



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Nineteenth day of August,
2026

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.
2. Hon. Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.
3. ATTENDANCE
 - (a) The Hon. Sachida Nand was absent.
 - (b) The Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal, Hon. Parveen Bala, Hon. Pio Tikoduadua, Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Aliko Bia and Hon. Ketan Lal 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. Aseri Radrodro, Hon. Manoa Kamikamica, Hon. Ioane Naivalurua, Hon. Charan Singh, Hon. Sashi Kiran and Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Government Whip the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu moved that the Minutes of the sitting of Parliament held on Tuesday, 18 August 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 to the sitting, those seated in the gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet. The Hon. Deputy Speaker also welcomed the students and teachers from Korovou Primary School.

The Hon. Deputy Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the Business Committee has approved the request from the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights, to report back to Parliament on the Fiji Police Bill 2026, at a later sitting of Parliament. The Standing Committee had informed that it needed to undertake a further comprehensive and inclusive assessment of the Bill.

The Hon. Deputy Speaker encouraged the Honourable Members to attend the scheduled presentation from the Wows Kids Fiji during the refreshments break.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

- (a) The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Rinesh Sharma tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the Rakiraki Town Council January to July 2020 and 2020–2021 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.

Standing Committee on Natural Resources

- (a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Kalaveti Ravu tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the Annual Reports of Food Processors (Fiji) Pte Limited for the period 2008 to 2019.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources 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.

Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- (a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Annual Report of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) for the financial year 2024–2025.

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.

- (b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit (FFIU) Annual Report 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.

Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights

- (a) 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 Statistics Bill 2026 (Bill No. 11 of 2026).

The Hon. Deputy Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 27 May 2026, the Standing Committee has tabled its report and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 20 August 2026.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.
- (b) The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal responded.
- (c) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau responded.
- (d) The Minister for Agriculture and Waterways the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu responded.
- (e) The Minister for Agriculture and Waterways the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Hem Chand responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 139/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs – Given that the iTaukei people comprise the majority of Fiji's prison population, can the Minister inform Parliament on the programmes and initiatives the Ministry has implemented to reduce the number of iTaukei entering the correctional system.
- 152/2026 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the hospital bed upgrade programme.
- 153/2026 Hon. Virendra Lal to ask the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Currently, many bus stops along the Suva-Nausori corridor have the capacity to accommodate a maximum of two buses simultaneously. Given the growing fleet size and the increased emphasis on public transport for commuting, can the Minister inform Parliament if there are plans to expand existing bays at major bus stops to increase capacity.
- 154/2026 Hon. Shalen Kumar asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the progress of the secondary school project in Naqali, Naitasiri, and whether there are any plans to establish a special school in the Naitasiri province.
- 155/2026 Hon. Rinesh Sharma asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Efficiency at ASPEN has improved in the last few years. Can the Minister inform Parliament whether there are any plans for knowledge-sharing to improve the efficiency at CWM and other hospitals.
- 156/2026 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the status of progress in establishing the Pacific's first remote-tower Aerodrome Flight Information Service at Labasa Airport.
- 157/2026 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament how the Ministry will ensure that Government-funded student cards are topped up on time in the future.
- 158/2026 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the implementation of the Return and Earn Fiji Initiative during the first six months of 2026, and how has it directly benefitted members of the public and participating municipal councils.

- 159/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs, Culture, Heritage and Arts, and Sugar Industry – In light of the incidents of vandalism involving Hindu temples reported around the country since 2024, can the Minister inform Parliament whether the Ministry has any programmes or initiatives to educate young people on respecting different religions and promoting religious tolerance and social cohesion.
- 160/2026 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu asked the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the Registration of Sex Offenders Act 2021.

Written Questions

- 161/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – In light of the ongoing Asian Subterranean Termite infestation that has devastated thousands of homes across Fiji, particularly in the Western, Northern, and Central Divisions, and noting the introduction of the Termite Control Assistance Programme, can the Prime Minister inform Parliament on the following –
- (a) how many applications were received and approved for each division in the 2025-2026 financial year;
 - (b) for the 2025-2026 financial year, what was the approved budget allocation, actual expenditure, and any underspend or overspend recorded; and
 - (c) for the 2025-2026 financial year, how many homeowners were assisted under the Programme, disaggregated by the amount offered by division.
- 162/2026 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –
- (a) the Mid Term Review for the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls was recently completed;
 - (b) what were some of the achievements under the NAP EVAWG; and
 - (c) how will the Ministry manage some of the gaps that were identified in the Mid Term Review Report.

- 163/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade – Recently, the Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs led a delegation to the annual Fiji–New Zealand High-Level Consultation held in Wellington, New Zealand. Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –
- (a) what was the purpose of the visit and what outcomes were achieved;
 - (b) how many personnel from the Ministry were part of the delegation; and
 - (c) what was the total cost of flights, hotel accommodation, per diem and other allowances
- 164/2026 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the names of schools that did not receive Free Education Grant last year because the schools did not fulfill the requirements of the Ministry.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. Oral Question 153/2026 would be asked at a later sitting of Parliament.

The response to Written Questions 162/2026, 163/2026 and 164/2026 were tabled by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Government Whip informed Parliament that the response to Written Question 161/2026 would be tabled at a later sitting date as permitted under Standing Order 45(3).

9. SUSPENSION MOTION BY THE GOVERNMENT WHIP

The Government Whip the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu 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

(a) Commercial Use of Marine Areas Bill 2025

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Monday, 1 December 2025 and on Friday, 13 March 2026, that the Commercial Use of Marine Areas Bill 2025 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	27
Abstained	–	7
Not voted	–	21

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to provide for the transfer of proprietary ownership of marine areas used for commercial purposes to the customary owners, the establishment of an equitable compensation scheme for the access and use of these areas and for related matters, (Bill No. 42 of 2025), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(b) Pasifika Communities University Bill 2026

The Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Monday, 25 May 2026, that the Pasifika Communities University Bill 2026 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 establishment and administration of the Pasifika Communities University and for related matters (Bill No. 9 of 2026), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 20 August 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 9.25 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

19th August, 2026.