

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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Ref: Meeting Number 03/2021
Decision Number: 01/2021

DECISION OF ELECTORAL COMMISSION – INCREASE IN NUMBER OF VOTERS PER POLLING STATION

The Electoral Commission, having held a meeting on 18 February 2021 have resolved as follows:

1. Following the receipt of the recommendation from the Fijian Elections Office [FEO] and on considering the responses received by the FEO from Political Parties, the Electoral Commission has accepted the following:
 - 1.1. That there has been an increase of over 50,000 voters in the National Register of Voters since 2014, when it was last decided to allow a maximum of 500 voters per Polling Station in a Polling Venue,
 - 1.2. Voters have between 7:30am to 6pm to attend to their polling venue and cast their votes,
 - 1.3. All Polling Stations at the Polling Venue are on the ground level and the FEO makes arrangements for accessibility (where lacking) via temporary ramps,
 - 1.4. Most voters in the 2014 and 2018 General Elections had voted before midday and in some instances, there was considerable time between when the last voter turned up to when counting began at 6pm,
 - 1.5. Some Polling Venues, particularly in the urban centres, may not accommodate additional Polling Stations in the near future if the maximum number of voters remain at 500 per polling station.
 - 1.6. The recommendation to increase the number of voters at a Polling Station by 30 % (150) is a reasonable one. The FEO states that in doing so, the total number of voters at a Polling Station will increase to 650.
 - 1.7. In accordance with s 39(2) of the Electoral Act, the Electoral Commission approves that total number of voters that can be assigned to a Polling Station is increased from **500** to **650**.

Dated this 19th day of February 2021



SURESH CHANDRA
Chairperson of the Electoral Commission