



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, First 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 following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for absence from Parliament –

Hon. Viliame Gavoka, Hon. Penioni Ravunawa, Hon. Alikali Bia and Hon. Pio Tikoduadua.
  - (b) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Taito Rokomatu, Hon. Lynda Tabuya, Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka, Hon. Manoa Kamikamica, Hon. Viliame Naupoto, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, Hon. Esrom Immanuel 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 Tuesday, 30 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, those seated in the gallery, and those following the proceedings through television and online platforms.

**Request for Extension – Standing Committee on Economic Affairs**

The Hon. Speaker also advised the Honourable Members of the request from the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, which was agreed to by the Business Committee, for an extension of reporting back time on the following Bills –

- (a) Work Care Bill 2025; and
- (b) Accident Compensation (Amendment) Bill 2025.

The request was unopposed by all Honourable Members and the Standing Committee was informed to report back on the two Bills at the November–December sitting period.

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 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Fiji Higher Education Commission 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 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Fiji Teachers Registration 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 Economic Affairs

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Consolidated Review Report on the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 Fijian Broadcasting Corporation Pte Limited Annual Reports.

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.

(c) Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the Electoral Commission Annual Reports for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights 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 Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Inia Seruiratu responded.
- (b) The Minister for Policing the Hon. Ioane Naivalurua delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.
- (c) The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal responded.
- (d) The Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Hem Chand responded.

8. QUESTIONS

**Oral Questions**

- 155/2025 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – In light of the EU relaxing the restrictions on rules of origin for our fish, can the Minister inform Parliament if Fiji has been able to swiftly agree with its Pacific Island neighbours on more supply of fish to PAFCO to process.
- 156/2025 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the Memorandum of Understanding on the Deployment of the Republic of Fiji Security Personnel to Solomon Islands.

- 157/2025 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau to ask the Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs – Can the Minister inform Parliament how is Government improving the surveillance of our EEZ and territorial waters, to address the drug trafficking that is conducted by ships at sea in Fiji.
- 158/2025 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress in recruiting a fourth Country Liaison Officer (CLO) for Australia, and the appointment of the first CLO for New Zealand under the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme.
- 159/2025 Hon. Vijay Nath to ask the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry's current plans regarding the development and construction of evacuation centres across the country.
- 160/2025 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the progress and key developments of the Civil Aviation Master Plan.
- 161/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on why certain entities like TFL and WAF are allowed to dig up perfectly good roads to carry out their projects or maintenance work.
- 162/2025 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the New Town Development Programme, particularly with the ongoing projects in Nabouwalu, Keiyasi and Seaqaqa.
- 163/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – What plans are in place to repair the hybrid electricity system in Namara, Kadavu that was originally put in place by KOICA.
- 164/2025 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Agriculture – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) recently signed to develop agriculture in Naselesele, Taveuni.

### **Written Questions**

- 165/2025 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General – Can the Minister provide up-to-date statistics on the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) caseload for the years 2023 to June 2025 for each year as follows –
- (a) the total number of complaints received;
  - (b) the number of cases currently under investigation and those at the prosecution stage; and
  - (c) the number of successful convictions recorded.

166/2025 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked 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 the following, with respect to the Young Entrepreneurship Scheme (YES) for the financial years 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 –

- (a) the total number of applications received;
- (b) the total number of applications approved, funded and declined; and
- (c) provide the reasons for any applications that were declined.

167/2025 Hon. Parveen Bala asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Since the inception of Aspen Hospital, Lautoka, can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –

- (a) how many cardiac procedures have been carried out to date; and
- (b) how many angiograms have been carried out to date.

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 Questions 157/2025 and 160/2025. The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that Oral Question 159/2025 is deferred to a later sitting.

The responses to Written Questions 165/2025 and 167/2025 were tabled by the respective Ministers. The response to Written Question 166/2025 would be tabled at a later sitting date.

## 9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that following extensive consultations with the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, it had come to his attention that the Standing Committee's report on the Trademarks (Amendment) Bill 2025 required further scrutiny to ensure that the recommendations were comprehensive, and that in the interest of upholding the integrity of the legislative process that the Standing Committee pursues further scrutiny.

There were no objections and accordingly, the Hon. Speaker informed the House that the Standing Committee's report on the Trademarks (Amendment) Bill 2025 was withdrawn; the Standing Committee would undertake additional review and analysis of the Bill; and would present a revised report to Parliament at a later sitting date.

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 Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of the Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 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 of the Levuka Town Council 2018 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 'Review Report on the Fiji Police Force 2020–2021 Annual Report' 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 Thursday, 2 October 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.35 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

1<sup>st</sup> October, 2025.