



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Friday, Thirteenth day of March, 2026

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. Ioane Naivalurua, Hon. Premila Kumar, Hon. Vijay Nath, Hon. Viliame Gavoka, Hon. Esrom Immanuel, Hon. Faiyaz Koya, Hon. Parveen Bala and Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu.
 - (b) The Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence from 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 Thursday, 12th March 2026, as previously circulated be taken as read and be confirmed.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Hon. Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting of Parliament. He also welcomed those in the gallery and those watching the proceedings on television and the internet.

Hon. Speaker informed all Honourable Members that he had received a notification of withdrawal for the motion in item 9 in the name of the Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General. The Hon. Speaker confirmed that the motion had been withdrawn.

6. RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON THE MOTION BY THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

Parliament resumed debate on the motion that the Parliament thanks His Excellency the President for his most gracious speech.

Debate ensued with the right of reply from the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

7. MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 97

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved, pursuant to Standing Order 97, that the following Bills be restored to the Order Paper –

- (a) Code of Conduct Bill (Bill No. 4 of 2025);
- (b) Access to Information Bill (Bill No. 5 of 2025);
- (c) Accountability and Transparency Commission Bill (Bill No. 6 of 2025);
- (d) Work Care Bill (Bill No. 7 of 2025);
- (e) Accident Compensation (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 8 of 2025);
- (f) Employment Relations (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 27 of 2025);
- (g) Fiji Learning Institute for Public Service Bill (Bill No. 32 of 2025);
- (h) Education Bill (Bill No. 34 of 2025);
- (i) Personal Insolvency, Financial Rehabilitation and Entrepreneurial Rescue Bill (Bill No. 40 of 2025);
- (j) Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill (Bill No. 37 of 2025);
- (k) Criminal Records Bill (Bill No. 41 of 2025);
- (l) Commercial Use of Marine Areas Bill (Bill No. 42 of 2025);
- (m) Mahogany Bill (Bill No. 45 of 2025); and
- (n) National Referendum Bill (Bill No. 46 of 2025).

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

8. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The following reports were tabled and referred to the relevant Standing Committees –

(a) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- (i) Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission – Annual Report 2023-2024;
- (ii) Fiji Revenue and Customs Service – Annual Report 2023-2024;
- (iii) Assets Fiji Pte Limited – Annual Report 2020;
- (iv) Assets Fiji Pte Limited – Annual Report 2021;
- (v) Assets Fiji Pte Limited – Annual Report 2022; and
- (vi) Fiji Sugar Corporation – Annual Report 2025.

(b) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- (i) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – 2024 Financial Statements of Government; and
- (ii) Report of the Auditor-General of the Republic of Fiji – Remaining 2024 Audit Report Social Services Sector and Economic Sector.

(c) Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence

- (i) Office of the Prime Minister and Fijian Immigration Department – Annual Report 2022-2023;
- (ii) Electoral Commission – Annual Report 2023;
- (iii) Electoral Commission – Annual Report 2024; and
- (iv) Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Annual Report 2021-2022.

(d) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) Consumer Council of Fiji – Annual Report 2023-2024;
- (ii) Fiji Airports – Annual Report 2023;
- (iii) Fiji Airports – Annual Report 2024;
- (iv) Department of Information and National Archives – Annual Report for FY 2023-2024;
- (v) Fiji Airways – Annual Report 2024;
- (vi) Ministry of Housing and Community Development – Annual Report 2019-2020;
- (vii) Ministry of Housing and Community Development – Annual Report 2020-2021;
- (viii) Ministry of Local Government – Annual Report 2019-2020;
- (ix) Labasa Town Council – Annual Report 2019;
- (x) Labasa Town Council – Annual Report 2020 January-July; and
- (xi) Labasa Town Council – Annual Report 2020-2021.

(e) Standing Committee on Natural Resources

- (i) Food Processors Fiji Limited – Annual Report 2008;
- (ii) Food Processors Fiji Limited – Annual Report 2009;
- (iii) Food Processors Fiji Limited – Annual Report 2010;
- (iv) Food Processors Fiji Limited – Annual Report 2011;
- (v) Food Processors Fiji Limited – Annual Report 2012;
- (vi) Food Processors Fiji Limited – Annual Report 2013;
- (vii) Food Processors Fiji Limited – Annual Report 2014;
- (viii) Food Processors Fiji Limited – Annual Report 2015;
- (ix) Food Processors Fiji Limited – Annual Report 2016;
- (x) Food Processors Fiji Limited – Annual Report 2017;
- (xi) Food Processors Fiji Limited – Annual Report 2018; and
- (xii) Food Processors Fiji Limited – Annual Report 2019.

Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that the following reports were for information only and would not be referred to any Standing Committee –

- (a) Reserve Bank of Fiji Quarterly Economic Review December 2025;
and
- (b) Medium Term Fiscal Strategy FY2026-2027 to FY2028-2029.

9. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

(a) 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 Review Report on the Agreement to Establish the Pacific Resilience Facility.

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

- (ii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence the Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua tabled the Review Report on the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979.

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

(b) Standing Committee on Social Affairs

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Review Report on the 2022-2023 Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Culture, Heritage and Arts Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs 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 Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Review Report on the 2018-2019 Ministry of Housing and Community Development Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs 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.

- (iii) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Review Report on the 2017 National Fire Authority Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs 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.

- (iv) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu tabled the Review Report on the 2023 iTaukei Land Trust Board Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs 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.

(c) Standing Committee on Public Accounts

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica tabled the Committee's Review Report on the Audit Report on Provincial Councils (Volume Seven).

The 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.

(d) Standing Committee on Economic Affairs

- (i) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna tabled the Consolidated Review Report on the 2018-2023 Fiji Rice Pte Ltd Annual Report.

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs 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.

10. 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 12.30 p.m. to complete the remaining items listed on the Order Paper.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

(a) First Reading of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu moved pursuant to Standing Order 84, that the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026 be read a first time. The motion was subsequently seconded.

The Minister for Health tabled the four copies of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Public Health Act 1935 (Bill No. 4 of 2026)

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that in accordance with Standing Order 84(1), the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026 had been read for the first time and the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2026 would be listed on the Order Paper for Second Reading at 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.

(b) Third Reading – Higher Salaries Commission (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Minister for Public Enterprises, and Multi-Ethnic Affairs, Culture, Heritage and Arts the Hon. Charan Singh moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 11 March 2026, that the Higher Salaries Commission (Amendment) Bill 2026 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 Higher Salaries Commission Act 2023, and for related matters, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(c) Third Reading – Fiji National University (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Prime Minister and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 12 March 2026, that the Fiji National University (Amendment) Bill 2026 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	30
No	–	6
Not Voted	–	19

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Fiji National University Act 2009, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament stands adjourned until Monday, 27 April 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions during the sitting week, and declared Parliament adjourned until Monday, 27 April 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 3.27 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

13th March, 2026.