



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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## MINUTES

of Proceedings of Parliament at Suva on Thursday, Thirtieth day of April, 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 Hon. Esrom Immanuel, Hon. Viam Pillay, Hon. Sanjay Kirpal and Hon. Joseph Nand conveyed their apologies to the Hon. Speaker for being unable to attend the sitting of Parliament.
  - (b) The following Honourable Members obtained approval from the Hon. Speaker for intermittent absence during the sitting of Parliament –  
  
Hon. Lynda Tabuya, Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, Hon. Siromi Turaga, Hon. Dr Ratu Atonio Lalabalavu, Hon. Alitia Bainivalu and Hon. Maciu Nalumisa.
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, 29 April 2026 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, those seated in the gallery and those watching the live proceedings on television and the internet. Hon. Deputy Speaker also welcomed the final group of PL 100 students from the University of the South Pacific.

6. MOTION BY THE LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT

The Leader of the Government in Parliament the Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau moved that Parliament adopts the revised sitting dates for the month of July 2026.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Hon. Deputy Speaker informed all Honourable Members that there were no Committee reports for presentation.

8. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

- (a) The Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu responded.
- (b) The Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade the Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Faiyaz Koya responded.
- (c) The Minister for Justice and Acting Attorney-General the Hon. Siromi Turaga delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Semi Koroilavesau responded.
- (d) The Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection the Hon. Sashi Kiran delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Virendra Lal responded.
- (e) The Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade the Hon. Sakiasi Ditoka delivered a Ministerial Statement. The Hon. Premila Kumar responded.

- (f) The Minister for Lands and Mineral Resources the Hon. Filimoni Vosarogo. The Hon. Jone Usamate responded.

9. QUESTIONS

**Oral Questions**

- 39/2026 Hon. Faiyaz Koya asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – Can the Deputy Prime Minister inform Parliament, in relation to the development of tourism in the Northern Division, what work is being undertaken to improve basic infrastructure required to support further investment, including water, sewage and road services.
- 40/2026 Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure asked the Minister for Rural and Maritime Development, and National Disaster Risk Management – Can the Minister update Parliament on the scope of assistance provided to communities during and after Tropical Cyclone Vaianu.
- 41/2026 Hon. Jone Usamate asked the Minister for Defence and Veteran Affairs – Can the Minister update Parliament on the current evacuation and contingency plans in place for Fijians living in the Middle East, including our peacekeepers serving under UNDOF, UNIFIL and UNTSO.
- 42/2026 Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu asked the Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Prime Minister update Parliament on the status of upgrade on the existing sports grounds that was budgeted in the 2025-2026 financial year.
- 43/2026 Hon. Hem Chand asked the Minister for Education – Can the Minister inform Parliament on steps being taken to improve governance and transparency within tertiary institutions.
- 44/2026 Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna asked the Minister for Information, and Environment and Climate Change – Can the Minister inform Parliament how technical information, particularly regarding the environment and climate change, is communicated to the public.
- 45/2026 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister inform Parliament as to how the Ministry plans to address the rising costs of harvesting and transportation for sugarcane farmers.

- 46/2026 Hon. Jovesa Vocea asked the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament on the status of the implementation of the project on assessment of Fiji’s Sectoral Loss and Damage in Agriculture.
- 47/2026 Hon. Semi Koroilavesau asked the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation – With concerns raised about the regulations used by CAAF as being out-of-date and is not in line with ICAO, can the Deputy Prime Minister outline the work carried out to modernise these regulations.
- 48/2026 Hon. Penioni Ravunawa asked the Minister for Women, Children and Social Protection – Can the Minister update Parliament on the progress of the Review of Fiji’s Poverty Alleviation Eradication Strategy Framework 1999.

### **Written Questions**

- 49/2026 Hon. Vijay Nath asked the Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics – Can the Prime Minister inform Parliament on how many rural families have been lifted out of poverty since the Government took office.
- 50/2026 Hon. Joseph Nand to ask the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry – Can the Minister update Parliament with respect to the following –
- (a) the results of recent trials using Black Soldier Fly larvae for low-cost livestock protein; and
  - (b) when is this expected to be commercially available to farmers.
- 51/2026 Hon. Premila Kumar asked the Minister for Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations – Can the Minister update Parliament with respect to the following –
- (a) what the annual labour productivity growth rate in Fiji has been for each of the last eight years;
  - (b) whether productivity has increased or declined during this period; and
  - (c) what the productivity levels have been across key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and other services over the last eight years.

The responses to the Oral and Supplementary Questions were provided by the respective Ministers. The Hon. Speaker allowed the Hon. Virendra Lal to ask Written Question 50/2026 in the absence of Hon. Joseph Nand.

The responses to Written Questions 49/2026, 50/2026 and 51/2026 were tabled by the respective Ministers.

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 4.30 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) Third Reading of the Litter (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Minister for Information, and Environment and Climate Change the Hon. Lynda Tabuya moved pursuant to the resolution of Parliament on Wednesday, 29 April 2026, that the Litter (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 Litter Act 2008, enacted by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji.

12. MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

(a) The Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka moved that pursuant to section 13 of the Parliamentary Remunerations Act 2014 that Parliament makes a determination to suspend the remuneration of the following positions by 20 percent of the base salaries as set out in Part A of the Schedule to the Gazette Notice No. 516 of 2024 on the Determination of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji, for the duration of the fuel crisis situation –

- (i) Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers;
- (ii) Assistant Ministers;
- (iii) Leader of the Opposition; and
- (iv) Members of Parliament.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

The Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Inia Seruiratu moved pursuant to Standing Order 104, an amendment to the motion by the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics. The substantive motion be amended by deleting the words “20 percent” wherever they appear and substituting them with the words “50 percent”.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put – vote by acclamation.

Motion defeated.

Question put on the substantive motion – vote by acclamation.

Motion agreed to.

(b) The Prime Minister, and Minister for Civil Service, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka moved that in addition to the resolution of Parliament on Thursday, 18 July 2025, that Parliament approves for the following Members to be included in the Special Committee on Sugar Industry –

- (i) Hon. Tomasi Tunabuna, Minister for Agriculture, Waterways, and Sugar Industry; and
- (ii) Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna, Assistant Minister for Office of the Prime Minister

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (c) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Affairs the Hon. Iliesa Vanawalu moved that Parliament debates the 'Review Report on the 2023 iTaukei Land Trust Board Annual Report' which was tabled on 13 March 2026.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (d) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts the Hon. Manoa Kamikamica moved that Parliament debates the 'Review Report on the Audit Report on Provincial Councils (Volume Seven)' which was tabled on 13 March 2026.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

- (e) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Affairs the Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna moved that Parliament debates the 'Consolidated Review Report on the 2018-2023 Fiji Rice Pte Ltd Annual Report' which was tabled on 13 March 2026.

Motion seconded.

Motion debated.

Question put.

Motion agreed to unanimously.

### 13. ADJOURNMENT

The Hon. Speaker thanked all Honourable Members for their contributions and adjourned Parliament until Friday, 1 May 2026 at 9.30 a.m.

Parliament adjourned at 8.57 p.m.

**Speaker of Parliament**

**Secretary-General to Parliament**

30<sup>th</sup> April, 2026.