

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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MEDIA RELEASE

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2018 General Election Joint Report Handover

The Electoral Commission [EC] and the Supervisor of Elections [SoE] have handed in their Joint Report on the 2018 General Election to the President of the Republic of Fiji, Major General [Ret'd], Jioji Konousi Konrote, this morning. The Joint Report annexes the Final Report of the Supervisor of Elections as well as the MOG Report on the 2018 General Election.

Chairperson of the Electoral Commission, Mr Suresh Chandra, said that the handing in of the report that contains extensive commentary on the procedural aspects of the process as well as details of actual activities during the election completes the Commission's task in terms of the 2018 General Election.

"We have carefully considered the SoE's report on the conduct of the 2018 General Election, the MOG Report and its findings and recommendations, and we have thereafter considered that primarily there is a need to spread electoral activities over 4 years instead of leaving most of it to the election period," said Mr Chandra.

Mr Chandra further explained that "with the establishment of the FEO and the Electoral Commission as long term establishments, Fiji needs to refocus some of the aspects of elections to be due and finalized 1 or 2 years prior to the first date the Writ can be issued." He added that this would ensure that Political Parties and various other stakeholders are involved and if they wish, they can play an active role in preparing the country for the next General Election.

Supervisor of Elections, Mr Mohammed Saneem said “after two [2] successful elections based on the current framework, Fijians are now more familiar with elections and are more empowered to play an active role. A lot of the disinformation and concocted theories were debunked in the last election paving the way in building more trust and confidence in the institutions.”

Work has now begun on the preparation for the next General Election that can take place between 26 May 2022 to 9 January 2023.

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