PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Second day of November, 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. Ketan Lal, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal and Hon. Vijay Nath were absent.

(b) The Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu and Hon. Mosese Bulitavu 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. Prof. Biman Prasad and Hon. Aseri Radrodro.

4. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

The Hon. Sevuloni Ratumaiyale Valenitabua, took the Oath for Members of Parliament and the Oath of Allegiance.

The Hon. Speaker congratulated the Attorney-General the Hon. Sevuloni Valenitabua and allowed him to deliver his maiden speech.

5. 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 Friday, 2 October 2026 as previously circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

6. 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. Hon. Speaker also welcomed the students, and staff of the Fiji School of the Blind.

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members, that the Business Committee had approved the following arrangements for this sitting week –

(a) that Parliament would sit for extended hours into the evenings; and
(b) that Parliament may take limited breaks, including lunch breaks, at the discretion of the Speaker.

The Business Committee had also approved the additional arrangements for the Committee of the Whole Parliament stage, in line with the enabling provisions in the Standing Orders. These arrangements pertain to the Bills that would progress in the course of the sitting week –

(a) Standing Orders permit the clustering of clauses to enhance efficiency. Accordingly, and pursuant to Standing Order 87(3), during the Committee of the Whole Parliament stage, the clauses be grouped together and voted upon in a group for the purposes of efficiency; and
(b) that votes taken on the group of clauses during the Committee of the Whole Parliament stage be conducted through acclamation; whilst the vote on the Third Reading be conducted electronically.

The Hon. Speaker further informed all Honourable Members that the secretariat had received the following written responses from –

(a) the Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, and Public Enterprises the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, to Written Question 161 of 2026 asked by the Hon. Premila Kumar and Written Question 193 of 2026 asked by the Hon. Inia Seruiratu;
(b) the Minister for Finance the Hon. Esrom Immanuel, to Written Question 106 of 2025 asked by the Hon. Premila Kumar; Written Question 221 of 2026 asked by the Hon. Rinesh Sharma and Written Question 224 of 2026 asked by the Hon. Vijay Nath;
(c) the Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, to Written Question 258 of 2026 asked by the Hon. Premila Kumar;
(d) the Minister for Housing and Local Government the Hon. Maciu Nalumisa, to Written Question 151 of 2026 asked by the Hon. Premila Kumar; and
(e) the Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro, to Written Question 72 of 2025 and 260 of 2026 asked by the Hon. Hem Chand.

The responses had been conveyed to the respective Honourable Members and copies made available on the Parliament's website.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members to note that the back-to-office reports for the following visits, which are available in the Library for Members' perusal and reference –

(a) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence visit to the New Zealand Parliament from the 23rd to 28th August 2026;
(b) Standing Committee on Natural Resources study visit to the Republic of China;
(c) 2026 Seminar for Parliamentarians for Pacific Island Countries from the 21st to 27th July 2026, in China;
(d) CPA Advanced Professional Development and Skills-Building Residency Programme, held in Darwin, Australia from the 21st to 27th June 2026; and
(e) 4th Global Council for Political Renewal Conference (GCPR), held in Cape Town from 13 to 14 February 2026.

The Hon. Speaker also highlighted the Women's Practice Parliament that was held from the 19th to 22nd of October and acknowledged the generous support of the governments of Australia, Japan and New Zealand through the UNDP Fiji Parliament Support Project for the collaboration and support.

7. 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 46(2) be suspended so as to allow the Hon. Prime Minister to move a motion pertaining to the Special Committee on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

8. MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, and Public Enterprises the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka moved that –

(a) Parliament allows the Special Committee on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026 to table its review report at a later sitting date; and
(b) That the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad be replaced by the Hon. Sachida Nand as a Member on the Special Committee on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

9. 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 Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Annual Reports.

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.

(b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji 2023-2024 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.

10. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) Second Reading of the Fiji National University Bill 2026

The Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, and Public Enterprises the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka moved pursuant to Standing Order 85(1) that the Fiji National University Bill 2026 be read a second time.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to provide for the governance and administration of the Fiji National University and for related matters (Bill No. 27 of 2026).

Hon. Speaker referred the Bill to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights pursuant to Standing Order 85(4)(a), and that the Standing Committee must report back to Parliament within 30 days.

(b) Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill 2025

(i) Committee of the Whole Parliament on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill 2025

Parliament resolved into the Committee of the Whole Parliament on a Bill for an Act to provide for the recognition, protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous people, to give effect to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and for related matters (Bill No. 37 of 2025).

Hon. Speaker vacated the Speaker's Chair and convened the Committee of Supply as Mr Chair.

Members debated and voted on the following –

Clause 1

Question put on Clause 1.

Clause 1 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 2

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Amendment agreed to unanimously.

Question put on Clause 2.

Clause 2 as amended agreed to unanimously.

Clause 3

Question put on Clause 3.

Clause 3 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 4

Question put on Clause 4.

Clause 4 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 5

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Amendment agreed to unanimously.

Question put on Clause 5.

Clause 5 as amended agreed to unanimously.

Clause 6

Question put on Clause 6.

Clause 6 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 7

Hon. Faiyaz Koya highlighted the need to amend Clause 7 for clarity.

Question put on Clause 7 as amended.

Clause 7 as amended agreed to unanimously.

Clause 8

Question put on Clause 8.

Clause 8 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 9

Question put on Clause 9.

Clause 9 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 10

Question put on Clause 10.

Clause 10 agreed to unanimously.

Schedule

Question put on the Schedule.

The Schedule agreed to unanimously.

Mr Chair informed the Honourable Members that the Committee of the Whole Parliament had concluded and then he resumed the Speaker's Chair.

The Committee of the Whole Parliament had agreed to a Bill for an Act to provide for the recognition, protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous people, to give effect to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and for related matters (Bill No. 37 of 2025), with amendments.

(ii) Third Reading of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill 2025

The Minister for iTaukei Affairs the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu moved that pursuant to Standing Order 88 that the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill 2025 (Bill No. 37 of 2025) be read a third time and do pass.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to provide for the recognition, protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous people, to give effect to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and for related matters, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

11. MOTION IN THE NAME OF THE HONOURABLE MINISTER FOR FINANCE

The Minister for Finance the Hon. Esrom Immanuel moved a motion for the purpose of section 145(1) of the Constitution and pursuant to Standing Order 131, that Parliament approve –

(a) that the Parliamentary Approval of 14 September 2015 be amended to allow for Government guarantee of PAFCO's borrowings with other financial institutions;

(b) for Government of the Republic of Fiji to guarantee PAFCO's additional borrowings of $20.0 million, without restricting the Government guarantee to a specific lending institution, valid for five years, effective from 1 November 2026 to 30 November 2031;
(c) that PAFCO be exempted from paying a guarantee fee; and
(d) for the Government to guarantee the specified borrowings facilities until their full maturity or discharge.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Tuesday, 3 November 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.46 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

2nd November, 2026.