PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, First day of October, 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. Mosese Bulitavu was absent.

(b) The Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu and Hon. Sanjay Kirpal 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. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Viliame Gavoka, Hon. Shalen Kumar and Hon. Dr Atonio Lalabalavu.

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 Wednesday, 30 September 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 reminded all Honourable Members of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Fiji Group Pinktober Awareness Programme during the morning tea break.

The Hon. Speaker conveyed a message to commemorate International Day of Older Persons.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

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

(a) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

(i) Fiji Ports Corporation Limited Annual Report 2024.

(b) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

(i) Reserve Bank of Fiji Insurance Annual Report 2025; and
(ii) Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit Annual Report 2025.

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the Reserve Bank of Fiji Quarterly Review June 2026 was for information only and would not be referred to any Standing Committee.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

(a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Review Report on the Energy Fiji Limited (EFL) 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.

8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no Ministerial Statements.

9. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

237/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Given the Ministry's acknowledgement in 2024 that some farmers had lost up to 50 percent of their livestock to wild dog attacks, leading to some farmers abandoning farming as a result, can the Minister explain what specific, funded programmes are in place to protect farmers, beyond ad hoc baiting and stray-animal control operations.

238/2026 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the total volume of land being deposited in the land bank and land that has been designated so far.

239/2026 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the technical and financial advisory services currently being extended by the Research Division to help cane farmers enhance soil health, crop yield, and farm management practices.

240/2026 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Youth and Sports – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and Oita Prefecture, Japan on Friendship and Mutual Co-operation.

241/2026 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of fixing of drainage issues near Harifam Centre which blocks up when it rains.

242/2026 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Village Governance Framework.

243/2026 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament what measures has the Ministry undertaken to avoid delays in land registration and development.

244/2026 Hon. Parveen Bala asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the utilisation rate of the First Home Ownership Grant for the 2024-2025 financial year.

245/2026 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu to ask the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Government's investment in the development and upgrading of priority capital infrastructure for Municipal Councils and the National Fire Authority.

Written Questions

246/2026 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the following–

(a) the number and estimated value of major development projects facilitated during the 2025-2026 financial year;
(b) explain the measures introduced to improve turnaround times and co-ordination between the Department, municipal councils and relevant infrastructure agencies when considering major development proposals; and
(c) measures undertaken to ensure that planning approval processes support investment while maintaining

247/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, and Public Enterprises – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament on all official overseas travel undertaken by the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers and Assistant Ministers from 1 May 2025 to 31 August 2026, and provide –

(a) the number and estimated value of major development projects facilitated during the 2025-2026 financial year;
(b) explain the measures introduced to improve turnaround times and co-ordination between the Department, municipal councils and relevant infrastructure agencies when considering major development proposals; and
(c) measures undertaken to ensure that planning approval processes support investment while maintaining

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. Oral Question 245/2026 was withdrawn.

The response to Written Question 246/2026 was tabled by the Minister and the response to Written Question 247/2026 will be tabled at a later sitting date.

10. 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 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. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) Second Reading of the Yaqona (Kava) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 28 of 2026)

The Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna moved pursuant to Standing Order 85, that the Yaqona (Kava) Bill 2026 be now read a second time.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act, to establish the Fiji Yaqona Council, for the purpose of the regulation and management, of the yaqona industry in Fiji, and for related matters (Bill No. 28 of 2026).

Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 85(4), the Bill had now been read for the second time. Pursuant to Standing Order 85(4)(a), the Bill was being referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights.

(b) Third Reading of HIV/AIDS (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Tuesday, 29 September 2026, that the HIV/AIDS (Amendment) 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 amend the HIV/AIDS Act 2011 (Bill No. 36 of 2026), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(c) Third Reading of Maritime Powers Bill 2026

The Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs the Hon. Pio Tikoduadua moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Tuesday, 29 September 2026, that the Maritime Powers 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 confer powers on the Navy and Law Enforcement Agencies, to board, search and seize ships, suspected of criminal activity, in Fiji waters and beyond, to provide for assistance by law enforcement officers, and for related matters, (Bill No. 35 of 2026), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(d) Third Reading of Bose Levu Vakaturaga Bill 2026

The Minister for iTaukei Affairs the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Tuesday, 29 September 2026, that the Bose Levu Vakaturaga 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 administration of the Bose Levu Vakaturaga and for related matters, (Bill No. 34 of 2026), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(e) Third Reading of Counter Narcotics Bill 2026

The Minister for Policing and Communications the Hon. Ioane Naivalurua moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Tuesday, 29 September 2026, that the Counter Narcotics 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 establish the Fiji Counter Narcotics Bureau to provide for the administration, powers, duties and responsibilities, of the Bureau, to enable a coordinated interagency effort, to regulate and suppress, the misuse of illicit drugs, by creating criminal offences, and enabling, the effective enforcement, and prosecution, of drug-related conduct, to establish a holistic, and effective rehabilitative regime, and for related matters, (Bill No. 33 of 2026), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(f) Third Reading of National Referendum Bill 2025

The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General, and Acting Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 4 December 2025, that the National Referendum Bill 2025 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 holding of a National Referendum, and for related matters, (Bill No. 46 of 2025), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(g) Third Reading of Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General, and Acting Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 21 August 2026, that the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2026 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	31
No	–	12
Not voted	–	10

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Electoral Act 2014 (Bill No. 29 of 2026), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(h) Third Reading of Electoral (Registration of Voters) (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General, and Acting Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 21 August 2026, that the Electoral (Registration of Voters) (Amendment) 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 amend the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012 (Bill No. 30 of 2026), enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(i) Third Reading of Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General, and Acting Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 21 August 2026, that the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) (Amendment) Bill 2026 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	30
No	–	9
Not voted	–	13
Abstained	–	1

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) Act 2013 (Bill No. 31 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, 2 October 2026 at 10.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 1:38 a.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

2nd October, 2026.