



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Tuesday, Eleventh 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.

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, 10 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.

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 of the Ministry of Civil Service 2021-2022 Annual Report.

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 of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji 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.

(b) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Committee's review report on the Access to Business Funding Bill 2024.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 3 October 2024, the Standing Committee has tabled its report accordingly, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 13 March 2025.

(c) 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 Sugar Industry (Amendment) Bill 2024.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 5 December 2024, the Standing Committee has tabled its report accordingly, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 13 March 2025.

(d) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report of the Nausori Town Council 2016-2018 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.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report of the Lautoka City Council 2015-2017 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.

7. SECOND READING OF THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 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 85(1), that the Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2025 be read a second time.

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 85(1), the debate at this legislative stage would primarily focus on the principles and merits of the Bill.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes cast –

Yes	–	40
No	–	14
Not Voted	–	1

Hon. Speaker informed the Honourable Members that given that the requirements under section 160(2)(b) of the Constitution and Standing Order 93 clause (1)(b) had not been satisfied, the Constitution (Amendment) Act 2025 (Bill No. 1 of 2025) was defeated and would not proceed any further.

8. 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.

9. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

- (a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua moved that Parliament debates the 'Review Report of the Reserve Bank of Fiji Insurance 2023 Annual Report' which was tabled on 3 December 2024.

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 of the Suva City Council 2016–2018 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 3 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 Wednesday, 12 March 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 10.00 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

11th March, 2025.