



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Monday, First day of December, 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. Kalaveti Ravu, 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. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Dr. Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo, Hon. Jese Saukuru, Hon. Esrom Immanuel, Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Sachida Nand, Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu, Hon. Jone Usamate, Hon. Hem Chand, Hon. Viam Pillay, Joseph Nand, Hon. Ketan Lal and Hon. Rinesh Sharma.
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, 28 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 also welcomed two members from the Fijian Association of Canada namely Mr Sam Basra, the President of the Association, and Mr Jeff Lal, the Association's Head of Commerce and Investment, and students, teachers and parents of Nawaqavesi Primary School and Nawaqavesi Kindergarten from Rakiraki in Ra.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Credit Union Bill 2025 (Bill No. 29 of 2025).

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 7 August 2025 and the Communication from the Chair on Monday, 29 September 2025, the Standing Committee has now tabled its report, and the Bill will be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 4 December 2025.

(b) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

- (i). The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Trademarks (Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 28 of 2025).

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 6 August 2025 and the Communication from the Chair on Wednesday, 1 October 2025, the Standing Committee has now tabled its report, and the Bill will be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 4 December 2025.

- (ii). The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Committee's Review Report of the Protocol Relating to an Amendment to Article 50(a) of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, and the Protocol Relating to an Amendment to Article 56 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that pursuant to Standing Order 121 clause (1)(b) and Standing Order 130 clause (4)(a), the Standing Committee has now reported back.

7. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 298/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the Call for Tender for the construction of a sugar mill in Rakiraki.
- 305/2025 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on how the FSC will honour its export quota as per the deadline and ensure timely payment to farmers.
- 312/2025 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Environment and Climate Change – Can the Minister update Parliament on the ‘Revitalising Ecosystems for Sustainable Agriculture and Resilience in Fiji Project’.
- 313/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry’s plans to ensure all schools have the required teaching and learning resources when schools re-open in January 2026.
- 314/2025 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Fiji Resilient Informal Settlements Programme and its planned activities to mitigate climate change impacts and reduce disaster risks in vulnerable communities.
- 315/2025 Hon. Joseph Nand asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament if any evaluation of the Private Public Partnership (PPP) Scheme has been undertaken.
- 316/2025 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Minister for Agriculture – Can the Minister update Parliament on the development of the Livestock Industry in Fiji.
- 317/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on how far has Government moved in terms of having new hospitals in Suva.
- 318/2025 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on Fiji’s first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Credit Assessment Pilot Project for Unsecured Lending.
- 319/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the requests for bus shelters in the Western Division, particularly in Nasikawa Vision College.

- 320/2025 Hon. Sachida Nand asked the Minister for Policing and Communications – Can the Minister inform Parliament on how Fiji has leveraged its ratification of the UN Cybercrime Convention to improve national cybersecurity and attract international technical assistance.
- 321/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Youth and Sports – Can the Minister inform Parliament if the re-development project of the King Charles Park in Nadi is going ahead.
- 322/2025 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Minister for Agriculture – Can the Minister inform Parliament which Agricultural Programmes implemented since 2023 have helped increase crop yields and productivity for smallholder farmers.
- 323/2025 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the Ministry’s plan to revise the school curriculum to include digital literacy, financial management and entrepreneurship training aligned with Gen Z’s modern career needs.
- 324/2025 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the ‘Bright Journey’ initiative that has benefitted Fijians from cataract surgeries.
- 325/2025 Hon. Rinesh Sharma asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the long-term solutions to improve the logistics of transporting sugarcane to the mill for crushing.
- 326/2025 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on how the Ministry’s Marine Research Vessel RV Yau Dikevi will be utilised to support the strategic goals and operational needs of the Ministry.
- 327/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament what measures are in place to address complaints against licensed surveyors who accept payment but fail to complete the contracted work.
- 328/2025 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu asked the Minister for Agriculture – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of pending requests for the construction of sea walls.
- 329/2025 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the measures in place to address the issue of scattered vessels at the Suva Harbour, particularly during the current cyclone season.

- 330/2025 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development– Can the Minister update Parliament on how the Ministry is supporting the outsourcing of the industry’s growth to promote the adoption of global data protection standards like ISO 27001 to secure business opportunities from Australia and New Zealand.
- 331/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the plans to enlarge the Valelevu Health Centre.
- 332/2025 Hon. Taito Rokomatu asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on what mechanisms and processes are in place to ensure there is no misuse of leased State Land or property.
- 357/2025 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Ministry’s strategic plans to attract the younger generation to sugarcane farming to ensure long-term sustainability of the sugar industry.
- 358/2025 Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva asked the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the activities in relation to the UNCDF initiative on Parametric Insurance.
- 359/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the MOU with the Rakiraki Chamber of Commerce in constructing a new mortuary in Ra Divisional Hospital.
- 360/2025 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on Fiji’s partnership with India through the ITEC Programme, particularly regarding the Suva Super Specialty Hospital.
- 361/2025 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on key national infrastructure projects currently facing delays, and what is the long-term maintenance plan to mitigate the recurring severe damage to our road network.
- 362/2025 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Fire Victims Assistance Programme.
- 363/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate to ask the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on Government’s plans to boost the economy of Levuka given its world heritage status.

- 364/2025 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the measures undertaken by the Ministry to address the growing demand for State Land in Fiji, particularly in light of its limited availability.
- 365/2025 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Minister for Youth and Sports – Can the Minister inform Parliament on what formal mechanism is the Government establishing to ensure direct consultation and collaboration with Gen Z’s representatives regarding national policy and legislative development.
- 366/2025 Hon. Aliko Bia asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister update Parliament what the Ministry is doing to address cases of sexual abuse of children.

Written Questions

- 333/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Agriculture – Can the Minister inform Parliament how much has been allocated to fight the termite infestation and how many households received the funds in each of the past 3 years.
- 334/2025 Hon. Inosi Kuridrani asked the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister inform Parliament how many Chiefly positions/titles are still yet to be registered in each province in Fiji.
- 302/2025 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament with respect to the following –
- (a) sugar production for the last 5 years per tonne;
 - (b) export price per tonne for the last 5 years; and
 - (c) amount topped up by Government to meet the payment to farmers per tonne for the last 5 years.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the following Oral Questions 318, 330 and 358 of 2025 were moved forward for responses. Oral Questions 363 of 2025 was deferred to Wednesday. The response to Written Question 333/2025, 334/2025 and 302/2025 were tabled by the respective Ministers.

8. 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.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) Third Reading of the Environment Management (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Minister for Environment and Climate Change the Hon. Mosese Bulitavu moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 26 November 2025, that the Environment Management (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 Environment Management Act 2005, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(b) Third Reading of the Forestry Bill 2025

The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Friday, 7 November 2025, that the Forestry 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 provide for the planned management and conservation of Fiji's forests and to foster the development of Fiji's forest industry in alignment with national policy, respect for traditional landowner rights, and the preservation of ecological integrity through sustainable resource

management and compliance with environmental laws and international best practice and other related matters, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(c) Criminal Records Bill 2025 (Bill No. 41 of 2025)

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

- (i) That the Criminal Records Bill 2025 (Bill No. 41 of 2025) be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (ii) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (iii) That the Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights;
- (iv) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill at a Sitting of Parliament next year; and
- (v) 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 him as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

(d) Commercial Use of Marine Areas Bill 2025 (Bill No. 42 of 2025)

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation the Hon. Viliame Gavoka moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (i) That the Commercial Use of Marine Areas Bill 2025 (Bill No. 42 of 2025) be considered by Parliament without delay;
- (ii) That the Bill must pass through one stage at a single sitting of Parliament;
- (iii) That the Bill must be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights;
- (iv) That the Standing Committee must report on the Bill in the first quarter of next year; and
- (v) 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 him 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 Tuesday, 2 December 2025 at 2.30 p.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.59 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

1st December, 2025.