



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Twenty-eighth day of May,
2026

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 Hon. Manoa Kamikamica was absent.
 - (b) The Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, Hon. Faiyaz Koya, Hon. Sachida Nand and Hon. Sanjay Kirpal 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 during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Lynda Tabuya, Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua, Hon. Ketan Lal, Hon. Alitia Bainivalu, Hon. Vijay Nath, Hon. Siromi Turaga, Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Hon. Sashi Kiran, Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka and Hon. Agni Singh.

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 Wednesday, 27 May 2026 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.

Meeting with Chairpersons of Standing Committees

Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that a meeting would convene with all the Chairpersons of the six Standing Committees on Monday, 8 June 2026 at 10.00 a.m. at the Speaker's Boardroom.

Tax Awareness Session by the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service ('FRCS')

Hon. Speaker also informed Honourable Members that the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service would conduct a Tax Awareness Session for all Members of Parliament to enhance Members' understanding of tax compliance requirements and services provided by FRCS. The awareness session would be held on Monday, 8 June 2026 from 11.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. at the Big Committee Room. All Standing Committee meetings would be suspended on the morning of Monday, 8 June, and would resume from 2.30 p.m.

Request for Extension – Standing Committee on Social Affairs

Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that the Business Committee had approved the request from the Standing Committee on Social Affairs for an extension of reporting back time on the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026. The Standing Committee would undertake further scrutiny and consultations, and would report back at a later sitting of Parliament.

Change in Standing Committee Membership

Hon. Speaker further informed all Honourable Members on the change in membership for the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs pursuant to Standing Order 114(2) and that the Hon. Jese Saukuru would be replaced by the Hon. Aliko Bia.

6. **PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

(a) **Standing Committee on Economic Affairs**

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Committee's Review Report on the 2023-2024 Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission Annual Report.

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.

7. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 111/2026 | Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the buying and exporting of Sea Cucumber (Holothurian Beche-De-Mer) following the lifting of the Seasonal Ban on 1 February 2026. |
| 112/2026 | Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Labour Compliance and Occupational Health and Safety between Fiji, Tonga and Kiribati. |
| 113/2026 | Hon. Viam Pillay to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament as to what preventative measures the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) is currently undertaking at the mills to ensure they are fully prepared for the next season. |
| 114/2026 | Hon. Kalaveti Ravu to ask the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on incentives to support green energy projects in Fiji given the current global increase in crude oil. |
| 115/2026 | Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the operating theaters and general improvement renovation plans for the CWMH. |
| 116/2026 | Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the securing of critical concessional financing with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). |
| 117/2026 | Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament how the Government intends to utilise the AUD\$30 million in budget support provided by the Australian Government to assist Fiji in responding to the current fuel crisis and the rising cost of living. |

- 118/2026 Hon. Aliko Bia to ask the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on measures taken to strengthen compliance with building materials and prefab homes for all importers, stakeholders and the public.
- 119/2026 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the Government's plans to upgrade the deteriorated Navakasiga road, which serves as the access road to Naivaka village and indicate when these works are expected to be completed.
- 120/2026 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the implementation plan for the Civil Aviation Master Plan 2026-2031 and milestones targeted for completion in the first year of implementation.
- 121/2026 Hon. Viam Pillay to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament why the FSC rail network has deteriorated to the point where it now handles less than 5% of cane deliveries.

Written Questions

- 122/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –
- (a) how much of last financial year's (2024-2025) capital budget was actually spent versus allocated; and
 - (b) what is the Government's plan to improve capital expenditure execution rates.
- 123/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament with respect to the following –
- (a) the number of private self-funded Early Childhood Education centres, primary schools, and secondary schools established in Fiji to date; and
 - (b) what is the role of the Ministry in their establishment and monitoring.
- 124/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Given the importance of aviation to the growth of the tourism industry, can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament whether Government plans to revisit, Dama, Biaugunu and Rabi airstrips as part of the Na Vualiku project.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker informed on the following –

- (a) Oral Question 113/2026 had dropped as it had been previously addressed;
- (b) Oral Questions 114/2026 and 118/2026 were withdrawn;
- (c) Oral Question 121/2026 had lapsed pursuant to Standing Order 45(3); and
- (d) Written Question 124/2026 was withdrawn.

The response to Written Question 122/2026 would be tabled in accordance with Standing Order 45(3). The response to Written Question 123/2026 was tabled by the Minister.

8. END OF WEEK STATEMENTS

- (a) Hon. Joseph Nand delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Youth and Sports the Hon. Jese Saukuru responded.
- (b) Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga responded.
- (c) Hon. Hem Chand delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran responded.
- (d) Hon. Inosi Kuridrani delivered his End of Week Statement and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka responded.

9. MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 130

- (a) The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved for the purpose of section 51 of the Constitution and pursuant to Standing Order 130(4), that Parliament approves that Fiji ratify the Agreement Establishing the Advisory Centre on World Trade Organization Law, 2001.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

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

(a) Fiji Police Bill 2026

The Minister for Policing and Communications the Hon. Ioane Naivalurua moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (i) That the Fiji Police Bill 2026 be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (ii) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (iii) That the Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights;
- (iv) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at the next sitting of Parliament; and
- (v) That upon presentation of the report on the Bill by the Standing Committee, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament, with the right of reply given to the Minister as the member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

(b) Tourism Bill 2026

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Tuesday, 26 May 2026, that the Tourism Bill 2026 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	34
No	–	8
Not voted	–	13

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to provide for the regulation, development and management of the tourism sector in Fiji, to establish a framework for tourism practices, to promote inclusive participation, climate resilience and environmental protection in tourism, tourism standards and certification systems, to define the roles and responsibilities of tourism institutions, to repeal the Hotels and Guest Houses Act 1973, and for related matters, (Bill No. 10 of 2026), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(c) Mahogany Bill 2025

The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 3 December 2025, that the Mahogany Bill 2025 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to provide for the equitable and sustainable growth and development of the mahogany industry and for related matters, (Bill No. 45 of 2025), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(d) Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2026, Passports (Amendment) Bill 2026 and Citizenship of Fiji (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Minister for Immigration the Hon. Viliame Naupoto moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 1 May 2026, that the following Bills be debated, voted upon and be passed –

- (i) Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2026;
- (ii) Passports (Amendment) Bill 2026; and
- (iii) Citizenship of Fiji (Amendment) Bill 2026.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

The following Bills were enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji –

- (i) A Bill for an Act to amend the Immigration Act 2003 (Bill No. 6 of 2026);
- (ii) A Bill for an Act to amend the Passports Act 2002 (Bill No. 7 of 2026); and
- (iii) A Bill for an Act to amend the Citizenship of Fiji Act 2009 (Bill No. 8 of 2026).

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament stands adjourned until Friday, 26 June 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions during the sitting week, and declared Parliament adjourned until Friday, 26 June 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 7.33 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

28th May, 2026.