



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

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

Hon. Premila Kumar, Hon. Viliame Gavoka, Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad and Hon. Sanjay Kirpal.
 - (b) The following Honourable Members were absent –

Hon. Kalaveti Ravu.
 - (c) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Deputy Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna, Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo, Hon. Siromi Turaga, Hon. Aliko Bia, Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu, Hon. Ketan Lal, Hon. Ioane Naivalurua 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 Tuesday, 2 December 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 to the sitting, as well as those seated in the gallery, and those following the proceedings through television and online platforms.

6. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Burial and Cremation Bill 2025 (Bill No. 30 of 2025).

The Hon. Deputy Speaker informed Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 2 October 2025, the Standing Committee has now tabled its report, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 4 December 2025.

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights the Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Quarantine Bill 2025 (Bill No. 31 of 2025).

The Hon. Deputy Speaker informed Honourable Members that pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 2 October 2025, the Standing Committee has now tabled its report, and the Bill would be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 4 December 2025.

(b) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

- (i) The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Rinesh Sharma tabled the Committee's Review Report on the 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) Annual Reports.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence 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.

- (ii) The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Rinesh Sharma tabled the Committee's Review Report on the 2022-2023 Fiji Revenue and Customs Service Annual Report.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence 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 Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal responded.
- (b) The Minister for Environment and Climate Change the Hon. Mosese Bulitavu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate responded.
- (c) The Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development the Hon. Esrom Immanuel delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Alvick Maharaj responded.
- (d) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau responded.
- (e) The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.
- (f) The Minister for Agriculture the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Joseph Nand responded.
- (g) The Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs the Hon. Pio Tikoduadua delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 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.
- 335/2025 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament whether allowances, including acting allowances for teachers and non-teaching staff, are paid in a timely manner.
- 336/2025 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Immigration – Can the Minister inform Parliament on any specific improvements in visa and work permit processing times resulting from the immigration policy changes implemented over the past year.
- 337/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament if there are plans for the development of the water treatment plant in Nalawa, Ra to ease water problems along Navesau Secondary School to Madhuvani in Ra.
- 339/2025 Hon. Alvick Maharaj asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the current national average wait time for specialist appointments and the Ministry’s funded plan to recruit sufficient specialist medical practitioners over the next 12 months.
- 340/2025 Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu to ask the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister update Parliament of the outcomes of the 2025 MSME Conference and how this will shape Government support towards the growth of MSME’s in the coming years.
- 341/2025 Hon. Rinesh Sharma asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the number of body cameras being introduced for LTA officers.
- 342/2025 Hon. Penioni Ravunawa asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the recent e-plan lodgment system and how it would contribute to Fiji’s infrastructure and land development.

- 343/2025 Hon. Jone Usamate to ask the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister update Parliament on when will the FRA complete works at the Ellington Wharf.
- 344/2025 Hon. Alipate Tuicolo to ask the Minister for Policing and Communications – Can the Minister update Parliament on the MOU signed between the Australian Federal Police and the Fiji Police Force to upgrade Police Stations in Fiji.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Deputy Speaker informed that Oral Questions 363/2025, 340/2025 and 343/2025 had dropped as they had been addressed earlier. The Hon. Deputy Speaker further informed that Oral Question 344/2025 was withdrawn.

9. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) Registration of Skilled Professionals (Repeal) Bill 2025

The Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Civil Service and Public Enterprises the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (i) That the Registration of Skilled Professionals (Repeal) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 44 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 not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committee of Parliament; and
- (iv) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 4 December 2025, but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to the Hon. Prime Minister as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	29
No	–	10
Not Voted	–	16

Motion agreed to.

(b) Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (i) That the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 43 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 not be referred to a Standing Committee or other Committee of Parliament; and
- (iv) That the Bill must be debated and voted upon by Parliament on Thursday, 4 December 2025, but that 1 hour be given to debate the Bill, with the right of reply given to the Hon. Minister as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

(c) Mahogany Bill 2025

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

- (i) That the Mahogany Bill 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 the Hon. Minister as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Deputy Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Thursday, 4 December 2025 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 4.22 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

3rd December, 2025.