

Statement by the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission

Mr Suresh Chandra

Media Briefing on Objections and Appeals Decision

FEO Media Centre - 17/10/18

Bula Vinaka ladies and gentlemen.

The Electoral Commission has completed the deliberation on the appeals and objections that were filed for the 2018 General Election.

As you are aware, the Electoral Commission has upheld the only appeal that was filed by Mr Laitia Matalomani and the Supervisor of Elections has been directed to add Mr Matalomani as the 235th Candidate for the 2018 General Election

In relation to the objections, the Electoral Commission received 7 objections.

Six objections were against candidates for FijiFirst and there was an objection against all the candidates of HOPE.

At the conclusion of our deliberation and following the receipt of responses from the registered officers as well as candidates from both the parties, the Electoral Commission has dismissed all the objections that had been filed.

The Electoral Commission has informed the objectors as well as the respective political parties in terms of the decision of the Electoral Commission.

Therefore ladies and gentlemen, I wish to confirm that the total number of candidates for the 2018 General Election will be 235.

The Supervisor of Elections is hereby directed to prepare for the ball draw for the candidate numbers for the 2018 General Election.

The ball draw will take place at 10am tomorrow and due to the unavailability of any other venue that has the capacity to cater for the draw, the Supervisor of Elections will conduct the ball draw at GPH in Suva.

Arrangements have been made for the draw to be televised live on all television stations in Fiji.

I now wish to issue the Notice of Poll for the 2018 General Election:

Following the conclusion of the Nominations process, the Electoral Commission has noted that the number of Candidates nominated for the General Election is greater than the number of seats in Parliament and therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred upon the Electoral Commission under Section 35 (1) of the Electoral Act 2014, the Electoral Commission hereby publishes the following:

(i) Name, residential address, occupation and voter number of each candidate for the 2018 General Election;

(ii) Addresses of all polling stations and venues established for the purpose of taking votes during polling; and

(iii) Polling on Election Day, 14 November, 2018, to commence at 7:30am until 6:00pm or any other time as specified by the Fijian Elections Office.

And here is the Notice of Pre-Poll for the 2018 General Election:

In exercise of the powers conferred upon the Electoral Commission under Section 82(3) of the Electoral Act 2014, the Electoral Commission hereby publishes the venues where pre-poll voting shall take place and the dates and hours upon which the Fijian Elections Office will attend at those venues for the conduct of pre-poll voting.

The Notice of Poll and Pre-Poll will appear in the daily newspapers tomorrow.

Thank you very much.