



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Twenty-sixth 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 Pio Tikoduadua conveyed his apologies to the Hon. Speaker for being unable to attend the sitting of Parliament.
 - (b) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu, Hon. Aseri Radrodro, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal, Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, Hon. Ketan Lal, Hon. Jone Usamate and Hon. Mosese Bulitavu.

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, 25 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.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Agreement to Establish the Advisory Centre on WTO Law, 2001.

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 121(1)(b) and Standing Order 130(4)(a), the Standing Committee had reported back.

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

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Criminal Records Bill 2025.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Monday, 1 December 2025, the Standing Committee had tabled its report, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Wednesday, 27 May 2026.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources the Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate responded.
- (b) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau responded.
- (c) The Minister for Policing and Communications the Hon. Ioane Naivalurua delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal responded.
- (d) The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered first Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Alvick Maharaj responded.

- (e) The Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu responded.
- (f) The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered his second Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu responded.
- (g) The Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade the Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

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| 83/2026 | Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the reforms to improve the Ease of Doing Business in Fiji undertaken thus far to be in line with the recommendations from the World Bank. |
| 84/2026 | Hon. Sachida Nand asked the Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the ‘3-Tier Development First’ approach on the functional review of the Civil Service. |
| 85/2026 | Hon. Rinesh Sharma asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the current diversification strategy being implemented by the Government, through the Department of Energy and Energy Fiji Limited, to reduce Fiji’s dependence on imported petroleum for electricity generation and transport. |
| 86/2026 | Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the feasibility study for diversifying sugarcane production to alternative high value crops and livestock systems. |
| 87/2026 | Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament if there are any plans to offer a fuel rebate, similar to that given to bus companies, to both registered cane truck owners and mechanical harvester operators to ensure that harvesting and transport costs remain affordable for farmers during the current fuel crisis. |

- 88/2026 Hon. Shalen Kumar asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the implementation of the Two-Bin Initiative and how it will improve waste segregation and overall waste management outcomes in municipalities.
- 89/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar to ask the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the relief fuel subsidy funds are passed on to passengers, rather than being absorbed as operator profit.
- 90/2026 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on how passenger cargo fares for maritime travellers are being calculated and which authority is responsible for monitoring this.
- 91/2026 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on whether Fiji has begun diversifying its foreign reserves and what proportion of our reserves are now held in non-USD currencies.
- 92/2026 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the proposed Regional Agriculture Training Centre and Demonstration Farm in Ra.

Written Questions

- 93/2026 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether the Ministry has met its targets for import substitution regarding (specific commodity, for example, rice, dairy) for the first quarter of 2026 and if not, what steps are being taken to address the shortfall in local production to ensure food security.
- 94/2026 Hon. Shalen Kumar asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –
- (a) the status of the informal settlement upgrading project;
 - (b) those completed and those still underway; and
 - (c) the number of families that have benefitted, and expected completion timelines.

- 95/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament on the following –
- (a) the total number of civil servants for each year from 2022 to date;
 - (b) the total annual cost of civil service increases for each year from 2022 to date; and
 - (c) whether these increases are within projected revenue growth.
- 96/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following with respect to the redeployment of the FJ\$56 million –
- (a) a detailed breakdown of each redeployment, including the originating Ministry, Head Number, Programme, Activity and Standard Expenditure Group (SEG) from which the funds were withdrawn, together with the specific projects, programmes or outputs affected;
 - (b) the basis and justification for selecting these allocations for redeployment, including whether the funds were under-utilised, deferred, rephased or cancelled; and
 - (c) the anticipated impact of these redeployments on the original projects and service delivery, including any delays, cancellations, scaling down of activities, or reduction in project scope.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. Oral question 89/2026 had dropped as it was addressed by the Ministerial Statement which was delivered by the Hon. Minister for Finance on Monday, 25 May 2026. The responses to Written Questions 93/2026, 94/2026 and 95/2026 were tabled by the respective Ministers. The response to Written Question 96/2026 would be tabled in accordance with Standing Order 45(3).

9. SUSPENSION MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE 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.

10. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (a) That the Tourism Bill 2026 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, 28 May 2026, but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	37
No	–	11
Not Voted	–	7

Motion agreed to.

11. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

- (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 the following protocols –

- (i) Protocol Relating to an Amendment to Article 50(a) of the Convention on International Civil Aviation; and
- (ii) Protocol Relating to an Amendment to Article 56 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

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 'Consolidated Review Report of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Annual Reports' which was tabled 29 April 2026.

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 'Consolidated Review Report of the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 29 April 2026.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (d) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Kalaveti Ravu moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Ports Corporation Limited Annual Reports for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023' which was tabled on 29 April 2026.

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, 27 May 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 9.05 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

26th May, 2026.