



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Fifth day of March, 2025

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

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

3. ATTENDANCE

All Honourable Members were present except for the Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka.

The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Sashi Kiran, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad and Hon. Graham Leung.

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, 4 March 2025, as previously circulated be taken as read and be confirmed.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting of Parliament. He also welcomed those in the gallery and those watching the proceedings on television and the internet.

6. RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE MOTION BY THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

Parliament resumed debate on the motion that the Parliament thanks His Excellency the President for His most gracious speech.

Debate ensued.

[Speakers: Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu, Hon. Viam Pillay, Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu, Hon. Rinesh Sharma, Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua, Hon. Jovesa Vocea, Hon. Aseri Radrodoro, Hon. Kalaveti Ravu, Hon. Penioni Ravunawa, Hon. Vatimi Rayalu, Hon. Taito Rokomatu, Hon. Jese Saukuru, Hon. Agni Singh and Hon. Charan Singh.]

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

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

8. SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT

The Hon. Speaker allowed the Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau to move his motion.

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

- (a) That Standing Orders 92 and 6(5) are suspended so as to allow the Hon. Prime Minister to proceed with the first reading of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2025; and
- (b) That Standing Orders 92 and 6(5) are suspended until the conclusion of the third reading and vote on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	41
No	–	13
Not Voted	–	1

Motion agreed to.

9. FIRST READING OF THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025 (BILL NO. 1 OF 2025)

The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises, and Information the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka moved for the purposes of section 160 of the Constitution and pursuant to Standing Orders 93 and 84, that the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2025 be now read a first time. The motion was subsequently seconded.

The Hon. Prime Minister tabled the four copies of the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2025.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji (Bill No. 1 of 2025).

The Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Orders 93 and 84(1), the Bill had been read a first time, and the Bill would be listed on the Order Paper and set down for second reading on a future sitting day.

The Hon. Speaker reminded Honourable Members that until such time that the Hon. Prime Minister would give notice for the second reading, Honourable Members must utilise the time to peruse the Bill and prepare for debate, which would primarily focus on the principles and merits of the Bill.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked the Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 6 March 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.50 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

5th March, 2025.