PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Twenty-ninth day of September, 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. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu, Hon. Lynda Tabuya, Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka, Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad and Hon. Sanjay Kirpal 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. Sitiveni Rabuka and Hon. Sashi Kiran.

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 Monday, 28 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 informed all the Honourable Members that the Business Committee had exercised its powers under Standing Order 124(4)(c) to suspend Standing Order 41(4) and Standing Order 42(1) only during Question Time today, to accommodate the consolidation of Monday's and Tuesday's questions on the Order Paper.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Social Affairs

(a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Ministry of Local Government's Annual Report 2019-2020.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social 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 Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Committee's Review Report on the 2020-2021 and 2023-2024 Consumer Council of Fiji Annual Reports.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social 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.

(c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Committee's Review Report on the 2023-2024 Department of Information and National Archives Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social 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 Economic Affairs

(d) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Sugar Industry Tribunal Annual Report 2021.

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.

(e) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Ministry of Sugar Industry Annual Report 2021-2022.

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.

Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights

(f) 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 Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 29 of 2026).

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 21 August 2026, the Standing Committee has tabled its report, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 1 October 2026.

(g) 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 Electoral (Registration of Voters) (Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 30 of 2026).

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 21 August 2026, the Standing Committee has tabled its report, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 1 October 2026.

(h) 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 Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) (Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 31 of 2026).

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 21 August 2026, the Standing Committee has tabled its report, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 1 October 2026.

(i) 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 National Referendum Bill 2025 (Bill No. 46 of 2025).

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 4 December 2025, the Standing Committee has tabled its report, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 1 October 2026.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that the two Ministerial Statements were withdrawn.

8. QUESTIONS

195/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether Fiji's existing weather-data network is sufficiently reliable, geographically representative and independently verifiable to support the wider use of parametric insurance.

196/2026 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, and Public Enterprises – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the Memorandum of Cooperation between the National Academy for Public Administration of the Republic of Serbia and the Fiji Learning Institute for Public Service (FLIPS) of the Republic of Fiji.

197/2026 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament if there are plans to construct an incinerator at the Rotuma Hospital.

198/2026 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the measures being undertaken by Government to modernise and strengthen Fiji's valuation framework, including professional regulation and alignment with internationally recognised valuation standards.

199/2026 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the current operational efficiency of the Fiji Sugar Corporation mills for this crushing season, specifically regarding metrics on cut to crush delays and the measures being implemented to improve sugar recovery rates.

200/2026 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, and National Disaster Risk Management – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the transformative impacts of its High-Risk Water Programme and the communities and households that have been assisted so far in the last financial year.

201/2026 Hon. Rinesh Sharma asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the current staffing levels for senior medical officer positions across our public hospitals.

202/2026 Hon. Shalen Kumar asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the upcoming Jaipur Foot Camp, including the Ministry's preparations and partnership with the Government of India.

203/2026 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament what measures have been implemented to prevent a recurrence of salary payment disruptions affecting teachers.

204/2026 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Industries, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the Yasawa Tourism Marketing Co-operative Limited Rescue Package.

205/2026 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether all approval protocols were followed in the subdivision of the Pacific Harbour golf course in which there is a reduction from 18 holes to 16 holes.

206/2026 Hon. Shalen Kumar asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the key achievements of the Markets for Change Programme, and how has it improved the economic opportunities, for women market vendors across Fiji.

207/2026 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the progress in rolling out the increased manual harvester assistance and other targeted grower support programmes to address labour shortages during the current harvesting period.

208/2026 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister provide the total acreage surveyed under the mahogany leases survey programme in Vanua Levu and how has it supported the landowner's economic empowerment and sustainable development.

209/2026 Hon. Rinesh Sharma asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the current water level at Monasavu Dam and EFL's generation capacity heading into the dry season.

210/2026 Hon. Sachida Nand asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of Government's initiatives to support crop diversification within the sugar industry.

211/2026 Hon. Parveen Bala asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether there is a policy or prescribed timeframe for the reconnection of electricity supply after a customer has settled all outstanding amounts.

212/2026 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General, and Acting Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the measures taken to strengthen the security and accuracy of Fiji's legal registries, particularly to prevent tampering, unauthorized access, or loss of sensitive records.

213/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament what plans or measures does the Ministry have in place to reduce waiting times and improve access to health services at the Samabula health facility.

214/2026 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General, and Acting Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament on what immediate steps has the Ministry implemented to review and upgrade security protocols within the judiciary, including evidence storage and chain-of-custody procedures.

Written Questions

215/2026 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the following –

(a) revenue earned by each *Yavusa* from pine sales over the past three years arising from the pine plantation on Lakeba in Lau;
(b) an overview of how different *Yavusa's* in Lakeba will benefit from harvest of pine over the next 5 years; and
(c) an overview of how profits from pine proceeds will be shared amongst the various *Yavusa* of Lakeba.

216/2026 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the –

(a) current number of Registered Surveyors in Fiji, and provide;
(b) a breakdown of how many are currently employed in Government sector; and
(c) how many are practicing in the private sector.

217/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the municipal rates position separately for each of the thirteen Municipal Councils, for the year ended 31 December 2023, 31 December 2024 and 31 December 2025 for the following –

(a) the total rates invoiced by each Municipal Council;
(b) the total rates collected by each Municipal Council; and
(c) the total outstanding rates and arrears for each Municipal Council, including the amount attributable to interest, together with the percentage rate collection achieved.

218/2026 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the process undertaken to secure iTaukei Leases for Government purposes, including the following –

(a) the number of iTaukei leases currently secured through the iTaukei Land Trust Board;
(b) how the Ministry maintains a database for Government iTaukei Leases including lease term, purposes, annual rentals, rental reviews and expiry dates; and
(c) the total budgetary allocation for land rents payable to the iTaukei Land Trust Board for the 2026/2027 financial year.

219/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the total number of complaints and cases registered relating to alleged surgical errors, complications or medical negligence arising from surgical procedures, for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 July 2026, and to provide the following –

(a) a breakdown of the complaints and cases by type of surgical procedure performed;
(b) a breakdown of the complaints or cases by the hospital or health facility where the surgical procedure was performed; and
(c) the number of complaints or cases that have been investigated and concluded, substantiated, dismissed or remain under investigation, including the number of cases currently before the courts.

220/2026 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, and National Disaster Risk Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on farm access roads constructed across the four divisions from November 2025 to July 2026 under the Rural Outer Island (ROI) programme.

221/2026 Hon. Rinesh Sharma asked the Minister for Finance – Can the Minister update Parliament on the number of compliance audits conducted this year against employers who deduct but fail to remit FNPF contributions.

222/2026 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the total number of hours of power outages recorded in Viti Levu for each of the following years –

(a) 2023, 2024 and 2025; and
(b) from January to June 2026.

223/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General, and Acting Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the Legal Aid Commission's motor vehicle fleet for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 July 2026, and provide –

(a) the total number of new motor vehicles purchased during this period, with a breakdown by make, model, year of purchase and purchase price for each vehicle;
(b) the total number of motor vehicles written off during this period, with a breakdown by make and model, year of write-off and the reason for each vehicle being written off; and
(c) the total number of motor vehicles disposed of through tender during this period, with a breakdown by make and model, year of disposal and final selling price for each vehicle.

224/2026 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Minister for Finance – Can the Minister provide Parliament with details of –

(a) the total amount of remittances received from overseas from 2023 to 2025;
(b) the countries from which these remittances originated; and
(c) the latest figures available for 2026.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. Oral Question 204/2026 was withdrawn.

The responses to Written Questions 215/2026, 216/2026, 218/2026, 219/2026, 220/2026, 222/2026 and 223/2026 were tabled by the respective Ministers. The responses to Written Questions 217/2026, 221/2026 and 224/2026 would be tabled at a later sitting date as permitted under Standing Order 45(3).

9. SUSPENSION MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE 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.

10. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) Maritime Powers Bill 2026

The Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs the Hon. Pio Tikoduadua moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

(A) That the Maritime Powers Bill 2026 be considered by Parliament without delay;
(B) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
(C) That the Bill must not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committee of Parliament; and
(D) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 1 October 2026 and that one hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to him as the member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	31
No	–	14
Not Voted	–	8

Motion agreed to.

(b) HIV/AIDS (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

(A) That the HIV/AIDS (Amendment) Bill 2026 be considered by Parliament without delay;
(B) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
(C) That the Bill must not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committee of Parliament; and
(D) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 1 October 2026, but that one hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of the reply given to him as the member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

(c) Bose Levu Vakaturaga Bill 2026

The Minister for iTaukei Affairs the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

(A) That the Bose Levu Vakaturaga Bill 2026 be considered by Parliament without delay;
(B) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
(C) That the Bill must not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committee of Parliament; and
(D) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 1 October 2026, but that one hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of the reply given to him as the member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	32
No	–	14
Not Voted	–	7

Motion agreed to.

(d) Counter Narcotics Bill 2026

The Minister for Policing and Communications the Hon. Ioane Naivalurua moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

(A) That the Counter Narcotics Bill 2026 be considered by Parliament without delay;
(B) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
(C) That the Bill must not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committee of Parliament; and
(D) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 1 October 2026 and that one hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to him as the member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	32
No	–	13
Not Voted	–	8

Motion agreed to.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Wednesday, 30 September 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.55 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

29th September, 2026.