



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Fifth day of August, 2025

1. The House met at 10.30 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. Ratu Josaia Niudamu and the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua conveyed their apologies to the Hon. Speaker for being unable to attend the sitting of Parliament.
 - (c) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Ketan Lal, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Charan Singh, Hon. Agni Singh, Hon. Viliame Gavoka and Hon. Manoa Kamikamica.

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, 4 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.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the secretariat had received the written response from the Hon. Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport, to Written Question 71/2025 asked by the Hon. Jone Usamate – the response had been conveyed to the Hon. Jone Usamate and a copy uploaded on the Parliament's website.

Hon. Speaker also informed all Honourable Members that insurance agents from BSP Life would be based in the Library to provide their services. Honourable Members were encouraged to approach them for clarifications.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that the two reports would be deferred to Wednesday's Order Paper.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate responded.
- (b) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.
- (c) The Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs the Hon. Pio Tikoduadua delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Vijay Nath responded.
- (d) The Minister for Justice, and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.
- (e) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 85/2025 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Policing – Can the Minister inform Parliament what specific quantifiable targets and public reporting mechanisms have been set for reducing the rates of burglary and drug-related offenses in identified ‘red zone areas’ by December 2025.
- 86/2025 Hon. Sachida Nand asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on what measures are being undertaken by MSAF to ensure passenger safety at sea.
- 87/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament which specific step under Band F would an existing ECE teacher be placed after upgrading their qualification to a degree, and how this placement compares to that of a newly recruited ECE graduate.
- 88/2025 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Justice, and Acting Attorney-General – Can the Minister update Parliament on the legislative review and policy reform for the expungement of irrelevant convictions over ten years to enhance employment and visa opportunities.
- 89/2025 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the relocation programme of the refuse dump in Savusavu.
- 90/2025 Hon. Shalen Kumar asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Water Catchment Standing Trees Compensation Policy.
- 91/2025 Hon. Premila Kumar 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 ongoing rent freeze.
- 92/2025 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the land buy back scheme from 1989 and 1993.
- 93/2025 Hon. Inia Seruiratu 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 status of the review of the Dairy Industry as announced during the 2023–2024 Budget.

94/2025 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on what the Ministry is doing to enforce the Code of Conduct for all Public Service Vehicle operators.

Written Question

95/2025 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the total cost incurred in developing and implementing the iTaukei Affairs (Great Council of Chiefs) (Amendment) Regulations 2024 since Cabinet approval in November 2024.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The response to Written Question 95/2025 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 of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs 2017-2019 and 2019-2022 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 29 April 2025.

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 Fiji Development Bank Annual Reports 2022 and 2023' which was tabled on 29 April 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Esrom Immanuel moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Audit Report for Provincial Councils Volume 4-6' 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 Wednesday, 6 August 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.44 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

5th August, 2025.