



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, First 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. Charan Singh and Hon. Aliko Bia were absent.
 - (b) The Hon. Esrom Immanuel, Hon. Viam Pillay, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal and Hon. Joseph Nand 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. Agni Singh, Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo, Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, Hon. Ketan Lal, Hon. Sashi Kiran and Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna.

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 Thursday, 30 April 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. Hon. Speaker also welcomed the Year 1 students of the University of Fiji pursuing studies in Journalism and Media Studies.

Committee of the Whole Parliament on the Education Bill 2025

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the Business Committee had resolved and approved the procedural arrangements for the Committee of the Whole Parliament stage of the Education Bill 2025. Before the Third Reading of the Bill, the House must resolve itself into the Committee of the Whole Parliament to consider the Bill clause by clause. In line with Standing Order 87(3), it was agreed that the clauses of the Bill, including the Schedule, would be grouped in Parts, and accordingly, debate and voting during the Committee stage would proceed on the basis of the sequential Parts of the Bill, rather than on individual clauses. The arrangement was intended to ensure that proceedings are conducted in an orderly and efficient manner.

The Business Committee had also resolved that the voting at the Committee stage would be through acclamation, but the voting at the Third Reading stage would be conducted electronically.

Seminar and Workshop

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members of an important Seminar on the SDGs Self-Assessment Exercise on Monday, 4 May 2026 from 9.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., at the Novotel Hotel Convention Centre in Lami. He further stated that all Standing Committee Meetings would be suspended on Monday, 4 May, and would resume on Tuesday, 5 May 2026.

Hon. Speaker further stated that, the United Nations, in partnership with the Government of Fiji, had undertaken the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation (SCORE) Index Assessment as part of ongoing efforts toward healing and renewal. This assessment was officially launched at the Grand Pacific Hotel.

Hon. Speaker encouraged all Members of Parliament to attend the closed-door briefing and detailed discussion on the SCORE findings, on 12 May from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Speaker informed Honourable Members that Standing Committee meetings would be suspended on the morning of 12 May until 2:00 p.m.

Questions to the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development

Hon. Speaker further informed that since the Hon. Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development was still indisposed, Oral Questions 3/2026, 17/2026, 30/2026, 31/2026 and 52/2026 would be deferred to the sitting of Parliament on

Monday, 25 May 2026. These would be taken as additional questions, to the ten (10) questions that would be scheduled for that sitting day.

Additionally, Written Question 38/2026 by the Hon. Premila Kumar was being re-directed to the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development for response.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2024 Audit Report General Administration Sector was tabled and referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

7. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

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| 52/2026 | Hon. Faiyaz Koya to ask the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on why all those engaged under the GP PPP scheme and Lab PPP scheme have not been regularly paid since October 2025. |
| 53/2026 | Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the expansion of the Air Subsidy Programme to support connectivity and tourism. |
| 54/2026 | Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on what measures the Ministry will take to assist taxi drivers who are unable to obtain base letters to operate under the current base allocation system. |
| 55/2026 | Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the current status of the Buca Village Hydro. |
| 56/2026 | Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister of Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister inform Parliament as to how the Ministry is incentivising small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to adopt higher safety standards to reduce workplace accidents and improve employee well-being. |
| 57/2026 | Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the performance of the Sugar Industry and the industry's future plans. |

- 58/2026 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament what is the Government's strategic plan to facilitate the renewal of sugarcane leases due to expire by 2030 and support stable production levels.
- 59/2026 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva to ask the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade – Can the Minister update Parliament on Fiji's move to join the Advisory Centre on WTO Law (ACWL), a step that will help protect the country's interests in global trade.
- 60/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – In light of the recent goal of lifting long term growth from 3.5% to 6% to reach high income status by 2050, can the Prime Minister inform Parliament on specific annual milestones and sectoral reforms that will be implemented to stay on that path.
- 61/2026 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the review of the Mining Act.

Written Questions

- 62/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Policing and Communications – In the 2025-2026 National Budget, the Government committed to recruiting an additional 1,000 police officers. Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –
- (a) how many officers have been recruited to date under this commitment; and
 - (b) how many police officers have left the force due to attrition since 1 August 2025 to 28 February 2026, including the primary reasons (resignation, retirement, dismissal) and a breakdown by rank and division.
- 63/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament with respect to the following –
- (a) whether there have been any increases or revisions to the fees and charges for sports facilities in the last five years, and if so, provide details; and
 - (b) how much revenue has been collected from fees, fines and levies from Fiji Sports Council facilities in each of the last five years.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. Oral Question 52/2026 was deferred to the next sitting week. The Hon. Speaker allowed the Hon. Jone Usamate to ask Oral Question 56/2026 in the absence of Hon. Joseph Nand. Oral Question 59/2026 was withdrawn – the Treaty had been referred to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs earlier in the week, for review. The Hon. Speaker informed that Oral Question 60/2026 would be brought back to the House for an updated response.

The responses to Written Questions 62/2026 and 63/2026 were tabled by the respective Ministers.

8. 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 12.30 p.m. to complete the remaining items listed on the Order Paper.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

9. END OF WEEK STATEMENTS

- (a) Hon. Premila Kumar delivered her End of Week Statement and the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad responded.
- (b) Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua delivered her End of Week Statement and the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran responded.
- (c) Hon. Rinesh Sharma delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations the Hon. Agni Singh responded.
- (d) Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau responded.

10. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) Withdrawal of Bill – Fiji Learning Institute of Public Service Bill (Bill No. 32 of 2025)

The Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka moved pursuant to Standing Order 90 that the Fiji Learning Institute for Public Service Bill 2025 (Bill No. 32 of 2025) be withdrawn.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the Bill would now be formally removed from the list of pending parliamentary business.

(b) Withdrawal of Motion Pertaining to the Education Bill 2025

The Hon. Speaker informed that pursuant to Standing Order 46(4), a notice of withdrawal of motion had been received from the Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro. The notice sought to withdraw the Third Reading of the Education Bill 2025.

The Hon. Speaker further informed that the notice was in order, and accordingly, the Third Reading of the Education Bill 2025 and the preceding Committee of the Whole Parliament stage stand withdrawn until such time as a new notice is received from the Hon. Minister for Education.

(c) Bills Under Standing Order 51

The Minister for Immigration the Hon. Viliame Naupoto moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 that the following Bills be considered by Parliament without delay –

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

- (A) That the Bills must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (B) That the Bills must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights;
- (C) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bills at the next sitting of Parliament; and

- (D) That upon presentation of the report on the Bills by the Standing Committee, the Bills must be debated and voted upon by Parliament, with the right of reply given to the Hon. Minister as the member moving this motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament stands adjourned until Monday, 25 May 2026 at 9.30 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 Monday, 25 May 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.31 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

1st May, 2026.