

# THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

## REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

### **Electoral Commission Decision on Electoral Activities during Public Holidays**

The President of Republic of Fiji issued the Writ for the 2018 General Election to the Electoral Commission on 01 October 2018. We have 44 days from 01 October to conduct the General Election on 14 November 2018. The Electoral Commission is required to conduct Pre-poll and postal voting on or before this date.

At our meeting on 06 October, the Electoral Commission considered the timeline and has noted that the Fijian Elections Office will remain open on Saturdays and Sundays during the nomination period to facilitate the nomination of candidates and to fully allow the 14 days as required by the Constitution.

The Electoral Commission agrees that every single day in this period is essential. We have given thorough consideration of the fact that 2 days in the 44 day period are public holidays as well. Below is our decision in relation to operations on the 2 public Holidays – Fiji Day and Diwali.

#### **Fiji Day**

The Electoral Commission has approved the Fijian Elections Office to remain open on Fiji Day public Holiday to facilitate any nomination of candidate that may be made on that day as it falls within the 14 day nomination period.

#### **Diwali Day**

The Electoral Commission had earlier advised that Pre-poll for the 2018 General Election will be in the week immediately before the week in which Election Day falls. Based on this announcement, the Pre-poll for the 2018 General Election will be from 5 November to 10 November. Diwali public holiday falls during the Pre-poll.

The Electoral Commission has consulted Political Parties if Pre-poll should continue on Diwali Day and it has not received any objections to the same. The Supervisor of Elections also consulted Mr. Sarju Prasad, National President of the Sanatan Dharam of Fiji and Mr. Arun Padarath, National President of the Arya Patinidhi Sabha who also did not object to the continuance of the National Exercise.

Therefore, the Electoral Commission approves that all electoral activities shall continue as per the election calendar on the Public Holidays and weekends.

Suresh Chandra  
**Chairperson.**

**-Ends-**