

ACTIVITY	Seat Allocation
PROCEDURE	Allocation of seats to candidates at general election
APPLIES	Once Supervisor provides the Final National Results Tally to the Commission under s103 of Electoral Act 2014 (at page 41)
LAW	Electoral Act 2014, sections 104 and 105 (at page 42)

The allocation of seats is an integral part of elections.

In Fiji, the members of the Parliament are elected by a multi-member open list system of proportional representation. In order to qualify for a seat in the Parliament, Political Parties or Independent Candidates must receive at least 5% of the total number of votes cast : see section 104(3) of the [Act](#) (at page 41).

After the Supervisor has completed the Final National Results Tally, the Commission is required to immediately allocate to candidates the seats in Parliament (currently 55 seats) in accordance with sections 104 and 105 of the Act.

Those sections set out a formula for seat allocation, known as the *d'Hondt* method. The Commission follows a step-by-step process to calculate the seats that are allocated to candidates in accordance with sections 104 and 105:

1. Calculate the total number of votes cast, and the 5% threshold
2. Identify the independent candidates and political parties who have met the 5% threshold
3. Apply the *d'Hondt* formula to the votes received by those independent candidates and political parties, to calculate a "quotient" for each candidate
4. Ascertain the 55 highest scoring "quotients"
5. Calculate the number of seats won by independent candidates and each political party
6. Identify the candidates to whom the 55 seats are allocated.

(Note – if the final quotient to be ascertained is of exactly the same value for more than one independent candidate and/or political parties, the Commission must determine the matter by lot – see the [Supplementary Procedure](#))

This process takes some time, but must be completed before the Commission can declare the results of the election and the names of the candidates elected. It is usually completed within 24 hours of the Supervisor completing the Final National Results Tally, but the Commission may extend the timeframe if the Commission considers there is good reason for doing so (section 107 of the [Act](#) at page 43).

Once the Commission has completed the process above it will publicly:

- Display the Candidate Allocation Form, and make copies available upon request to any candidate, polling agent, observer or media; and
- Declare the names of the candidates elected.

Further Information: Contact the Electoral Commission

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