



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Sixth 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 Hon. Ketan Lal obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for absence from Parliament.
  - (b) The Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka 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 Wednesday, 5 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 as well as those seated in the gallery, and those watching the proceedings through television and online platforms.

## 6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### (a) Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Ratu Rakuira Vakalalabure tabled the Committee's Review Report on the 2022 General Elections Joint Report by the Electoral Commission and Supervisor of Elections.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights 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 Public Accounts

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Jovesa Vocea tabled the Committee's Consolidated Review Report on the Auditor-General's 2019-2020, 2021-2022, and 2023 Audit Reports on Statutory Authorities, Independent Bodies and Commissions.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts 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 Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.

(b) The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran delivered her first Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal responded.

(c) The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran delivered her second Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Hem Chand responded.

(d) The Minister for Agriculture the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu responded.

## 8. QUESTIONS

### **Oral Questions**

230/2025 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the strategies that the Government has implemented to improve overall productivity in the public sector.

- 231/2025 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Civil Service and Public Enterprises – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament on the Pacific Islands Transformation Project and how it can accelerate Trade in the Pacific Project.
- 232/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament how the Higher Education Commission Fiji monitors the higher education institutions to ensure that the required teaching hours for all the courses are fulfilled as prescribed in the course description.
- 233/2025 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Native Grant 2 (NG2) piece of land in Nadarivatu that will finally return to its rightful owners, Mataqali Nadala, Yavusa Nubu.
- 234/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether Government has any plans to develop a compensation scheme for the loss of life in boating accidents, similar to those provided for under the Accident Compensation Act 2017.
- 235/2025 Hon. Shalen Kumar to ask the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on how communities in peri-urban and rural areas will benefit from improvements and upgrades of key bridges and water supply from budgetary allocation of this current financial year.
- 236/2025 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament what percentage of Fletcher Construction does FNPF own.
- 237/2025 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the alternative training methods currently being undertaken to support co-operatives.
- 238/2025 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Policing and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament on steps taken by the Government to improve mobile phone connectivity and network coverage in Taveuni, particularly in areas where residents currently experience little to no service.
- 239/2025 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Minister for Environment and Climate Change – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Pacific Resilience Facility.

## Written Questions

- 240/2025 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the specific types of financial assistance and non-monetary support provided, to date, to affected farmers with respect to the following –
- (a) cane cutters, lorry owners, drivers, and co-operatives who have lost income; and
  - (b) incurred additional costs due to the disruption caused by the Rarawai Mill fire.
- 241/2025 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –
- (a) number of projects carried out under the Rural Outer Island Programme for the period January 2023 to June 2025; and
  - (b) number of projects under construction under the Rural Outer Island Programme to date.
- 242/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the number of teachers who were assaulted by parents/guardians or by students in the school premises in the last three years (2023-2025).

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that Oral Question 235/2025 had dropped from the Order Paper as it had been addressed through the Ministerial Statement by the Hon. Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport. The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The responses to the Written Questions were tabled by the respective Ministers.

The Hon. Speaker also informed Honourable Members that Oral Questions 234/2025, 237/2025 and 238/2025 were redirected accordingly.

## 9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

### (a) Third Reading of the Fisheries (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 5 November 2025, that the Fisheries (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 Fisheries Act 1941, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(b) Adoption (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (a) That the Adoption (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 not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committee of Parliament;
- (d) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Friday, 7 November 2025, but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, 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 Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 7 November 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.34 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

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