

Statement by the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission

Mr Suresh Chandra

President's Visit to FEO

Suva - 25-07-18 - 11.00am

The President of the Republic of Fiji, HE Major General
(Ret'd) Jioji Konrote,
Fellow Electoral Commissioners,
The Supervisor of Elections,
Invited Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen.

Bula vinaka and welcome to the Fijian Elections Office.

It is not every day that we get a chance to meet the Head of
the State or to welcome them to our office.

On behalf of the Electoral Commission and the Fijian
Elections Office, I would like to acknowledge your service
to the nation and thank you for taking the time out to visit
us today.

Your Excellency, it is a huge honor and privilege for us to host you at our office as we prepare to deliver the 2018 General Election.

Your visit today is a massive encouragement to all of us as I'm sure will be your words of wisdom, motivation and inspiration.

At the same time, Your Excellency, we look forward to support from your office as and when needed in the lead-up and during the General Election.

My fellow Electoral Commissioners and I will ensure that the 2018 General Election is free, fair and credible working towards a high turnout along with incorporating recommended improvements from the 2014 General Election.

We not only want to impress voters but we want to build confidence and trust in the process and instil a sense of electoral democracy within Fijians.

Our intention is that Fijians start focusing on the governance of their country by means of periodic continuous elections and best practices being implemented.

The Fijian Elections Office continues to research and refine our electoral processes to ensure that we are in compliance with internationally accepted best practice as well as implementing principles that are becoming regarded as internationally accepted.

I also want to acknowledge the staff of the Fijian Elections Office who have been working tirelessly to ensure that we comply with internationally accepted best practices and principles and at the same time ensuring that the local laws are fully complied with and the procedures that we develop facilitate the compliance of the law.

I congratulate the staff of the Fijian Elections Office for undertaking massive preparations works for the general election however, it is not over yet.

In fact, it has not yet begun. So all the planning and preparation needs to be regularly quality assured to ensure that it meets the expectations as well as the requirements.

Your Excellency, it is the Electoral Commission's endeavor that the 2018 General Election become a platform for Fijians to express their WILL with Confidence, Security and Freedom.

We welcome you and we hope you enjoy your visit with us.

Thank you very much and Vinaka Vakalevu.