television and online platforms.

Hon. Speaker also welcomed the students of the Social Science Department at the Corpus Christi Teachers College, and he hoped that the proceedings would give them a fairer idea of how the Parliament works.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Fiji Roads Authority 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.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Land Transport Authority 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 Trademarks (Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 28 of 2025).

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 6 August 2025, the Standing Committee has reported back and that the Trademarks (Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 28 of 2025) would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Wednesday, 1 October 2025.

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 Defence and Veteran Affairs the Hon. Pio Tikoduadua delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau responded.
- (c) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate responded.
- (d) The Minister for Agriculture the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu responded.
- (e) The Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Hem Chand responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 142/2025 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications – Given the tariff situation with the United States, can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament if Government has explored other nations as export destinations such as Singapore and UAE for turmeric, ginger and cassava.
- 143/2025 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 main outcomes and benefits for Fiji's digital growth and regional leadership on key ICT events hosted by Fiji this year.
- 144/2025 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Inter-island shipping is the lifeline between the centres and our people living in our rural isolated communities in the Maritime Islands, and in that respect, can the Minister update Parliament how are the services faring considering there is a Government franchise in place to assist this service.
- 145/2025 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the current strategies implemented to improve OHS compliance in Fiji's workplaces.

- 146/2025 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Given Fiji's heightened vulnerability to natural disasters, can the Minister update Parliament on measures currently being undertaken to enhance early warning systems and strengthen overall disaster resilience.
- 147/2025 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on what the Pilot Tourism Micro and Small Enterprises Fund is.
- 148/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament why some teachers have not been issued ID cards by the FTRA.
- 149/2025 Hon. Esrom Immanuel asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry's issuance of lease titles to the informal settlement upgrading projects.
- 150/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the progress of the review of the General Orders 2011.
- 151/2025 Hon. Aliko Bia asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on how the 12.5% tax reduction impacts the cost of living for the average household.

Written Questions

- 152/2025 Hon. Viam Pillay to ask the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the number of new sugar cane farmers who have joined the industry and how many more acres have been planted and the level of support given.
- 153/2025 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the total revenue collected by the iTaukei Land and Fisheries Commission from land boundary redefinition surveys over the past three financial years with respect to the following –
- (a) the annual revenue amounts for each of the last three financial years and how these funds were utilised;
 - (b) the number of land disputes resolved or narrowed following these surveys, and what indicators were used to measure their impact; and
 - (c) the measures in place to ensure that survey services are affordable and delivered promptly to landowners.

154/2025 Hon. Hem Chand to ask the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament how many primary school students who receive transport assistance travel daily to reach their school.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that the following questions had been withdrawn: Oral Question 147/2025; Written Question 152/2025; and Written Question 154/2025. The response to Written Question 153/2025 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 4.30 p.m. to complete the remaining items listed on the Order Paper.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

10. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no Bills for consideration.

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 Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport 2017–2018 and 2018–2019 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 18 July 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 on the Fiji Airports 2022 Annual Report' which was tabled on 18 July 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 'Consolidated Review Report on the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission 2019–2020, 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 18 July 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, 1 October 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.55 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

30th September, 2025.