PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Thirtieth day of September 2026

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.

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

3. MEMBERS PRESENT

(a) The Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu, 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. Ifereimi Vasu.

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 Tuesday, 29 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. Deputy 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. Deputy Speaker informed the Honourable Members that Hon. Lynda Tabuya would convene the briefing to provide an update on Fiji's participation in the Pacific Pre-COP31 for the approved delegation during lunch break.

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 2018 Nasinu Town Council 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.

(b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Committee's Review Report on the 2020 Tavua Town Council 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.

(c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the 2019, 2020 (January to July) and 2020-2021 Labasa Town Council 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.

Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

(a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Sugar Cane Growers Fund Annual Reports 2023 and 2024.

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.

(b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Assets Fiji Pte Limited (AFPL) Annual Reports for the financial years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

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.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

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

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

225/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Policing and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether Fiji has the capacity to calibrate breathalyser equipment domestically, and how often such equipment is calibrated.

226/2026 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the work undertaken over the past four years to guide the orderly and sustainable growth of Fiji's major urban centres.

227/2026 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General, and Acting Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament on the finalisation and implementation timeframe of the reviewed National Employment Policy.

228/2026 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva asked the Minister for Information, and Environment and Climate Change – Can the Minister update Parliament on the initiatives undertaken through the National iTaukei Resource Owners Council to support iTaukei communities in climate resilience, adaptation, and prudent environmental management.

229/2026 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the specific policy initiatives or infrastructural support being provided to assist cane growers with escalating production costs, particularly concerning farm gate fertiliser and fuel pricing.

230/2026 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the measures undertaken to strengthen the monitoring and compliance of mining and quarrying operations in Fiji.

231/2026 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament if there are plans to upgrade the Nadi to Lautoka Highway.

232/2026 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on what the Integrated Tourism Master Plan prepared under the 'Na Vualiku Programme' indicate about the future of tourism in the Northern Division over the next twenty-five years.

233/2026 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry's progress in reducing drug related cases in primary and secondary schools.

234/2026 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Minister update Parliament on the current status of the feasibility study for the proposed Yasawa Island Airport.

Written Questions

235/2026 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 total number of cases pending before the Judiciary as at 31 July 2026, categorised by the year in which each case was registered and by case type, including civil, criminal and other categories, and provide the following breakdown –

(a) for the Magistrates Court, by each Magistrates Court location throughout Fiji;
(b) for the High Court, by Suva, Lautoka and Labasa; and
(c) for the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

236/2026 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –

(a) the number of seismic events recorded during the 2025-2026 financial year; and
(b) how investment in seismic stations, monitoring technology and specialist staff has improved Fiji's ability to detect, analyse and respond to earthquakes and associated tsunami threats.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers.

The responses to Written Questions 235/2026 and 236/2026 were tabled by the respective Ministers.

9. MOTION FOR DEBATE

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe moved pursuant to Standing Order 6(1) –

(a) that Standing Order 6(5) and Standing Order 92 are suspended so as to allow the Hon. Prime Minister to proceed with the First Reading of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026; and

(b) that Standing Order 6(5) and Standing Order 92 are suspended until the conclusion of the Third Reading and vote on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	36
No	–	13
Not Voted	–	3
Abstained	–	1

Motion agreed to.

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

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 84, that the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026 be read a first time. The motion was subsequently seconded.

The Hon. Prime Minister tabled the four copies of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026.

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

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 84(1), the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2026 had been read for the first time and the Bill would be listed on the Order Paper for Second Reading on a future sitting day.

The Hon. Speaker reminded Honourable Members to utilise the time to peruse the Bill and prepare for debate which would focus on the principles and merits of the Bill.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 1 October 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.53 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

30th September, 2026.