



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Thirtieth day of April, 2025

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.
2. Hon. Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.
3. ATTENDANCE
 - (a) All Honourable Members were present except for the Hon. Pio Tikoduadua, Hon. Jese Saukuru and Hon. Vijay Nath.
 - (b) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Lynda Tabuya, Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu and Hon. Shalen Kumar.
 - (c) The Hon. Aliko Bia gave apologies to the Hon. Speaker for absence from 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 Tuesday, 29 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. Deputy 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. Deputy Speaker also welcomed another group of PL 100 School of Law and Politics Students from the University of the South Pacific.

Hon. Deputy Speaker informed all Honourable Members that a correspondence was received from the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights which was subsequently tabled with the Business Committee. The correspondence requested for the extension of the tabling of the following Bills to a later sitting date –

- (a) Code of Conduct Bill 2025 which was referred to the Standing Committee on 10 March 2025;
- (b) Access to Information Bill 2025 which was referred to the Standing Committee on 12 March 2025; and
- (c) Accountability and Transparency Commission Bill 2025 which was referred to the Standing Committee on 13 March 2025.

Parliament had resolved for the Bills to be tabled during the April sitting of Parliament. The Standing Committee had requested additional time to ensure that a thorough review of the technical aspects of the Bills is undertaken.

The Business Committee had deemed that the extension of the tabling to a later sitting date was necessary to allow the Standing Committee to fully undertake its legislative and representative mandate – the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights has approval to report back to the House on the Bills at a later sitting date.

Hon. Deputy Speaker also informed that the Second Reading of the Work Care Bill 2025 and the Accident Compensation (Amendment) Bill 2025 would proceed on Thursday, 1 May 2025; and the Hon. Attorney-General would move the approval motion for the BBNJ Treaty on Thursday, 1 May 2025.

6. ADOPTION OF AMENDED SITTING CALENDAR

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament adopts the amended Sitting Calendar as previously circulated.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Rinesh Sharma tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji 2023 Annual Report.

The Deputy 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.

8. 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 Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu responded.
- (c) The Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Ketan Lal responded.
- (d) The Minister for Housing and Local Government the Hon. Maciu Nalumisa delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Parveen Bala responded.
- (e) The Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Hem Chand responded.
- (f) The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau responded.

9. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 38/2025 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the ongoing negotiations for a direct air service agreement between Fiji and China.
- 39/2025 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament what interventions, if any, are being considered to subsidise routes or incentivise competition among local airlines given

that domestic airfares to outer islands such as Taveuni and Kadavu, remain disproportionately high despite reduced fuel prices.

- 40/2025 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the plans to improve sugar cane access road conditions before the commencement of the 2025 harvesting season.
- 41/2025 Hon. Sachida Nand asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the arrears of rent owed to the iTaukei Land Trust Board on rent recovery and compliance.
- 42/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Immigration – Can the Minister update Parliament on the measures being implemented to address the issue of illegal migrants in Fiji, including repatriation efforts.
- 43/2025 Hon. Esrom Immanuel to ask the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the rural grid extension at Wailevu West, Cakaudrove.
- 44/2025 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Deputy Prime Minister outline the Government's budgetary plans to leverage natural resources for increased exports, import substitution and economic growth.
- 45/2025 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 recent developments undertaken in the outsourcing industry.
- 46/2025 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises, and Information – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament on what other markets and old markets he wishes to re-establish as per his statement in the press in the 1st week of April with respect to the expected downturn in US trade with Fiji.
- 47/2025 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament whether Fiji is exploring new regional air routes in partnership with other Pacific Island nations to enhance intra-regional tourism and trade.

Written Question

48/2025 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises, and Information – Can the Prime Minister provide Parliament with a detailed breakdown of all official overseas travel from 1st April 2024 to April 2025, including –

- (a) the number of official trips taken by each Deputy Prime Minister, Minister, former Minister, and Assistant Minister, along with the destinations visited;
- (b) the cost of each trip; and
- (c) the subject of each trip.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that Oral Questions 43/2025 and 44/2025 were withdrawn.

The response to Written Question 48/2025 would be tabled at a later sitting date in accordance with Standing Order 45(3).

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. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (a) That the Land Transport (Amendment) (No. 2) 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 not be referred to a standing committee or other committee of Parliament; and
- (d) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 1 May 2025, but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to the Honourable Minister as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	34
No	–	14
Not Voted	–	7

Motion agreed to.

12. 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 Levuka Town Council 2016–2017 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 12 March 2025

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report on the Nasinu Town Council 2011–2017 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 on the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji 2011–2013 Annual Report' which was tabled on 13 March 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 1 May 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 7.16 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

30th April, 2025.