



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Thirteenth 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
 - (a) All Honourable Members were present except for the Hon. Jese Saukuru and Hon. Viam Pillay.
 - (b) The Hon. Sanjay Kirpal obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for absence from the sitting of Parliament.
 - (c) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka 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 Wednesday, 12 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

The Hon. Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting of Parliament, those seated in the gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television

and the internet. Hon. Speaker also welcomed Mr Joshua Hager and his delegation, the South Texas Sojourners from Texas, USA, and Mr Andrew Young the former Clerk of Parliaments from Fiji's twin Parliament of Victoria. Mr Young is now a Consultant with UNDP and was on assignment to assist the Fijian Parliament on procedural matters.

Hon. Speaker also informed all Honourable Members on the 'International Every Girl Wins Day' which is celebrated annually on March 13. Established in 2019 by Every Girl Wins Institute to raise awareness about women's rights to freedom and equality and to highlight the importance of supporting and recognising the achievements of girls worldwide, as well as to empower them to be inspired to take up leadership roles in their communities. The Hon. Speaker also informed of the 'Thursdays in Black' which was an ongoing global movement advocating for a world free from rape, violence and gender-based discrimination. It encourages individuals to wear black every Thursday as a symbol of solidarity with survivors and a call for justice.

Hon. Speaker delivered his ruling on a point of order raised by the Hon. Jone Usamate on Friday, 7 March 2025.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Committee's consolidated review report on the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji 2011-2013 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.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Committee's consolidated review report on the Republic of Fiji Military Forces 2019-2022 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. The Hon. Speaker expressed sincere gratitude to the Chairperson and the Members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence for their outstanding dedication in completing all their committee work.

(b) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Esrom Immanuel tabled the Committee's review report on the Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji on the financial statements for the follow-up of 2018-2019 Auditor-General's Reports for High-Risk Ministries/Departments.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts 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) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna tabled the Committee's review report on the Ministry of Forestry's Annual Report for the fiscal year 2022-2023.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources 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.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna tabled the Committee's review report on the consolidated Annual Reports of the Water Authority of Fiji for the period January to July 2018 and 2018-2019.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources 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. 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.

8. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) Third Reading of the Cinematographic Films (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Attorney-General the Hon. Graham Leung moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 6 March 2025 that the Cinematographic Films (Amendment) Bill 2025 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	36
No	–	11
Not Voted	–	7
Abstained	–	1

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Cinematographic Films Act 1971, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(b) Third Reading of the Land Transport (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 6 March 2025 that the Land Transport (Amendment) Bill 2025 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Land Transport Act 1998, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(c) Third Reading of the Access to Business Funding Bill 2024

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 3 October 2024, and the Communication from the Chair on Friday, 6 December 2024, that the Access to Business Funding Bill 2024 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to facilitate access to business funding by private companies and other businesses, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(d) Third Reading of the Sugar Industry (Amendment) Bill 2024

The Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry the Hon. Charan Singh moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 5 December 2024, that the Sugar Industry (Amendment) Bill 2024, together with the amendments to the Bill raised on the floor of Parliament, be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	33
No	–	1
Not Voted	–	10
Abstention	–	11

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Sugar Industry Act 1984, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(e) Accountability and Transparency Commission Bill 2025

The Attorney-General the Hon. Graham Leung moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (i) That the Accountability and Transparency Commission Bill 2025 be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (ii) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (iii) That the Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights;
- (iv) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at the April sitting of Parliament; and
- (v) That upon presentation of the report on the Bill by the Standing Committee, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament, with the right of reply given to the Attorney-General as the member moving this motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

9. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of the Savusavu Town Council 2011–2013 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 5 December 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 14 March 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.58 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

13th March, 2025.