



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

---

## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Wednesday, Eleventh 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. Sakiasi Ditoka, Hon. Ioane Naivalurua, Hon. Premila Kumar and Hon. Vijay Nath.

(b) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence(s) from Parliament –

Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Viliame Gavoka 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 Tuesday, 10th 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 the Honourable Members that the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Fiji Group held a Pinktober Awareness Session in October last year. He pleaded with all Honourable Members to support the voluntary collection for the Fiji Cancer Society Campaign before the donation is handed over to the Fiji Cancer Society on Friday, 13 March 2026.

Hon. Speaker thanked the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable Members who had confirmed to attend the *Vaka* Forum.

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. Jese Saukuru, Hon. Parveen Bala, Hon. Sachida Nand, Hon. Agni Singh, Hon. Faiyaz Koya, Hon. Charan Singh, Hon. Viliame Naupoto, Hon. Lynda Tabuya, Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu, Hon. Pio Tikoduadua, Hon. Viam Pillay, Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna, Hon. Penioni Ravunawa and Hon. Taito Rokomatu.]

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

(a) Standing Order 51 – Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development the Hon. Esrom Immanuel moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (i) That the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 1 of 2026) 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 today, Wednesday, 11 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.

(b) Third Reading – Income Tax (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Minister for Finance, Commerce and Business Development the Hon. Esrom Immanuel moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament today, Wednesday, 11 March 2026, that the Income Tax (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 Income Tax Act 2015, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

(c) Standing Order 51 – Higher Salaries Commission (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Minister for Public Enterprises, and Multi-Ethnic Affairs, Culture, Heritage and Arts the Hon. Charan Singh moved a motion pursuant to Standing Order 51 –

- (i) That the Higher Salaries Commission (Amendment) Bill 2026 (Bill No. 2 of 2026) 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 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 Thursday, 12 March 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 6.32 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

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