PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Second day of October 2026

1. The House met at 10.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

2. Hon. Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.

3. ATTENDANCE

(a) The Hon. Sanjay Kirpal conveyed his 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. Filimoni Vosarogo, Hon. Aseri Radrodro, Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, Hon. Jone Usamate, Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu and Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua.

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 Thursday, 1 October 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 welcomed the students and teachers of Holy Trinity Anglican School, and also His Excellency Mr Michael Henry, High Commissioner of the Cook Islands to Fiji, His Excellency Mr Hiroshi Tajima, Ambassador of Japan, and officers from the UK Government Communications Service International supporting the Pre-COP 31 meeting.

The Hon. Speaker formalised the approval granted to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence to undertake further scrutiny and deliberation on the Review of the Treaty on the Fiji-Australia Vuvale Union and Ocean of Peace Alliance (Veitacini Treaty), with the Standing Committee's report to be tabled during the November Sitting of Parliament.

The Hon. Speaker also informed Honourable Members that the Secretariat had received responses to Written Questions 217/2026 and 177/2026. The responses had been conveyed to the respective Members and made available on the Parliament website.

The Hon. Speaker further informed the House of the launch of the Poppy Appeal by the Fijian Returned Service Persons Association in support of veterans and their families, and encouraged Honourable Members to support the appeal by purchasing a poppy and contributing generously. Finally, the Hon. Speaker advised that, due to the late sitting of Parliament which concluded early morning, the *Hansard* Report would be circulated once finalised.

6. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

248/2026 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry – Given that the agricultural mechanisation adoption rate remains at 14.2%, can the Minister inform Parliament what systematic barriers are preventing smallholder farmers from adopting machinery, and how the current budget allocation will directly resolve these bottlenecks.

249/2026 Hon. Sachida Nand asked the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the plans and measures to control and prevent the further spread of the African Tulip (Spathodea campanulata) in Fiji.

250/2026 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how much direct revenue has the Suva City Council received from the utilisation of the Albert Park grounds for the 2026 Hibiscus Festival.

251/2026 Hon. Shalen Kumar asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the municipal rates payable on State Land administered by the Government, including the applicable rates and the provision made in the 2026-2027 National Budget for their payment.

252/2026 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the status of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework of which Fiji is a founding member.

253/2026 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the types of assistance offered to farmers in the maritime zones, especially in the Lau group, to help cope with salt water intrusion into the soil.

254/2026 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the monitoring mechanism for students' safety who travel to school by boat.

255/2026 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu to ask the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the development and progress of new towns and growth centres over the past four years to support economic development.

256/2026 Hon. Parveen Bala asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether there are plans to retain the current taxi fare.

257/2026 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister update Parliament on measures undertaken to ensure that increased digital connectivity in Fiji translates into meaningful economic opportunities for women, particularly women entrepreneurs and those living in rural, maritime and underserved communities.

125/2026 Hon. Joseph Nand asked 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.

153/2026 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Currently, many bus stops along the Suva-Nausori corridor have the capacity to accommodate a maximum of two buses simultaneously. Given the growing fleet size and the increased emphasis on public transport for commuting, can the Minister inform Parliament if there are plans to expand existing bays at major bus stops to increase capacity.

174/2026 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked 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).

187/2026 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on what progress has been made towards the establishment of the Engineers Registration Board (ERB) and when does the Government expect it to become fully operational.

Written Questions

258/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the complaints received by the Medical and Dental Secretariat, for each year from 2023 to date, including the following –

(a) the total number of complaints received in each year and the number of complaints resolved, dismissed, withdrawn, referred, or otherwise concluded, with a breakdown of the outcome in each case;
(b) the number of complaints currently pending, including the length of time each complaint has remained unresolved; and
(c) the nature or categories of complaints received, including complaints relating to professional misconduct, negligence, malpractice, unethical conduct, breaches of professional standards, and any other grounds of complaint.

259/2026 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –

(a) the number of children under state care;
(b) those under foster care, including their location and age; and
(c) the transition and exit plans for the children prior to turning 18.

260/2026 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister provide Parliament with a breakdown on the number of leadership positions (Head of School, VP, AP, HOD and AHT) filled in the last 3 years.

261/2026 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the total cost incurred by the Water Authority of Fiji for water carting services from 1 January 2025 to 31 July 2026, with a separate breakdown of the expenditure incurred for –

(a) 1 January to 31 December 2025; and
(b) 1 January to 31 July 2026.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. Oral Question 255/2026 was withdrawn.

The response to Written Questions 258/2026, 260/2026 and 261/2026 would be tabled by the respective Ministers at a later sitting date. The response to Written Question 259/2026 was tabled by the Minister.

7. 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 12.30 p.m. to complete the remaining items listed on the Order Paper.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

8. END OF WEEK STATEMENTS

(a) Hon. Premila Kumar delivered her End of Week Statement and the Assistant Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Penioni Ravunawa responded.

(b) Hon. Alvick Maharaj delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Youth and Sports the Hon. Jese Saukuru responded.

The Hon. Informed that the End of Week Statements by the Government were withdrawn.

The Hon. Speaker suspended the sitting briefly to allow all Honourable Members to pay tribute and their final respects to the late Hon. Inosi Kuridrani as his hearse passed by the Parliament precincts.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Hon. Speaker provided clarification on the voting threshold for a Bill to amend the Constitution, and vacancies in Parliament.

(a) Second Reading of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 32 of 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 Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026 be now read a second time.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	38
No	–	5
Not voted	–	1
Abstained	–	9

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji, and for related matters (Bill No. 32 of 2026).

Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with section 160(2)(b) of the Constitution as read down by the Supreme Court Advisory Opinion, Standing Order 93(1)(b) as read down by the Supreme Court Advisory Opinion, and Standing Order 85(4), the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026 has now been read for the second time.

10. MOTION FOR DEBATE

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that, for the purposes of achieving full compliance with the Standing Orders, he would call on the Hon. Prime Minister to move his motion listed under item 7, Schedule 3 of the Order Paper.

The Hon. Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, and Public Enterprises to move under Standing Order 129, that –

(a) a Special Committee be established to consider the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 32 of 2026) ('**Bill**'), including the following –

(i) examining the Bill;
(ii) receiving submissions from members of the public and interested

stakeholders on the Bill; and

(iii) considering any matters relating to the Bill referred to it by Parliament;

(b) the Special Committee shall comprise the following 11 members, including 4 members of the Opposition, of whom 3 members shall be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition –

(i) Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka – Chairperson;
(ii) Hon. Viliame Gavoka – Deputy Chairperson;
(iii) Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad;
(iv) Hon. Siromi Turaga;
(v) Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo;
(vi) Hon. Lynda Tabuya;
(vii) Hon. Mosese Bulitavu;
(viii) Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Leader of the Opposition;
(ix) Opposition Member, to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition;
(x) Opposition Member, to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition; and
(xi) Opposition Member, to be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition; and

(c) the Special Committee must, after 30 days of the second reading of Bill, report to Parliament on its findings and recommendations.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 85(4)(b), the Bill was now referred to the Special Committee to consider the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 32 of 2026).

Hon. Speaker further stated that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament, Standing Order 129(5) and Standing Order 121(1)(a), the Special Committee shall report back to Parliament at the November sitting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament adjourns until Monday, 2 November 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions throughout the week.

The Hon. Speaker adjourned Parliament until Monday, 2 November 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 9.16 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

2nd October, 2026.