



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

---

## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Seventh day of November, 2025

1. The House met at 9.30 a.m. pursuant to adjournment.
2. Hon. Deputy Speaker took the Chair and read the Prayer.
3. ATTENDANCE
  - (a) The Hon. Ketan Lal and Hon. Penioni Ravunawa were absent.
  - (b) The Hon. Faiyaz Koya obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence 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 Thursday, 6 November 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. Deputy Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members as well as those seated in the gallery, and those watching the proceedings through television and online platforms. Hon. Deputy Speaker also welcomed the Year 3 students, teachers and parents of Nausori Primary School.

## **Request For Extension – Special Committee on the Sugar Industry**

Hon. Deputy Speaker informed all Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on 18 July 2025, the Special Committee on the Sugar Industry was to have reported back to Parliament at the November sitting. She further confirmed that the office of the Speaker had received a request for extension of time to allow the Special Committee to complete its mandated work before report back to Parliament at a later sitting. There were no objections, and the Hon. Deputy Speaker informed that the request from the Special Committee on the Sugar Industry was approved and the Special Committee shall report back at a later sitting of Parliament.

## **Standing Committee Membership – Public Accounts**

The Hon. Deputy Speaker informed all Honourable Members that in light of recent developments within Cabinet during the sitting week, it had become necessary for the office of the Speaker to review the membership of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to ensure compliance with Standing Order 114(2). The office of the Speaker had now received confirmation from the Hon. Government Whip, that the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica would replace the Hon. Esrom Immanuel on the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, taking effect on Monday, 10 November 2025.

## 6. **QUESTIONS**

### **Oral Questions**

- 195/2025 Hon. Hem Chand to ask the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the plans to have online renewal of teacher registration so teachers serving in rural and maritime schools do not have to travel to Suva to renew their registration.
- 243/2025 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the new measures being implemented by the Fiji Sugar Corporation to enhance the fire prevention system, operational contingency planning, and disaster resilience infrastructure in all the sugar mills.
- 244/2025 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Environment and Climate Change – Can the Minister update Parliament on Fiji's National Priorities ahead of COP 30.
- 245/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament on whether the Ministry will reconsider the 'Family Care Leave' and 'Paternity Leave' that were removed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 246/2025 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua to ask the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister update Parliament on plans to address the projected increase in disability due to non-communicable diseases, including strategic targeting of the \$40.7m allocation for the year 2025-2026.
- 247/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on what plans does Government have to complete the road to Drue in Kadavu.
- 248/2025 Hon. Aliko Bia asked the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the status of pending applications for the appointment of Justices of the Peace.
- 249/2025 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament why the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service continued to collect VAT from meat suppliers when, under section 2 of the Value Added Tax Act 1991, meat suppliers qualified as ‘produce suppliers’ were exempt from VAT until the amendment on 1 August 2025.
- 250/2025 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament on the recent Pacific Regional Tripartite Employment Conference held in Nadi in September 2025.
- 251/2025 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the current legal and land rights disputes between the Government, the landowners, and the companies interested in restarting mining operations in relation to the Mt Kasi exploration project.

### **Written Question**

- 252/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the criteria used to allocate Government grants to higher education institutions.

The Hon. Deputy Speaker informed Honourable Members that Oral Questions 195/2025 and 246/2025 were withdrawn. The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The response to the Written Question was tabled by the respective Minister. The Hon. Deputy Speaker also informed Honourable Members that the response to Written Question 204/2025 which had been asked by the Hon. Premila Kumar, had been received from the Hon. Prime Minister.

7. END OF WEEK STATEMENTS

- (a) Hon. Faiyaz Koya delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister Finance, Commerce and Business Development the Hon. Esrom Immanuel responded.
- (b) Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna delivered his End of Week Statement and the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka responded.
- (c) Hon. Alvick Maharaj delivered his End of Week Statement and the Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau responded.
- (d) Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure delivered his End of Week Statement and the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga responded.

8. SUSPENSION MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved under 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. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) First Reading of the Education Bill 2025 (Bill No. 34 of 2025)

The Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro moved pursuant to Standing Order 84, that the Education Bill 2025 be read a first time. The motion was subsequently seconded.

The Minister for Education tabled the four copies of the Education Bill 2025.

A Bill for an Act to give effect to the constitutional right to education, to establish the education advisory council, to establish the national curriculum and assessment authority, to provide for the recognition and registration of schools, to provide for early childhood education, primary education, secondary education and technical and vocational education and training, to provide for special and inclusive education, to establish the Fiji Teachers Registration Authority and continue the Fiji Teachers Registration Board, to provide for the registration of teachers, to

continue the higher education commission, to provide for the registration of higher education institutions, to provide for higher education, and for related matters (Bill No. 34 of 2025).

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 84(1), the Education Bill 2025 had been read for the first time and the Education 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) Third Reading of the Adoption (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 6 November 2025, that the Adoption (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 Adoption Act 2020, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(c) Forestry Bill 2025

The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (a) That the Forestry 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 Justice, Law and Human Rights;
- (d) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at the next 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, with the right of reply given to her as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament adjourns until Monday, 24 November 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions throughout the week and all those watching the live proceedings.

The Hon. Speaker adjourned Parliament until Monday, 24 November 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 3.27 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

7<sup>th</sup> November, 2025.