



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, Twenty-fourth day of November, 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 following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for absence from Parliament –  
  
Hon Alitia Bainivalu, Hon. Premila Kumar and Hon. Sanjay Kirpal.
  - (b) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament –  
  
Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka, Hon. Ketan Lal and Hon. Charan Singh.
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, 7 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. Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting, as well as those seated in the gallery, and those following the proceedings through television and online platforms.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there was formal notification from the Opposition Whip the Hon. Jone Usamate that the Hon. Hem Chand had been appointed as the Deputy Whip of the Opposition, effective from 2 June 2025.

Hon. Speaker also advised that he had received a letter from the Chairperson of the Council of Pacific Polytech. He advised that he had written to the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs and once a response was received, he would undertake a thorough assessment of the matter in its entirety before determining a ruling.

6. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

(a) The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Alvick Maharaj responded.

7. QUESTIONS

**Oral Questions**

253/2025 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Policing and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether he will consider establishing an online complaints portal and a dedicated telephone line to enable members of the public to directly lodge complaints against Police Officers.

254/2025 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on Fiji's participation at the LAGI 2025 Fiji Exhibition and how this initiative supports Fiji's efforts toward climate resilience and sustainable tourism development.

255/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the monitoring mechanism put in place by the Ministry to ensure schools do not levy parents and students for enrolment.

256/2025 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the diagnostic study of the Energy Sector including the status, outcomes and way forward.

257/2025 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau asked the Minister for Agriculture – Can the Minister inform Parliament when will farmers from the maritime areas be allowed to take livestock to the islands.

- 258/2025 Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress made in the development and implementation of the Social Protection Management Information System (SP-MIS) and the Integrated Beneficiary Management System (IBMS) in improving the efficiency and delivery of Fiji’s social protection programmes.
- 259/2025 Hon. Rinesh Sharma asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on what long-term strategies are in place to address land lease expiration issues affecting many sugarcane farmers.
- 260/2025 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the survey of unsurveyed *Mataqali* land around Fiji that is being conducted by the Native Land and Fisheries Commission.
- 261/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister update Parliament on why the age limit for those receiving bus fare assistance increased from 60 to 65 years old.
- 262/2025 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the positive impact of the Rural Housing Programme to the rural and maritime communities since its reinstatement in 2023.

### **Written Questions**

- 263/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the number of Primary and Secondary School Heads who are acting in the position and for how long.
- 264/2025 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –
- (a) how many ice plants are stationed in the rural and maritime regions, per Division; and
  - (b) are there plans to install more ice plants and in which areas or location.
- 265/2025 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Policing and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament how many Police Officers, from 1 January 2023 to 30 October 2025, have been –
- (a) terminated from employment; and
  - (b) demoted in rank.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The response to Written Question 264/2025 would be tabled at a later sitting date. The response to Written Questions 263/2025 and 265/2025 were tabled by the respective Ministers.

8. First Reading of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill 2025 (Bill No. 37 of 2025)

The Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Culture, Heritage and Arts the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu moved pursuant to Standing Order 84, that the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill 2025 be read a first time. The motion was subsequently seconded.

The Minister for iTaukei Affairs, Culture, Heritage and Arts tabled the four copies of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill 2025.

A Bill for an Act to provide for the recognition, protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous people, to give effect to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and for related matters (Bill No. 37 of 2025).

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 84(1), the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill 2025 had been read for the first time and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill 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.

9. MOTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 130

The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved that the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence review the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979.

Motion seconded.

The Hon. Speaker confirmed that he had received copies of the treaty and written analysis as required by Standing Order 130(2). Pursuant to Standing Order 130(3), the treaty was referred without debate, to the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence. The Committee may table a report to Parliament no later than 30 days.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Tuesday, 25 November 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 12.33 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

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