



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Twenty-eighth day of April,  
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. Ketan Lal, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal, Hon. Parveen Bala and Hon. Pio Tikoduadua.
  - (b) The following Honourable Member obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence during the sitting of Parliament –  
  
Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka.

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 Friday, 14 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, those seated in the gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet. Hon. Speaker also welcomed the Year 10 Social Science students and teachers of Yat Sen Secondary School and the Australian High Commissioner.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the secretariat had received written responses as follows –

- (a) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka, to Written Question 270/2024 asked by the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna and Written Question 290/2024 asked by the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua;
- (b) Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, to Written Question 9/2025 asked by the Hon. Jone Usamate; and
- (c) Minister for Justice the Hon. Siromi Turaga, to Written Question 10/2025 asked by the Hon. Faiyaz Koya.

The Hon. Speaker confirmed that the responses had been conveyed to the respective Honourable Members and copies are available on the Parliament's website.

Hon. Speaker also congratulated Marist Brothers' High School and Mahatma Gandhi Memorial School for winning the 2025 Coca Cola Games.

## 6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The following reports were tabled and referred to the relevant Standing Committees –

- (a) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence
  - (i) Fiji Airports Annual Report 2022;
  - (ii) Ministry of Education, Heritage and Arts Annual Report 2021–2022;
  - (iii) Ministry of Education Annual Report 2022–2023; and
  - (iv) Fiji Police Force Annual Report August 2020–July 2021.
- (b) Standing Committee on Public Accounts
  - (i) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Audit Report on Statutory Authorities, Independent Bodies and Commissions.
- (c) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs
  - (i) Sugar Cane Growers Council Annual Report 2022.
- (d) Standing Committee on Social Affairs
  - (i) Nasinu Town Council Annual Report for the Year 2018.

## 7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.
- (b) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu responded.
- (c) The Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Alvick Maharaj responded.
- (d) The Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Hem Chand responded.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that Oral Question 17/2025 would drop from the Order Paper, as it has been addressed by the Ministerial Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica.

## 8. QUESTIONS

### **Oral Questions**

- 15/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the progress of the reconstruction of Vatuwaqa Primary School which was destroyed by fire in December 2022.
- 16/2025 Hon. Lynda Tabuya asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the Cooperation Agreement with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) on Fiji Enabling Investment Environment programme.
- 17/2025 Hon. Faiyaz Koya to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on the net, direct and indirect effect of the US tariff announcements made by the Trump administration with respect to Fiji's trade prospects.
- 18/2025 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of discussion for the Fiji and China TVET support programme.

- 19/2025 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the condition of roads from Savusavu to Labasa.
- 20/2025 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the \$300 million grant for the Vanua Levu Road projects.
- 21/2025 Hon. Rinesh Sharma asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on why the Fiji Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Services continues to procure normal saline on a monthly basis, despite the Ministry of Health stating that there is no shortage of IV fluid.
- 22/2025 Hon. Sachida Nand asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on Fiji’s compliance status with the ICAO Security Audit 2023.
- 23/2025 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on the strategies and initiatives Tourism Fiji is implementing to tap into the growing tourism market from India.
- 24/2025 Hon. Shalen Kumar to ask the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on recent and ongoing capacity building programmes undertaken by the Ministry for the upskilling of MSMEs.

### **Written Questions**

- 25/2025 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Education – With the \$5.9 million allocation in the current budget for hardship assistance under TSLS, can the Minister inform Parliament on the number of students who have benefited from this assistance and how much of the allocation has been utilised to date.
- 26/2025 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Agriculture and Waterways – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –
- (a) how many projects will be undertaken by the Ministry of Waterways in the current financial year;
  - (b) how many projects are funded locally and those by donor agencies per Division; and
  - (c) what are the current updates of each project.
- 27/2025 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the detailed breakdown of the redeployment of funds amounting to

FJ\$28,087,026 within the 2024-2025 budget, including the following information –

- (a) the project name, responsible Ministry, Head Number, Programme, Activity, and SEG number from which the funds were sourced, as outlined in the 2024-2025 Budget Estimates; and
- (b) whether the funds redeployed are due to cost overruns, and if so, a detailed explanation for the additional costs.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that Oral Question 17/2025 would drop from the Order Paper as it has been earlier addressed by the Ministerial Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Co-operatives, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Communications the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica. Oral Question 24/2025 lapsed pursuant to Standing Order 45(6).

The responses to Written Questions 25/2025 and 26/2025 were tabled by the respective Ministers. The response to Written Question 27/2025 would be tabled at a later sitting date in accordance with Standing Order 45(3).

## 9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

### (a) FIRST READING OF THE WORK CARE BILL 2025 (BILL NO. 7 OF 2025)

The Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations the Hon. Agni Singh moved pursuant to Standing Order 84, that the Work Care Bill 2025 be read a first time. The motion was subsequently seconded.

The Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations tabled the four copies of the Work Care Bill 2025.

A Bill for an Act to establish the work care fund and provide for compensation benefits for injured workers and pupils, and for related matters (Bill No. 7 of 2025).

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 84(1), the Work Care Bill 2025 had been read for the first time and the Work Care Bill 2025 would be listed on the Order Paper for Second Reading on a future sitting day.

The Hon. Speaker reminded Honourable Members to utilise the time to peruse the Bill and prepare for debate which would primarily focus on the principles and merits of the Bill.

### (b) FIRST READING OF THE ACCIDENT COMPENSATION (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025 (BILL NO. 8 OF 2025)

The Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations the Hon. Agni Singh moved pursuant to Standing Order 84, that the Accident Compensation

(Amendment) Bill 2025 be read a first time. The motion was subsequently seconded.

The Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations tabled the four copies of the Accident Compensation (Amendment) Bill 2025.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Accident Compensation Act 2017 (Bill No. 8 of 2025).

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 84(1), the Accident Compensation (Amendment) Bill 2025 had been read for the first time and the Accident Compensation (Amendment) Bill 2025 would be listed on the Order Paper for Second Reading on a future sitting day.

The Hon. Speaker reminded Honourable Members to utilise the time to peruse the Bill and prepare for debate which would primarily focus on the principles and merits of the Bill.

10. 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.

11. 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 Ministry of Civil Service 2021–2022 Annual Report' which was tabled on 11 March 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (b) 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 Parliament of the Republic of Fiji 2019–2020 and 2020–2022 Annual Reports’ which was tabled on 11 March 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu moved that Parliament debates the ‘Consolidated Review Report of the Nausori Town Council 2016–2018 Annual Reports’ which was tabled on 11 March 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Tuesday, 29 April 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.24 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

28<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.