

**Vote of Thanks by Electoral Commissioner**

**Mr Simione Naiduki**

**Indelible Ink Handover**

**FEO Warehouse - 10/05/2018**

The High Commissioner of India, Mr Vishvas Sapkal,  
Members of the Electoral Commission,  
Distinguished invited guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

Bula Vinaka to you all.

It was in February 2014 when India first announced that it would be providing indelible ink for the elections, vehicles for the Election Commission and training of election officials for the General Election that year.

Ladies and gentlemen, that year the people of Fiji had their say on the future of the country and it resulted in a successful Election.

Its successes came in many forms – the introduction of the open list proportional representation system, new voters over the age of 18 and the reduction of the number of invalid votes to 0.75 per cent – Fiji’s lowest ever.

Ladies and gentlemen, this time around, with the help of our partner agencies, we expect a similar if not better result.

We are very thankful to all our partner agencies for all the assistance they have provided and in this case, we thank the Indian Government and the Indian High Commission for their support.

We commend the Indian Government for its interest in developing electoral capacity in Fiji as their support has been positive for both our country and the team here at the FEO.

I would like to thank all our guests who have accepted our invitation and are in attendance at this event. We look forward to your continued participation in our future events.

I also thank our hardworking staff at the FEO Warehouse and Headquarters and other offices which are operating in various locations.

The staff have been very diligent and patient in their readiness for the election and we commend them for the assistance they provide to the voters and the general public.

One of the major queries I think every staff of the FEO has heard this year has been – “when will the elections be held?”

The truth is, we still don’t know and just like everyone else, we also await the announcement date.

I would also like to thank our media partners who are present here today, your assistance in reporting our progress has been very positive given the response of the public. We thank you for your support so far and look forward to more positive reporting from you.

With the assistance of the our international partners and the support of our local stakeholders, we intend to make the 2018 General Election a platform for all Fijians to express their will with confidence, security and freedom.

So ladies and gentlemen, I thank you all for your attendance here today. Vinaka vakalevu.