



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Twelfth day of March, 2026

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. Ioane Naivalurua, Hon. Premila Kumar, Hon. Vijay Nath, Hon. Viliame Gavoka, Hon. Esrom Immanuel, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal, Hon. Inosi Kuridrani and Hon. Hem Chand.
  - (b) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) from Parliament –  
  
Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka and Hon. Ketan Lal.
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, 11th 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. Deputy Speaker welcomed all Honourable Members to the sitting of Parliament. She also welcomed those in the gallery and those watching the proceedings on television and the internet.

**Back-to-Office Report**

Hon. Deputy Speaker informed all Honourable Members that the back-to-office report for the CWP Women Leaders Development Conference, which was held in New Zealand, and which she had attended was available in the Library for Members' perusal and reference.

**Standing Committee Membership**

Hon. Deputy Speaker further informed all Honourable Members, that the Office of the Speaker had received notification from the Hon. Government Whip on Standing Committee Membership change.

Pursuant to Standing Order 115(4), the Hon. Jese Saukuru replaces the Hon. Shalen Kumar on the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs, and this change in membership is effective from Monday, 16 March 2026. The Hon. Shalen Kumar remains a substantive Member of the Standing Committee on Natural Resources.

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.

[Speakers: Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau, Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu, Hon. Rinesh Sharma, Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka, Hon. Alipate Tuicolo, Hon. Naisa Tuinaceva, Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure, Hon. Jone Usamate, Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu, Hon. Ifereimi Vasu, Hon. Lenora Qereqeretabua, Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad and Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo.]

7. 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.

8. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Standing Order 51 – Fiji National University (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service and Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (a) That the Fiji National University (Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 3 of 2026) 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 Friday, 13 March 2026, 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.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked the Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 13 March 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 5.24 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

12<sup>th</sup> March, 2026.