PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Third 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. Charan Singh and Hon. Sanjay Kirpal were absent.

(b) The Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu and Hon. Ketan Lal 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. Premila Kumar, Hon. Sevuloni Valenitabua, Hon. Inia Seruiratu, Hon. Faiyaz Koya, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Aseri Radrodro and Hon. Lynda Tabuya.

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, 2 November 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 Honourable Members that the secretariat has received the written response from 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 247/2026 asked by the Hon. Inia Seruiratu. The response has been conveyed to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, and a copy made available on the Parliament's website.

Hon. Speaker also informed all Honourable Members that the Business Committee, in exercise of its powers under Standing Order 124(4)(c), had taken a decision on Thursday, 29 October 2026, to consolidate Monday and Tuesday's questions on Tuesday's Order Paper, and in that respect that Standing Order 41(4) and Standing Order 42(1) were suspended only for the duration of Question Time on Tuesday.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Fiji-Australia Vuvale Union and the Ocean of Peace Alliance '*Veitacini* Treaty'.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 121(1)(b) and Standing Order 130(4)(a), the Standing Committee has reported back.

(b) Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights

(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 Personal Insolvency, Financial Rehabilitation and Entrepreneurial Rescue Bill 2025 (Bill No. 40 of 2025).

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 27 November 2025, that the Standing Committee has tabled its report and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 5 November 2026.

(ii) 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 Fiji Police Bill 2026 (Bill No. 12 of 2026).

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 28 May 2026, that the Standing Committee has tabled its report and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 5 November 2026.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

262/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether a person holding dual citizenship is legally eligible to operate a taxi business in Fiji, provided they hold a valid taxi permit and what legal provisions govern such eligibility.

263/2026 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the Ministry's work with Investment Fiji to advance tourism investment projects towards implementation.

264/2026 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on what are the Ministry's plans to address bullying cases in schools.

265/2026 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry and Pacific Trade Invest New Zealand for Fiji Pineapple Branding and Marketing Strategy.

266/2026 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources, and Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations, and Justice – In light of increasing outward labour migration and reported skills shortages in key domestic industries, can the Minister update Parliament on the proactive measures being undertaken to develop, retain and mobilise local workers to address these shortages.

267/2026 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the measures being implemented under Fiji's National Adaptation Plan to protect hospitals, health centres and nursing stations vulnerable to rising sea levels, coastal erosion, flooding, cyclones, drought and other climate-related hazards.

268/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Finance – Can the Minister inform Parliament of Fiji's actual public debt as at 30 September 2026, compared with the projected $11.7 billion, or 79.8% of GDP, by July 2026, and what proportion of Government revenue is currently being spent on debt servicing.

269/2026 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Industries, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on the establishment of the Fiji Innovation Hub and activities that have been carried out to drive innovation, productivity, market access and business growth among MSMEs and startups.

270/2026 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau 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 what measures will the Government implement to ensure that Fijian citizens residing overseas are adequately informed about the proposed constitutional amendments ahead of the national referendum.

271/2026 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Minister for Immigration – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the progress of the decentralisation programme of Immigration services in Fiji.

272/2026 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Youth and Sports – Can the Minister update Parliament on the performance and expansion of national youth employment programmes, specifically focusing on job placement rates for recent university and technical graduates.

273/2026 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament of the Ministry's co-ordination with relevant agencies to address yacht clearance and administrative issues raised by the yachting sector.

274/2026 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on whether the Rotuma Jetty has a functioning public toilet and washroom facilities for passengers, including elderly persons, persons with disabilities and families travelling to and from the Island.

275/2026 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Industries, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the Outsourcing Industry and its Strategic plan.

Written Questions

276/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the overseas treatment assistance provided by the Ministry for the 2025-2026 financial year –

(a) how many applications were received for overseas medical treatment;
(b) how many patients were sent overseas for treatment, and what was the total cost incurred by the Government; and
(c) how many patients are on the waiting list.

277/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Policing and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament how many drug-related cases involving persons under the age of 18 were recorded from 2023 to date, broken down by division.

278/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Policing and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament with respect to the following –

(a) how many complaints were received under the Online Safety Act 2018 during the 2025-2026 financial year;
(b) how many complaints were resolved; and
(c) how many complaints remain outstanding.

279/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the total revenue collected from wheel tax and the road user levy during the 2025-2026 financial year, broken down by each revenue source.

280/2026 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau asked the Minister for Finance – Can the Minister provide the following information on the Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (ECAL) –

(a) what is the total amount of levy collected from its introduction till April 2022, broken down by financial year;
(b) of the total revenue collected, how much was spent on projects, and what was the current unspent balance (if any); and
(c) how much was spent on climate adaptation, environmental protection, disaster resilience, and the relocation of vulnerable communities, with a breakdown by category.

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

The response to Written Question 280/2026 would be tabled by the respective Minister at a later sitting date. The response to Written Questions 276/2026, 277/2026, 278/2026 and 279/2026 were tabled by the respective Ministers.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Hon. Speaker informed that there were no Bills for consideration.

10. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

(a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu moved that Parliament debates the following reports –

(i) Review Report on the 2019-2020 Ministry of Local Government Annual Report which was tabled on 29 September 2026;
(ii) Review Report on the 2018 Nasinu Town Council Annual Report which was tabled on 30 September 2026;
(iii) Review Report on the 2020 Tavua Town Council Annual Report which was tabled on 30 September 2026; and
(iv) Consolidated Review Report on the 2019, 2020 (January to July) and 2020-2021 Labasa Town Council Annual Reports which was tabled on 30 September 2026.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

(b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report on the 2020-2021 and 2023-2024 Consumer Council of Fiji Annual Reports' which was tabled on 29 September 2026.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Wednesday, 4 November 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 5.30 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

3rd November, 2026.