



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Fourth day of November, 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. Ketan Lal and Hon. Sanjay Kirpal.
  - (b) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament –  
  
Hon. Jone Usamate and Hon. Sashi Kiran.
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, 3 November 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 watching the proceedings through television and online platforms. Hon. Speaker also welcomed the Australian High Commissioner His Excellency Peter Roberts, and the Year 1 to 5 students from Genesis Learning Centre in Nasinu.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 126 (1)(d), the Hon. Alvick Maharaj had been appointed to replace the Hon. Ketan Lal as a Member of the House Committee.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no committee reports for tabling.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.
- (b) The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Alvick Maharaj 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. Jone Usamate responded.
- (e) The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal responded.

8. QUESTIONS

**Oral Questions**

- 206/2025      Hon. Semi Koroilavesau asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry's collaborative work with other relevant stakeholders on the development of the Drug Rehabilitation Centre.

- 207/2025 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on Fiji’s engagement with the World Bank to advance development agenda and regional priorities within the World Bank Group’s strategic initiatives.
- 208/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the Ministry’s plans to upskill secondary school teacher graduates teaching in primary schools.
- 209/2025 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the key outcomes of the recently held Council of Tourism Ministers Meeting or the ICAO General Assembly.
- 210/2025 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Agriculture – Can the Minister update Parliament on any progress pertaining to plans for a local organic certification programme to replace Pacific Organic and Ethical Trade Community (POETCom).
- 211/2025 Hon. Taito Rokomatu to ask the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the recent achievement of Fiji’s recognition by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the elimination of trachoma, rubella and measles.
- 212/2025 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the immediate and long-term measures to address the ongoing problem of constant water cuts and shortages experienced by residents in Taveuni.
- 213/2025 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva 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 Building Permits Approval Subsystem and the measures undertaken to ensure its effective implementation and uptake.
- 214/2025 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Environment and Climate Change – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the progress of Fiji’s Container Deposit Regulations.
- 215/2025 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister update Parliament on measures taken to ensure the effective use of the centralised disability data hub or improved disability reporting including consolidation timelines.

## Written Questions

- 216/2025 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the full repair and maintenance schedule for the Rarawai Mill, including the total estimated cost with respect to the following –
- (a) the projected date for the mill's full completion; and
  - (b) the definitive timeline for the resumption of milling operations at Rarawai.
- 217/2025 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –
- (a) number of rural road crossings constructed for the period January 2023 to June 2025;
  - (b) number of rural road crossings under construction to date; and
  - (c) number of rural road crossings maintained for the period January 2023 to June 2025.
- 218/2025 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament on the expenditure associated with celebrating Independence Day abroad with respect to the following –
- (a) costs related to the participation of Ministers; and
  - (b) costs related to the participation of the Prime Minister.
- 219/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the number of ECE Centres, primary schools and secondary schools that are yet to receive grants for Terms 1 and 2 of this year and the reason why grants are yet to be released.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that Oral Question 211/2025 had dropped from the Order Paper as it had been addressed through the Ministerial Statement by the Hon. Minister for Health and Medical Services. The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The responses to the Written Questions were tabled by the respective Ministers.

The Hon. Speaker allowed the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka to respond to Hon. Faiyaz Koya's supplementary question to Oral Question 202/2025.

## 9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members 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 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Fiji Teachers Registration Authority Annual Reports' which was tabled on 1 October 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 on the 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 Fijian Broadcasting Corporation Pte Limited Annual Reports' which was tabled on 1 October 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report on the 2020, 2021 and 2022 Electoral Commission Annual Reports' which was tabled on 1 October 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, 5 November 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.40 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

4<sup>th</sup> November, 2025.