



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Sixth day of August, 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) The Hon. Jese Saukuru was absent.
 - (b) The Hon. Aliko Bia, Hon. Viliame Gavoka and Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua conveyed their apologies to the Hon. Speaker for being unable to attend the sitting of Parliament.
 - (c) The Hon. Viliame Naupoto, Hon. Ketan Lal, Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu and Hon. Shalen Kumar obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament.

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, 5 August 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. He also welcomed the Fiji Sunshine Volunteer Group from the USA and Australia, who are currently based in Sote, Vugalei, Tailevu.

Hon. Speaker paid tribute to the late Hon. Vijendra Prakash.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that following the elevation of the Hon. Lynda Tabuya and Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna to substantive Ministers, and in compliance with Standing Order 41(1), Oral Question 114/2025, listed on Thursday's Order Paper and Oral Question 122/2025, listed on Friday's Order Paper, would now be asked by Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu and Hon. Taito Rokomatu respectively.

Hon. Speaker further informed that the back-to-office report for the Sixth World Conference of Speakers, which was held last week in Geneva, Switzerland was now available in the Library for perusal and reference.

Hon. Speaker also provided a clarification on the point of order raised by the Hon. Jone Usamate in relation to the Ministerial Statement which was purportedly submitted by the Minister for Justice, and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- (a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Reserve Bank of Fiji's Annual Reports for the past three financial years 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic 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.

- (b) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Investment Fiji Annual Report for the financial year 2020-2021.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic 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. 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 Environment and Climate Change the Hon. Mosese Bulitavu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Alvick Maharaj responded.
- (c) The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal responded.
- (d) The Minister for Information the Hon. Lynda Tabuya delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 96/2025 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the plans by the FSC to diverge into ethanol production as previously announced.
- 97/2025 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the key initiatives planned to strengthen the Fiji-Solomon Islands cooperation in trade, security and climate resilience.
- 99/2025 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Policing – Can the Minister update Parliament on Fiji’s collaboration with France in strengthening efforts against drug trafficking and transnational crime.
- 100/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Policing – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the proactive steps being undertaken by the Police to prevent a recurrence of incidents such as the recent religious sacrilege in Samabula.
- 101/2025 Hon. Penioni Ravunawa asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Strategic Master Planning for Viti Levu and Concept Master Planning for Greater Suva, Nadi and Lautoka.
- 102/2025 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on what level of digitisation has the Ministry undertaken with respect to digitising all Department of Town and Country Planning records.

- 103/2025 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the construction of rural roads for farmers under the Rural and Outer Island Project in the 2024-2025 financial year.
- 104/2025 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the progress of the review of the entire Civil Service structure and emoluments.
- 105/2025 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu asked the Minister for Immigration – Can the Minister update Parliament on Fiji's ongoing efforts and commitments to refugee protection and the significance of the recent signing of the RSD Standard Operating Procedures.

Written Questions

- 106/2025 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament on the yearly fuel subsidies paid to the bus industry from 2023 to date.
- 107/2025 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs, and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister provide Parliament a list of any externally funded or donor-supported programmes currently administered by the Ministry and their respective implementation statuses.
- 108/2025 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister provide Parliament an analytical data on the digital marketing campaigns executed by Tourism Fiji, including website traffic, social media reach, and lead conversions over the past 12 months.
- 109/2025 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the number and nature of consultative meetings, provincial engagements, or awareness campaigns conducted by the Ministry between November 2024 and July 2025.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The response to Written Question 106/2025 would be submitted by the respective Minister in accordance with Standing Order 45(3). The responses to Written Questions 107/2025, 108/2025 and 109/2025 were tabled by the respective Ministers.

9. 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.

10. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Minister for Justice, and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siroimi Turaga moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (a) That the Trademarks (Amendment) Bill 2025 be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (b) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (c) That the Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence;
- (d) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at the September-October sitting of Parliament; and
- (e) That upon presentation of the report on the Bill by the Standing Committee, the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament, but that **1 hour** be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to him as the member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. 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 'Consolidated Review Report of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Annual Reports' which was tabled on 29 April 2025.

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 'Review Report of the Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji 2023 Annual Report' which was tabled on 30 April 2025.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources the Hon. Kalaveti Ravu moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report of the Ministry of Fisheries Annual Reports 2021-2022 and 2022-2023' which was tabled on 1 May 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 Thursday, 7 August 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.34 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

6th August, 2025.