



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Twelfth 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. Filimoni Vosarogo and Hon. Sanjay Kirpal; and
 - (b) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Ketan Lal and Hon. Faiyaz Koya.
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, 11 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. The Hon. Speaker also welcomed the Year 12 students and teachers of International Secondary School.

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 Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption 2018-2020 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 Review Report on the Fiji National Sports Commission 2022-2023 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.

(b) 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 on the Levuka Town Council 2016 and 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.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Consolidated Review Report on the Nasinu Town Council 2011-2017 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. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) Access to Information Bill 2025

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

- (i) That the Access to Information 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 him as the member moving this motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

(b) Audit Bill 2024 (Bill No. 17 of 2024)

(i) Committee of the Whole Parliament on the Audit Bill 2024

Parliament resolved into the Committee of the Whole Parliament on a Bill for an Act to repeal the Audit Act 1969 and provide for the powers, duties and mandate of the Auditor-General, and for the audit of public accounts and public entities and related matters (Bill No. 17 of 2024).

Hon. Speaker vacated the Speaker's Chair and convened the Committee of Supply as Mr Chair.

Members debated and voted on the following –

Clause 1

Question put on Clause 1.

Clause 1 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 2

Question put on Clause 2.

Clause 2 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 3

Question put on Clause 3.

Clause 3 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 4

Question put on Clause 4.

Clause 4 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 5

Question put on Clause 5.

Clause 5 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 6

Question put on Clause 6.

Clause 6 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 7

Question put on Clause 7.

Clause 7 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 8

Question put on Clause 8.

Clause 8 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 9

Question put on Clause 9.

Clause 9 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 10

Question put on Clause 10.

Clause 10 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 11

Question put on Clause 11.

Clause 11 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 12

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Alvick Maharaj.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Clause 12.

Clause 12 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 13

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Premila Kumar.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Clause 13.

Clause 13 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 14

Question put on Clause 14.

Clause 14 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 15

Question put on Clause 15.

Clause 15 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 16

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Premila Kumar.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Clause 16.

Clause 16 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 17

Question put on Clause 17.

Clause 17 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 18

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Alvick Maharaj.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Clause 18.

Clause 18 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 19

Question put on Clause 19.

Clause 19 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 20

Question put on Clause 20.

Clause 20 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 21

Question put on Clause 21.

Clause 21 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 22

Question put on Clause 22.

Clause 22 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 23

Question put on Clause 23.

Clause 23 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 24

Amendment in the name of the Hon. Premila Kumar.

Amendment seconded.

Amendment debated.

Question put.

Amendment defeated.

Question put on Clause 24.

Clause 24 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 25

Question put on Clause 25.

Clause 25 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 26

Question put on Clause 26.

Clause 26 agreed to unanimously.

Clause 27

Question put on Clause 27.

Clause 27 agreed to unanimously.

Mr Chair informed the Honourable Members that the Committee of the Whole Parliament had concluded and then he resumed the Speaker's Chair.

The Committee of the Whole Parliament had agreed to a Bill for an Act to repeal the Audit Act 1969 and provide for the powers, duties and mandate of the Auditor-General, and for the audit of public accounts and public entities and related matters (Bill No. 17 of 2024) with amendments.

(ii) Third Reading of the Audit Bill 2024

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad moved that pursuant to Standing Order 88 that the Audit Bill 2024 (Bill No. 17 of 2024) be read a third time and do pass.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to repeal the Audit Act 1969 and provide for the powers, duties and mandate of the Auditor-General, and for the audit of public accounts and public entities and related matters, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

8. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

- (a) The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Rinesh Sharma moved that Parliament debates the 'Review Report of the Accident Compensation Commission Fiji 2022 Annual Report' which was tabled on 4 December 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Rinesh Sharma moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of the Ministry of Civil Service 2019–2021 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 4 December 2024.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Deputy Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 13 March 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.21 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

12th March, 2025.