



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Twenty-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 following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for absence from Parliament –

Hon. Charan Singh, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu and Hon. Premila Kumar.
 - (b) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) from Parliament –

Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu and Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva.
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, 25 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. The Hon. Speaker also welcomed the students, teachers and parents from Shantiniketan Pathshala in Naitasiri and the Bua athletics team from the various *Tikinas* in Bua.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no Committee reports for tabling.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development the Hon. Esrom Immanuel 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 Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 279/2025 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether Government is considering the recruitment of legal drafters to assist in fast-tracking the drafting of Bills.
- 280/2025 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Minister for Environment and Climate Change – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Letter of Agreement on Sustainable Waste Actions in the Pacific Project Phase 2.
- 281/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the Ministry’s plans to ensure that students and teachers in remote or disadvantaged areas have equal access to teaching and learning resources.

- 282/2025 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Fisheries and Forestry – Can the Minister inform Parliament if the Ministry has plans to evaluate and provide inventory for all woodlots that have potential and are suitable for logging purposes.
- 283/2025 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament of the reasons why TELS recipients are now facing an increase in the amount owed compared to what they initially signed-off on.
- 284/2025 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the status of the Na Vualiku Tourism Development Programme for Vanua Levu, including its readiness for implementation and any key components planned for the near future.
- 285/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Information – Can the Minister inform Parliament on what steps the Ministry is taking to modernise its information system and strengthening digital platforms so that citizens can easily access Government updates and services in a timely manner.
- 286/2025 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on Fiji’s participation in the Disaster Relief Assistance in the Region since January 2023.
- 287/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General – Given the increasing incidence of drugs in Fiji, what changes is Government considering on penalties for drug offenses.
- 288/2025 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the review of the FNPF Act and Special Death Benefit Regulations.
- 303/2025 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Youth and Sports – Can the Minister inform Parliament if there are plans to host a leg of HSBC IRB Sevens Tournament in Fiji next year.

Written Questions

- 289/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the number of cheating and malpractice cases in external examinations in the last three years (2022, 2023 and 2024).

- 290/2025 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the following –
- (a) how many District Advisory Councillors are there and their location per Division; and
 - (b) what is their prescribed allowances.
- 291/2025 Hon. Inia Seruiratu asked the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General – Can the Minister update Parliament with respect to the following –
- (a) the total number of unresolved complaints currently before the Legal Practitioners Unit (LPU), together with a breakdown by the year in which each complaint was received; and
 - (b) a breakdown of the number of pending cases before the Independent Legal Services Commission (ILSC) as of 30 October 2025.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The response to Written Questions 289/2025, 290/2025 and 291/2025 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

(a) Second Reading of the Education Bill 2025

The Minister for Education the Hon. Aseri Radrodro moved pursuant to Standing Order 85(1) that the Education Bill 2025 be read a second time.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

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).

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 85(4), the Bill had been read for the second time. Pursuant to Standing Order 85(4)(a), the Bill was being referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights. The Hon. Speaker further informed that whilst Standing Order 121(1)(a) ordinarily required the Committee to report back within 30 days, in this instance, the Committee would instead report back next year.

(b) Environment Management (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change the Hon. Mosese Bulitavu moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (a) That the Environment Management (Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 39 of 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; and
- (d) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Monday, 1 December 2025, 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. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 27 November 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 5.05 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

26th November, 2025.