



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Fourth 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. Lynda Tabuya, Hon. Premila Kumar, Hon. Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal and Hon. Ketan Lal.
 - (b) The Hon. Pio Tikoduadua was absent.
 - (c) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) during the sitting of Parliament –

Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka and Hon. Sashi Kiran.
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, 3 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. 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 students, teachers and parents of Waibogi Wainadiro Primary School in Serua.

The Hon. Speaker informed Honourable Members that he had received correspondence from the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs requesting for an extension to reporting back time on the following Bills –

- (a) Work Care Bill 2025 (Bill No. 7 of 2025);
- (b) Accident Compensation (Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 8 of 2025); and
- (c) Employment Relations (Amendment) Bill 2025 (Bill No. 27 of 2025).

The Hon. Speaker put the question and there were no objections. The Hon. Speaker informed that the Standing Committee would report back on all three Bills at a later sitting of Parliament in 2026.

6. PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND CERTAIN DOCUMENTS

The 2024 Fiji Financial Intelligence Unit Annual Report was tabled and referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs.

7. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Hem Chand responded.
- (b) The Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu responded.
- (c) The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal responded.
- (d) The Minister for Agriculture the Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Joseph Nand responded.
- (e) The Minister for Policing and Communications the Hon. Ioane Naivalurua delivered his first Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Vijay Nath responded.

- (f) The Minister for Policing and Communications the Hon. Ioane Naivalurua delivered his second Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Jone Usamate responded.
- (g) The Minister for Fisheries and Forestry the Hon. Alitia Bainivalu delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau responded.
- (h) The Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development the Hon. Esrom Immanuel delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Alvick Maharaj responded.

8. QUESTIONS

Oral Questions

- 338/2025 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament on the progress of drafting the new Civil Aviation Bill.
- 347/2025 Hon. Viam Pillay asked the Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the outcomes of the meeting in Bangladesh, particularly regarding the recruitment of labour to address the shortage in Fiji’s sugar industry.
- 348/2025 Hon. Taito Rokomatu to ask the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister update Parliament on the 2024-2025 monitoring and evaluation measures in place for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME’s) that have received assistance and funding.
- 349/2025 Hon. Virendra Lal asked the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport – Can the Minister inform Parliament if there are plans to construct Waimari bridge in Rakiraki which was destroyed during TC Winston.
- 350/2025 Hon. Kalaveti Ravu asked the Minister for Health and Medical Services – Can the Minister update Parliament on the outcome of the recent Dental Outreach Programme in the maritime islands.
- 351/2025 Hon. Parveen Bala asked the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Can the Minister update Parliament whether the Ministry has identified land for the Public Rental Board Nabua tenants who were given 100-days eviction notice.

- 352/2025 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the total number of leases under the State Schedule A land (SSA) and State Schedule B land (SSB) Tenureship and the status of verification.
- 353/2025 Hon. Alvick Maharaj to ask the Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development – Can the Minister inform Parliament on the specific measures and mechanisms implemented in the last quarter to stabilise the price of essential food items and fuel, specifically for the benefit of low-income households.
- 354/2025 Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu to ask the Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts – Can the Minister update Parliament on the current status and recent developments of the iTaukei Development Fund Facility (TDFF).
- 355/2025 Hon. Rinesh Sharma asked the Minister for Immigration – Can the Minister update Parliament on the expansion of the Ministry’s services across Fiji.
- 356/2025 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources – Can the Minister update Parliament on the Airborne Geophysical survey that the Ministry is currently pursuing in collaboration with Geoscience Australia.

Written Questions

- 345/2025 Hon. Ratu Josai Niudamu asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister update Parliament with respect to the following –
- (a) Fiji’s tourism arrival figures for 2025 to date, including a breakdown by major source markets; and
 - (b) what strategies are being implemented to sustain growth and diversify markets in line with the Fiji Tourism Policy 2025-2035.
- 346/2025 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the Pilot Tourism Small and Micro Enterprises (MSE) Fund with respect to the following –
- (a) how many businesses have been selected;
 - (b) how are financial assistance, training and marketing support provided; and
 - (c) how the programme contributes to the Government’s goal of fostering growth in the tourism sector.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker informed that Oral Questions 348/2025, 353/2025 and 354/2025 had dropped as they had been addressed earlier. The response to Written Questions 345/2025 and 346/2025 were tabled by the Hon. Deputy Prime Minister.

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 Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill 2025

The Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Culture, Heritage and Arts the Hon. Ifereimi Vasu moved pursuant to Standing Order 85(1) that the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Bill 2025 be read a second time.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

A Bill for an Act to provide for the recognition, protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous people, to give effect to the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous peoples and for related matters (Bill No. 37 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 circumstance, the Committee would instead report back in 2026.

(b) Third Reading of the Trademarks (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 6 August 2025 and the Communication from the Chair on Wednesday, 1 October 2025, that the Trademarks (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 Trademarks Act 2021, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(c) Third Reading of the Credit Union Bill 2025

The Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development the Hon. Efrom Immanuel moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 7 August 2025 and the Communication from the Chair on Monday, 29 September 2025, that the Credit Union 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 repeal of the Credit Unions Act 1954 and for the regulation of credit union business and related matters, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(d) Third Reading of the Burial and Cremation (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 2 October 2025, that the Burial and Cremation (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 Burial and Cremation Act 1911, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(e) Third Reading of the Quarantine (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 2 October 2025, that the Quarantine (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 Quarantine Act 1964, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(f) Third Reading of the 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 pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 3 December 2025, that the Registration of Skilled Professionals (Repeal) Bill 2025 be debated, voted upon and be passed.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Votes Cast –

Yes	–	34
No	–	10
Not Voted	–	11

Motion agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to repeal the Registration of Skilled Professionals Act 2016 and for related matters, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(g) Third Reading of the Public Health (Amendment) Bill 2025

The Minister for Health and Medical Services the Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 3 December 2025, that the Public Health (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 Public Health Act 1935, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(h) National Referendum Bill 2025

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

- (i) That the National Referendum 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 him as the Member moving the motion.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament adjourns until Monday, 16 February 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Motion seconded.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions during the final sitting week for the year 2025, and the third session of Parliament. He further informed all Honourable Members that Parliament would prorogue on Monday, 8 December 2025, and it is not a sitting day. By tradition, prorogation marks the formal conclusion of a parliamentary session or year within the four-year parliamentary term.

The Hon. Speaker also informed that His Excellency the President would be notified of the prorogation and of the forthcoming State Opening of Parliament. His Excellency the President would deliver an address at the Opening of Parliament.

The Hon. Speaker also reiterated that once Parliament was prorogued, all parliamentary business, including sittings and Standing Committee proceedings on Bills, Motions, and reports, would be suspended until the commencement of the new session. Exception would apply to matters deemed urgent and necessary, and which would have the approval of the Speaker.

The Hon. Speaker wished all Honourable Members, those seated in the gallery, those following the live proceedings, and everyone in Fiji, a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2026.

The Hon. Speaker declared Parliament adjourned until Monday, 16 February 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 9.30 p.m.

Speaker of Parliament

Secretary-General to Parliament

4th December, 2025.