



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Twentieth 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. Charan Singh was absent.

(b) The Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, Hon. Alikali Bia, Hon. Ketan Lal, Hon. Viam Pillay and Hon. Jone Usamate 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. Tomasi Tunabuna, Hon. Aseri Radrodro, Hon. Ioane Naivalurua, Hon. Lynda Tabuya, Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo, Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka, Hon. Mosese Bulitavu and Hon. Rinesh Sharma.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Government Whip the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu moved that the Minutes of the sitting of Parliament held on Wednesday, 19 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 informed all Honourable Members on the relaunch endeavour of the booklet, “Celebrating Women in Parliament 1966–2026”, by the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Fiji Group. The CWP Fiji Group would formally hand over copies of the booklet to the Permanent Secretary for Education for distribution to 176 secondary schools across Fiji, where the booklets would be placed in school libraries.

The Hon. Speaker also informed all Honourable Members, that he had received correspondence from the Government Whip pursuant to Standing Order 115(2), informing that the Hon. Penioni Ravunawa was now the substantive member of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. The Hon. Ravunawa replaces the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica. Hon. Speaker also thanked the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica for his contribution and chairmanship of the Standing Committee during his tenure. He also congratulated the Hon. Jovesa Vocea and the Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva on their appointments as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson respectively, on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

Hon. Speaker further informed all Honourable Members that if they required further voter registration services, to contact the Secretary-General for the necessary arrangements with the Fijian Elections Office.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

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

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

- (i) Office of the President Annual Report 2017–2018;
- (ii) Office of the President Annual Report 2018–2019;
- (iii) Office of the President Annual Report 2019–2020;
- (iv) Office of the President Annual Report 2020–2021;
- (v) Office of the President Annual Report 2021–2022;
- (vi) Office of the President Annual Report 2022–2023; and
- (vii) Office of the President Annual Report 2023–2024.

(b) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) Levuka Town Council Annual Report 2019.

(c) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- (i) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audit Report on Municipal Councils; and
- (ii) Office of the Auditor-General Annual Report 2025.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

- (a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Review Report on the Ministry of Sugar Industry 2020–2021 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.

Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- (a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Jovesa Vocea tabled the Review Report on the Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Compliance Audit Report.

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.

- (b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Jovesa Vocea tabled the Review Report on the Office of the Auditor-General Annual Report 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.

- (c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Jovesa Vocea tabled the Review Report on the Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Performance Audit on Implementation of Climate Change Adaptation Actions in Fiji.

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.

8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Industries, Commerce and Business Development, and Public Enterprises the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Rinesh Sharma responded.

- (b) The Minister for Policing and Communications the Hon. Ioane Naivalurua delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal responded.
- (c) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Hem Chand responded.
- (d) The Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade the Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Inia Seruiratu responded.
- (e) The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Premila Kumar responded.
- (f) The Minister for Youth and Sports the Hon. Jese Saukuru delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Joseph Nand responded.

9. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

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| 129/2026 | Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the plans to convert nursing stations to Health Centres. |
| 131/2026 | Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 165/2026 | Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament, how the Ministry assists remote schools that are unable to carry out repairs and maintenance, infrastructure works and general operations due to increasing costs and inadequate Free Education Grant. |

- 166/2026 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the implementation of the Fiji Resilient in Informal Settlements (FRIS) Programme.
- 167/2026 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how the Ministry is addressing the issue of school dropouts.
- 168/2026 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament whether HIV is embedded as a strand in a subject within the school curriculum in Fiji.
- 169/2026 Hon. Rinesh Sharma to ask the Minister for Education – Recently there was a case at a Lautoka school where a preacher addressed students and singled out a Muslim student in front of his peers, which was insulting. Can the Minister inform Parliament what measures has the Ministry put in place to ensure that incidents of this nature do not happen in the future.
- 170/2026 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu to ask the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the type of assistance that will be directed at Naivaka Primary School in Navakasiga in Bua, which was severely damaged during Tropical Cyclone Yasa.
- 171/2026 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Finance – Can the Minister update Parliament on the US\$80 million from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in sovereign-backed financing and how will this fund be utilised.
- 172/2026 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, and National Disaster Risk Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the Ministry's emergency evacuation and cyclone shelter upgrades for the Lau Group.
- 173/2026 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Valelevu is a highly populated area and the Valelevu Health Centre was identified as requiring renovation. It was previously announced that renovation work would be carried out, however, no visible progress has been made so far. Can the Minister update Parliament on the current status and progress of the renovation.
- 174/2026 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure to ask the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the National Water Resources Management and Sanitation Policy (NWRMSP) and the Fiji Integrated Water Resources Management Plan (FIWRMP).

Written Questions

- 175/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu to ask the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the total amount expended by the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) in the investigation and prosecution of former Director of Public Prosecutions Mr Christopher Pryde.
- 176/2026 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following –
- (a) how is the Ministry conducting the street sweeps in the main urban areas;
 - (b) how many people have been assisted; and
 - (c) what is the Ministry doing to ensure that they do not return to the streets.
- 177/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Finance – Can the Minister provide a detailed breakdown of all official overseas travel undertaken from 2023 to date by Board members of the Fiji National Provident Fund, including the following –
- (a) the number and cost of each official trip taken by each Board member, along with the destinations visited and the purpose of each trip and how it helped FNPF;
 - (b) the total expenditure incurred on overseas travel by Board members of FNPF, broken down by financial year; and
 - (c) the source of funding for each trip, including whether the expenditure was met directly by FNPF or by any other organisation or donor.
- 178/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu to ask the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –
- (a) the total number of unresolved complaints currently before the Legal Practitioners Unit (LPU), together with a breakdown by the year in which each complaint was received; and
 - (b) a breakdown of the number of pending cases before the Independent Legal Services Commission (ILSC) as of 31 October 2025 to 30 June 2026.

- 179/2026 Hon. Jone Usamate to ask the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following information in relation to the Legal Aid Commission –
- (a) the total number of offices operated by the Commission;
 - (b) the number of offices operating from leased premises and the annual rent paid for each leased office; and
 - (c) whether the Commission owns any buildings, if so, specify.
- 180/2026 Hon. Jone Usamate to ask the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General – Can the Minister update Parliament on the statistics with respect to the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) caseload for the period July 2025 to June 2026 as follows –
- (a) the total number of complaints received;
 - (b) the number of cases currently under investigation and those at the prosecution stage; and
 - (c) the number of successful convictions recorded.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. Oral Question 174/2026 would be asked at a later sitting of Parliament. The Hon. Speaker allowed the Hon. Hem Chand to ask Oral Questions 133/2026 and 169/2026, and Written Questions 175/2026, 178/2026, 179/2026 and 180/2026. Oral Question 170/2026 lapsed pursuant to Standing Order 45(6).

The response to Written Questions 175/2026, 176/2026, 178/2026, 179/2026 and 180/2026 were tabled by the respective Ministers.

The response to Written Question 177/2026 would be tabled in accordance with Standing Order 45(3) by the respective Minister.

10. 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.

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

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Industries, Commerce and Business Development, and Public Enterprises the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 27 May 2026, that the Statistics 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 collection, compilation, analysis and publication of certain statistical information and for related matters (Bill No. 11 of 2026), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 21 August 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.12 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

20th August, 2026.