



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Eighteenth day of August, 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. Aseri Radrodro, Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal, Hon. Hem Chand and Hon. Alikia Bia conveyed their 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. Alipate Tuicolo, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka and Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Government Whip the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu moved that the Minutes of the sitting of Parliament held on Monday, 17 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. 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. Speaker also welcomed the British Acting High Commissioner Mr Steph Lysaght.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members to note the 17 Oral Questions and 9 Written Questions on the Order Paper, and that in exercise of its powers under Standing Order 124(4)(c), the Business Committee had taken a decision on Thursday, 14 August 2026, to consolidate Monday's and Tuesday's questions on Tuesday's Order Paper. The Hon. Speaker further advised that Standing Order 41(4) and Standing Order 42(1) were suspended for the duration only of Question Time on Tuesday.

6. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau responded.
- (b) The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate responded.
- (c) The Minister for Information, and Environment and Climate Change the Hon. Lynda Tabuya delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal responded.

7. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 125/2026 Hon. Joseph Nand to ask the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the upgrade of the damaged portion of the Queens Highway road near Semo Village in Sigatoka.
- 126/2026 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister update Parliament on the cessation of the Welfare Insurance and how family members who have been impacted can request and receive Government assistance for funerals, accidents and fire.
- 127/2026 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament, what criteria is used to decide which project will be carried out in the respective Divisions.
- 128/2026 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the steps undertaken to transition Tourism

Enterprises from the Hotels and Guest Houses Act 1973 to the new registration, recognition and standards framework, following the passing of the Tourism Act 2026.

- 129/2026 Hon. Alvick Maharaj to ask the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the plans to convert nursing stations to Health Centres.
- 130/2026 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna to ask the Minister for Policing and Communications – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Fiji and Australia Advance Security and Digital Co-operation.
- 131/2026 Hon. Alvick Maharaj to ask the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether the Ministry is undertaking a review or restructuring of the Fiji Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Services to improve its management and operational performance.
- 132/2026 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the value derived from Government's partnership and the hosting of the World Surf League Championship Tour event at Cloud break.
- 133/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu to ask the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Given the increasing number of HIV cases in Fiji, can the Minister inform Parliament what progress the Ministry has made towards achieving its target for reducing new HIV infections.
- 134/2026 Hon. Sachida Nand to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Industries, Commerce and Business Development, and Public Enterprises – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on the key initiatives undertaken by the Ministry during the 2025-2026 financial year to support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- 135/2026 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Policing and Communications – In light of the recent increase in CCTV camera installations along public roads within the Central Division, can the Minister inform Parliament on the primary purpose of these installations and the technical specifications and capabilities of the cameras being deployed.
- 136/2026 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the revision and extension of the Nadi Town Planning Scheme, and how the revised Scheme will guide tourism, commercial and housing growth while co-ordinating transport, drainage, wastewater and flood-resilient infrastructure.

- 137/2026 Hon. Alvick Maharaj to ask the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether the Government intends to review the Medical and Dental Practitioner Act 2010 to ensure that the governance arrangements of the Fiji Medical Council and the Fiji Dental Council, reflect current professional and regulatory requirements.
- 138/2026 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Minister for Information, and Environment and Climate Change – Can the Minister inform Parliament on what specific seawall or coastal protection projects are planned for the vulnerable shores in the Lau Group in the 2026-2027 financial year.
- 140/2026 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on measures in place to advance sustainable and lower-emission aviation infrastructure and how these measures support Fiji’s aviation sustainability commitments and the Civil Aviation Master Plan 2026 to 2031.
- 141/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Finance – Can the Minister update Parliament on the implementation and effectiveness of the mandatory Asset Declaration Regime for registered sole traders, which came into effect on 1 January 2026, including compliance rates, enforcement actions, and its impact on improving tax compliance and transparency.
- 142/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the certification process for Fiji mahogany.

Written Questions

- 143/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –
- (a) the total number of road humps constructed since 2023;
 - (b) the total cost incurred; and
 - (c) the total number of road humps that have been removed during the same period.
- 144/2026 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how many ancestral land have been returned to traditional clans and landowning units under the ‘Government’s Freehold Land Buyback Scheme’.

- 145/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Finance – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –
- (a) the total number of complaints received, resolved, pending and dismissed by the Office of the Financial Services Ombudsman from 2024 to date, broken down by year and category of complaint;
 - (b) the number of investigations initiated by the Office from 2024 to date and the outcomes of those investigations; and
 - (c) the annual budget allocation, actual expenditure and staff establishment of the Office from 2024 to date.
- 146/2026 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –
- (a) how many Justices of the Peace are there;
 - (b) where are they located; and
 - (c) how much are they paid.
- 147/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister provide Parliament with the following –
- (a) between 1 August 2025 and 30 June 2026, how many teachers applied for a salary upgrade following the submission of upgraded qualifications; and
 - (b) during the 2026-2027 financial year, how many teachers will receive a salary upgrade as a result of upgrading their qualifications.
- 148/2026 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General – The Fijian Elections Office (FEO) has conducted a number of voter awareness and registration programmes across the country and internationally. Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –
- (a) the total number of awareness programmes conducted to date;
 - (b) the number of eligible voters who have been registered through these initiatives; and
 - (c) the estimated number of additional voters the FEO expects to register ahead of the next general election.
- 149/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the total quantity and value of expired medicines in the Central, Eastern, Western and Northern Divisions, by year, from 2023 to date.
- 150/2026 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – Can the Minister inform Parliament how many ice plants are solar driven and how many are using other forms of fuel.

151/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister provide the following, for each municipal council over the last three financial years –

- (a) the approved operating expenditure (OPEX) and the actual operating expenditure incurred; and
- (b) the approved capital expenditure (CAPEX) and the actual capital expenditure incurred.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. Oral Questions 125/2026, 129/2026, 131/2026, 133/2026 and 137/2026 would be asked at a later sitting. Oral Questions 130/2026 and 134/2026 were withdrawn.

The responses to Written Questions 146/2026, 148/2026 and 150/2026 were tabled by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Government Whip informed Parliament that the responses to Written Questions 143/2026, 147/2026 and 149/2026 would be tabled at a later sitting date as permitted under Standing Order 45(3). The responses to Written Questions 144/2026, 145/2026 and 151/2026 would be tabled in accordance with Standing Order 45(3) by the respective Ministers.

8. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no Bills for consideration.

9. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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 Commercial Use of Marine Areas Bill 2025 (Bill No. 42 of 2025).

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Monday, 1 December 2025 and on Friday, 13 March 2026, the Standing Committee has tabled its report and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Wednesday, 19 August 2026.

- (b) 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 Pasifika Communities University Bill 2026 (Bill No. 9 of 2026).

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Monday, 25 May 2026, the Standing Committee has tabled its report and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Wednesday, 19 August 2026.

- (c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Ratu Rakuira Vakalalabure tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill 2025 (Bill No. 37 of 2025).

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 121(1) and Standing Order 86, the Standing Committee has tabled its report, and the Bill is set down for consideration by the Committee of the Whole Parliament on a future sitting day.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Wednesday, 19 August 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.04 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

18th August, 2026.