



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders are the rules of procedure for Parliament and its committees. Section 71 of the 2013 Constitution of the Republic of Fiji gives Parliament the power to make Standing Orders and rules for the order and conduct of business and proceedings in Parliament and its committees and for the way in which its powers, privileges and immunities may be exercised and upheld.

The following table provides an overview of the history of the Parliament's Standing Orders beginning from the 1st Term of Parliament, under the 2013 Constitution, and through the subsequent terms.

| Term of Parliament | Date of Adoption in Parliament |
|----------------------|--|
| 1st Term (2014–2018) | 6 October 2014 (as published and gazetted on 16 September 2014) |
| | 1 December 2014 (gazetted on 13 January 2015) |
| | 11 February 2016 (gazetted on 19 February 2016) |
| | 28 April 2016 (Parliament approved motion to amend Standing Order 99 – due to the amendment of the Financial Management Act 2004 on 27 April 2016) |
| | 8 February 2017 (gazetted on 20 March 2017) |
| 2nd Term (2018–2022) | 26 November 2018 (as published and gazetted on 20 March 2017) |
| | 1 April 2019 (gazetted on 1 April 2019) |
| 3rd Term (2022–2026) | 24 December 2022 (as published and gazetted on 1 April 2019) |
| | 12 July 2023 (as published and gazetted on 12 July 2023) |

Content

The Standing Orders include details about:

- the election of the Speaker who presides over the sitting in Parliament
- the conduct of Parliamentary business
- procedures for debates and deliberations in Parliament
- voting procedures and rules of debate
- the committees, their functions and powers, composition and details about their deliberations.

Any Member of Parliament can raise a 'point of order' during Parliament sittings if they believe that there has been a deviation from the Standing Orders or wish to raise a question of procedure or privilege. A point of order becomes priority over all other business, whenever it is raised.

The Speaker's ruling on a point of order is not open for debate or challenge in Parliament. The Secretary-General to Parliament and Deputy Secretary-General to Parliament assist and advise the Speaker in the process.

A Standing Order may be suspended in whole or in part only by permission adopted in Parliament. To avoid doubt, the suspension of any Standing Order does not permit the transaction of any business in breach of the Constitution or any other law.

It is the ongoing duty of the Standing Orders Committee to consider and review the practices and procedures of Parliament and to make recommendations for their improvement or change or for the development of new practices and procedures.

