



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Seventeenth day of July, 2026

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.
2. The Hon. Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the Lord's Prayer.
3. MEMBERS PRESENT
 - (a) The Hon. Ketan Lal was absent.
 - (b) The Hon. Viliame Naupoto, Hon. Viliame Gavoka, Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka and Hon. Jese Saukuru conveyed their apologies to the Hon. Speaker for being unable to attend the sitting of Parliament.
 - (c) The Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Aliko Bia, Hon. Viam Pillay and Hon. Faiyaz Koya obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament.

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, 16 July 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. Deputy Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members, those in the public gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The following reports were tabled and referred to the relevant Standing Committees –

- (a) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence
 - (i) Parliament of the Republic of Fiji Annual Report 2023-2024; and
 - (ii) Ministry of Foreign Affairs Annual Report 2022-2023.
- (b) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs
 - (i) Fiji Revenue and Customs Service Annual Report 2024-2025;
 - (ii) Energy Fiji Limited Annual Report 2025;
 - (iii) Assets Fiji Pte Limited Annual Report 2023; and
 - (iv) Assets Fiji Pte Limited Annual Report 2024.
- (c) Standing Committee on Social Affairs
 - (i) Tavua Town Council Annual Report 2020.
- (d) Standing Committee on Public Accounts
 - (i) Office of the Auditor-General Annual Report 2023; and
 - (ii) Office of the Auditor-General Annual Report 2024.

The Hon Deputy Speaker informed all Honourable Members to note that the following reports were for information only and would not be referred to any Standing Committee –

- (a) Third Quarter Appropriation Statement – Actual Expenditure from 1 February 2026 – 30 April 2026; and
- (b) Reserve Bank of Fiji Quarterly Review March 2026.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- (a) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence
 - (i) The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Rinesh Sharma tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the Fiji Police Force 2021-2022 Annual Report.

The Deputy 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 Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Rinesh Sharma tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the Electoral Commission's 2023 and 2024 Annual Reports.

The Deputy 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.

- (iii) The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Rinesh Sharma tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the Reserve Bank of Fiji Insurance 2024 Annual Report.

The Deputy 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.

- (iv) The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Rinesh Sharma tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the Office of the Prime Minister and Fijian Immigration Department for the financial years 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, and 2022-2023.

The Deputy 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

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the Energy Fiji Limited (EFL) Annual Reports for the financial years 2023 and 2024.

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.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Standing Committee's consolidated review report on the Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) Annual Reports 2024 and 2025.

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.

- (iii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Standing Committee's review report on the Investment Fiji Annual Reports for the financial years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

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.

- (v) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Standing Committee's review report on the Tourism Fiji (TF) Annual Reports 2015, 1st January – 31st July 2016, August 2016 – July 2017 and August 2017 – July 2018.

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.

- (vi) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Standing Committee's review report on the Sugar Cane Growers Council (SCGC) Annual Report 2022.

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.

8. COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER

The Hon. Speaker, upon resuming the Chair, thanked the Hon. Deputy Speaker for the proceedings earlier in the morning and informed the Honourable Members that the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Fiji Group would launch its commemorative booklet, Celebrating Women in Parliament 1966-2026, on Monday, 3 August 2026, at the Grand Pacific Hotel. The Hon. Speaker stated that the publication recognised the contributions of former women Members of Parliament and Senators to Fiji's parliamentary history and invited all Honourable Members to attend. The Hon. Speaker also advised that all Standing Committee proceedings would be suspended between 1.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. on that day to facilitate the event.

The Hon. Speaker also informed Honourable Members that Parliament would host another segment of the Speaker's Debate on the theme, "From Participation to Representation: How Do We Increase Women in Parliament?", on Thursday, 6 August 2026, at the Grand Pacific Hotel. The Hon. Speaker noted that the debate would support national dialogue on increasing women's representation in

Parliament and invited all Honourable Members to attend. The Hon. Speaker further advised that the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran, and the Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu, would be panel speakers on the day.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development the Hon. Esrom Immanuel moved that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 26 July 2026, that the following consequential Bills be debated, voted upon and be passed –

- (a) Tax Administration (Budget Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 14 of 2026);
- (b) Income Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 15 of 2026);
- (c) Value Added Tax (Budget Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 16 of 2026);
- (d) Customs (Budget Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 17 of 2026);
- (e) Customs Tariff (Budget Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 18 of 2026);
- (f) Excise (Budget Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 19 of 2026);
- (g) Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (Budget Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 20 of 2026);
- (h) Tourism Services Tax Bill 2026 (Bill No. 21 of 2026);
- (i) Fiji National Provident Fund (Budget Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 22 of 2026);
- (j) Reserve Bank of Fiji (Budget Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 23 of 2026);
- (k) Exchange Control (Budget Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 24 of 2026);
- (l) Superyacht Charter (Budget Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 25 of 2026);
and
- (m) Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service (Budget Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 26 of 2026).

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

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

- 1. A Bill for an Act to amend the Tax Administration Act 2009;
- 2. A Bill for an Act to amend the Income Tax Act 2015;
- 3. A Bill for an Act to amend the Value Added Tax Act 1991;
- 4. A Bill for an Act to amend the Customs Act 1986;
- 5. A Bill for an Act to amend the Customs Tariff Act 1986;
- 6. A Bill for an Act to amend the Excise Act 1986;
- 7. A Bill for an Act to amend the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service Act 1998;
- 8. A Bill for an Act to impose tax on Tourism Services and for related matters;
- 9. A Bill for an Act to amend the Fiji National Provident Fund Act 2011;
- 10. A Bill for an Act to amend the Reserve Bank of Fiji Act 1983;
- 11. A Bill for an Act to amend the Exchange Control Act 1950;

12. A Bill for an Act to amend the Superyacht Charter Act 2010; and
13. A Bill for an Act to amend the Tertiary Scholarships and Loans Service Act 2014.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament adjourns until Monday, 17 August 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

The Hon. Speaker thanked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development the Hon. Esrom Immanuel and the Permanent Secretary Mr Shiri Gounder and his dedicated team at the Ministry of Finance for the successful passing of the 2026-2027 National Budget. The Hon. Speaker also thanked all Honourable Members and all those watching the live proceedings.

The Hon. Speaker adjourned Parliament until Monday, 17 August 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 1.10 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

17th July, 2026.