



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Twenty-seventh 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 Sanjay Kirpal 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. Ifereimi Vasu, Hon. Siromi Turaga, Hon. Sashi Kiran, Hon. Mosese Bulitavu, Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu and Hon. Ketan Lal.

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, 26 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

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Committee's Review Report on the 2024 Fiji Development Bank Annual Report.

The 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.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Committee's Review Report on the 2022-2023 Ministry of Civil Service Annual Report.

The 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.

(b) 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 Fiji Revenue and Customs Service 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.

(c) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the Whole of Government Audit Reports for the Financial Years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts 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.

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

- (i) 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 Mahogany Bill 2025.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 3 December 2025, the Standing Committee had tabled its report, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 28 May 2026.

- (ii) 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 Immigration (Amendment) Bill 2026.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 1 May 2026, the Standing Committee had tabled its report, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 28 May 2026.

- (iii) 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 Passports (Amendment) Bill 2026.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 1 May 2026, the Standing Committee had tabled its report, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 28 May 2026.

- (iv) 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 Citizenship of Fiji (Amendment) Bill 2026.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 1 May 2026, the Standing Committee had tabled its report, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 28 May 2026.

7. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 97/2026 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament if the Ministry is focusing on promoting a culture of ‘working smarter’ in workplaces.
- 98/2026 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Pathway for Sovereign Aviation Capability.
- 99/2026 Hon. Viam Pillay to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on what specific steps are being taken to address the backlog of unrenewed cane leases.
- 100/2026 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 Government’s strategy to promote greater participation of rural, maritime, and indigenous communities in Fiji’s tourism industry, particularly in ensuring that tourism growth delivers more equitable economic benefits across the country.
- 101/2026 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament how the grant, which was allocated to the School Management Association of Fiji, has been utilised.
- 102/2026 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on immediate steps that the Ministry is taking to address the high rice import bill given the current increase in crude oil.
- 103/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the Government’s contingency plan should revenue projections fall short due to slower-than-expected economic growth particularly in key sectors such as tourism and exports as a result of the Iran-US war.
- 104/2026 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva to ask the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the benefits of the Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Survey Data Report.
- 105/2026 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the current status of the Melanesian Arts and Culture Festival and the responsible Ministry.

106/2026 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the outcomes of the South Pacific Tourism Exchange 2026 held in Nadi in March this year.

Written Questions

107/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Given the Government's ongoing advocacy for climate finance reform at international forums, can the Minister inform Parliament with respect to the following –

- (a) the total amount of climate finance Fiji has received over the last three financial years, disaggregated by source; and
- (b) outline the specific terms and conditions attached to each funding arrangement.

108/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –

- (a) the number of teachers registered with the Fiji Teachers Registration Authority who are yet to be placed in schools; and
- (b) the number of teaching vacancies that remain unfilled across Early Childhood Education, primary, and secondary schools.

109/2026 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – In light of the 2025-2026 Budget Address, can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –

- (a) how actual revenue and expenditure, as at April 2026, compare with the budget estimates; and
- (b) the current breakdown of debt servicing costs and contingent liabilities, including associated risk assessments relating to interest rates, exchange rate movements, and external shocks.

110/2026 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –

- (a) the number of civil servants earning below the tax threshold of \$30,000 per annum, disaggregated by year from 2022 to 2025;
- (b) the number of civil servants earning between \$30,000 to \$40,000 per annum, disaggregated by year from 2022 to 2025; and
- (c) a breakdown of the number of employees by Ministry who are earning below the tax threshold of \$30,000.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. Oral Questions 99/2026 and 104/2026 had dropped as they had been addressed. The response to Written Question 108/2026 was tabled by the Hon. Minister. The responses to Written Questions 107/2026, 109/2026 and 110/2026 would be tabled in accordance with Standing Order 45(3).

8. 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.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) Statistics Bill 2026

The Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (i) That the Statistics 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 him as the member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

(b) Third Reading of the Criminal Records Bill 2025

The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Monday, 1 December 2025, that the Criminal Records 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 spent convictions of rehabilitated persons, expunged historical convictions, expiation of fixed penalty offences, sealing and management of criminal records and for related matters, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 28 May 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 5.59 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

27th May, 2026.