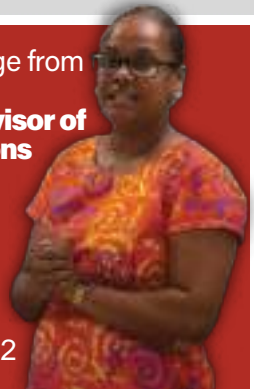


Lavetiviti

Director Operations:
Ms Anaseini Senimoli

Message from
the :
**Supervisor of
Elections**



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**FEO's Overseas
Engagements:**
Strengthening
Electoral
Excellence



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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from the Fijian Elections Office.





Fulori Turaga - Balemaiwai

Editor, LavetiViti

As 2024 draws to a close, the Fijian Elections Office (FEO) stands tall as a beacon of innovation, resilience, and unwavering commitment to democratic values. This issue of LavetiViti not only celebrates the milestones we have achieved in the past six (6) months but also shines a light on the collaborative spirit and determination that drive us forward.

In her year-end message, the Supervisor of Elections (SoE) reflects on a year of triumphs and challenges, highlighting a shared vision for electoral processes that are transparent, inclusive, and deeply rooted in the trust of the Fijian people. Her steadfast leadership has been instrumental in embedding trust and engagement at the core of our work, strengthening the foundation of our democracy.

This year, the FEO has embraced bold, forward-thinking initiatives that have cemented its commitment to the democratic principles of electoral integrity, accountability and transparency. The recent Voter Perception Survey exemplifies this dedication, serving as a critical tool to listen, learn, and adapt to the needs of all Fijians. By weaving these insights into our preparations for the

2026 General Election, we are taking concrete steps to ensure that every Fijian voice counts.

Inclusivity has been at the heart of our efforts in 2024. The introduction of Basic Sign Language training for staff marked a pivotal moment in our journey toward breaking barriers and ensuring no Fijian is left behind. This initiative exemplifies our long-term vision: an electoral process where accessibility is not just an ideal, but a reality for every voter.

This issue also offers a glimpse into the dedicated individuals behind the FEO's success. Through the *Meet Your Elections Officials* series, readers are introduced to passionate professionals whose skills, dedication, and tireless work turn vision into action. Their stories remind us that our strength lies in unity and the collective commitment to excellence.

The FEO's influence extends beyond Fiji, with international engagements showcasing our dedication to upholding international electoral best practices and fostering international collaboration. Whether through participation in election observation missions or fostering knowledge exchanges, these efforts enhance our capacity and demonstrate our commitment to upholding the highest standards of electoral management. Each engagement reinforces the importance of partnerships in addressing shared challenges, particularly in the Pacific.

As we celebrate the achievements of 2024, we remain steadfast in our focus on the work ahead. The Pacific Regional Talanoa, co-hosted with the Commonwealth Secretariat, highlighted critical challenges such as misinformation and the need for strategic collaboration. These discussions lay a strong foundation for building a resilient and thriving democracy in Fiji and across the region.

To our partners, stakeholders, and supporters, *vinaka vakalevu* for walking this journey with us. Together, we have achieved much, and together, we will achieve even more. As we look to 2025 and beyond, let us carry forward the momentum we have built and remain united in our pursuit of a democratic future where every voice is heard and every vote matters.

We hope you enjoy this issue of LavetiViti. May it inspire each of us to continue striving for excellence and innovation in all that we do.

Message from the : **Supervisor of Elections**

As we close the chapter on another exciting year, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire Fijian Elections Office (FEO) family. Your unwavering dedication, professionalism, and commitment to our shared vision of delivering free, fair, and credible elections have been truly inspiring.

First and foremost, I thank Almighty God for His guidance and blessings throughout this transformative year. It is through His grace that we have been able to overcome challenges and achieve the successes we celebrate today.

2024 has been a transformative year for the FEO, one (1) marked by significant milestones and meaningful progress. Together, we have strengthened partnerships with stakeholders, successfully launched the 2024 Voter Perception Survey, and introduced impactful initiatives aimed at rebuilding trust in electoral processes. These achievements are a testament to our collective resolve and the hard work of every department across the FEO.

Through innovation and collaboration, we have elevated our outreach programs, refined stakeholder engagement strategies, and continued to make voter education a cornerstone of our efforts. Each of these accomplishments has reinforced our capacity to meet the evolving expectations of the Fijian people.

As we look ahead to 2025, we must continue the momentum we've built over the past year.

Challenges will arise, but I have no doubt that with the same resilience, ingenuity, and unity, we will overcome them and continue to achieve excellence. Let us stay true to our mission, fostering an inclusive, transparent, and trusted electoral system that serves all Fijians.

To our stakeholders, development partners, and the broader Fijian community, *vinaka vakalevu*. Your trust, engagement, and support have been invaluable in shaping our achievements this year. You inspire us to keep striving for greater success, and we look forward to your continued partnership as we move forward together.

Finally, as we enter this holiday season, may the Lord bless you and keep you; may His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may He lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. May 2025 bring new opportunities, continued growth, and shared successes for all of us. Thank you for your commitment and dedication.



Highlighting the People Behind the Fijian Elections Office

The *Meet Your Elections Officials* series was initiated by the Supervisor of Elections (**SoE**) to recognize the remarkable individuals who form the backbone of the Fijian Elections Office (**FEO**). Each segment has shed light on their dedication, achievements, and the vital roles they play in ensuring fair and transparent elections in Fiji. This comprehensive article brings together all segments from July to December, celebrating the diversity, expertise, and commitment of our FEO team.

Director Operations: **Ms Anaseini Senimoli**

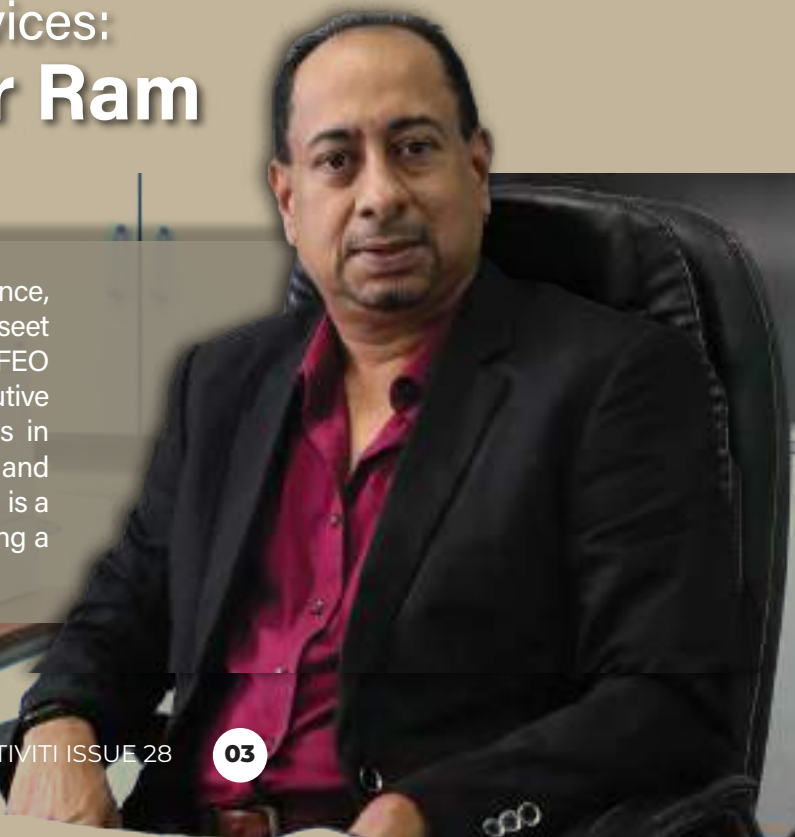


With over 12 years of exemplary service, Ms Senimoli has been a cornerstone of the FEO's operations. Beginning her journey in 2012 as the District Coordinator for the Electronic Voter Registration Exercise, she has advanced through numerous roles, including Acting Head of the Operations Department. Her leadership has been pivotal in managing voter registration and enhancing strategic planning, significantly contributing to electoral transparency and efficiency.

Chairing key committees such as the Elections Disability Access Working Group (**EDAWG**), Ms Senimoli champions inclusivity and accessibility. A lifelong learner, she is pursuing a Master's in Electoral Policy and Administration, reinforcing her commitment to excellence.

Director Corporate Services: **Mr Sanjeshwar Ram**

Heading crucial departments like Finance, Human Resources, Procurement and Asset Management and ICT, Mr Ram ensures the FEO runs efficiently. With over 11 years in executive management, he has driven advancements in financial management, risk assessment, and process optimization. Outside work, Mr Ram is a golfer and community enthusiast, showcasing a well-rounded approach to leadership.



Divisional Manager Central & Manager Industrial Elections: **Ms Litia Sema**

A decade of dedication defines Ms Sema's career at the FEO. From starting as an Electronic Voter Registration Clerk to managing operations for the Central Division, she has consistently delivered excellence. Currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration, Ms Sema's vision includes fostering an inclusive electoral system that empowers every Fijian.



Industrial Elections Department

Led by Ms Litia Sema as Manager for Industrial Elections, with support from Industrial Elections Officer Hirdeshni Gautum and Returning Officer Talei Buinimasi, this department efficiently manages Industrial (Trade Union) Elections and Postal Voting, showcasing its adaptability in addressing diverse electoral requirements.



Returning Officer
Talei Buinimasi



IE Officer
Hirdeshni Gautum



Acting Divisional Manager North: **Mr Lasaro Naivalu**

Starting as a Computer Operator in 2005, Mr Naivalu has held various roles, demonstrating exceptional operational planning and resource

management skills. He attributes his success to divine guidance, which fuels his unwavering commitment to electoral integrity.



Divisional Manager Eastern Division: **Mr Atish Chand**

With a career spanning over a decade, Mr Chand has been instrumental in implementing innovative projects like the Mobile Voting Platform. His leadership during the 2018 and 2022 General Elections ensured smooth operations and enhanced voter participation.

Manager Legal: **Mr Mesake Dawai**

A legal expert with over 12 years of experience, Mr Dawai plays a crucial role in compliance, electoral reform, and governance. His contributions extend to drafting regulations, managing political party affairs, and enhancing the FEO's strategic framework.



Manager Procurement & Asset Management: Mr Pramnesh Chand

Joining the FEO in 2021, Mr Chand has streamlined procurement and logistics for electoral events. His expertise ensures the timely delivery of essential resources, reflecting his dedication to operational excellence.



The Procurement and Asset Management Department, led by Manager Pramnesh Chand and supported by Procurement and Asset Management Coordinator Ronita Chand, oversees a wide range of operations, including procurement, warehouse management, and graphic design. The team includes Graphics Design Coordinator Nemani Ravu and Warehouse Supervisor Melvin

Sharma, as well as Fleet Assistant Daniel Sumasafu, who manages and maintains the FEO fleet with support from Samuela Kuruyawa, Savenaca Biumaiwai, and Alfred Navu, the Driver for the SoE. Additionally, Receptionist Christine Mitchell and Warehouse Assistant Rupeni Nabobo contribute to ensuring seamless logistical and operational support for all FEO activities.



GD Coordinator
Nemani Ravu



PAM Coordinator
Ronita Chand



Fleet Assistant
Daniel Sumasafu



Driver
Alfred Navu



Driver
Samuela Kuruyawa



Driver
Savenaca Biumaiwai



Warehouse Assistant
Rupeni Nabobo



Receptionist
Christine Mitchell



Manager Human Resources: **Ms Afreena Hussein**

Led by Manager Ms Afreena Hussein, with support from Human Resources Coordinator Kavita Kumar and Human Resources Officer Ratu Epeli Naidrodro, the department ensures seamless onboarding and staffing for both core and election period positions. Their commitment supports the FEO's operational success.



HR Officer
Epeli Naidrodro



HR Coordinator
Kavita Kumar



Divisional Manager West: **Mr Viliame Vuiyanuca**

As the Divisional Manager West, and the Elections Geospatial Information System (**GIS**) expert, Mr Viliame Vuiyanuca, and GIS Officer Elisa Toroca, have revolutionized electoral mapping and planning, ensuring accessible polling venues for all voters.



GIS Officer
Elisa Toroca,



Financial Controller: **Ms Romika Sewak**

Under the leadership of Financial Controller Ms Romika Sewak, the team oversees national budget allocations and donor funds, upholding the FEO's financial integrity and transparency. Ms Sewak is supported by Fozia Begum as Accountant, along with Finance Officers Ugendar Nand and Manoj Kumar.



Finance Officer
Ugendar Nand



Finance Officer
Manoj Kumar



Accountant
Fozia Begum

Manager Voter Registration & Polling Venue: **Mr Rangeet Chand**

Led by Mr Rangeet Chand, with support from Operations Coordinator Jesmine Kumar, this department is instrumental in maintaining the voter register and evaluating polling venues to ensure accessibility.



Operations Coordinator
Jesmine Kumar



Internal Auditor: **Ms Neelam Mani**

The FEO's Internal Auditor, Ms Mani, plays a crucial role in ensuring the organization's accountability and operational efficiency. She is responsible for monitoring and tracking the progress of activities outlined in the FEO's Operational Plan and Strategic Plan, ensuring that objectives are met within the designated timelines.

In addition to this, Ms Mani conducts comprehensive financial and asset audits to uphold the FEO's commitment to transparency and accountability. By meticulously reviewing financial records and asset management practices, she ensures that the FEO maintains strict compliance with internal policies and external standards, safeguarding the integrity of its operations.



Executive Secretary: **Ms Veniana Raitamata**

Ms Raitamata plays a pivotal role within the FEO as the Executive Secretary to the Executive Management and Personal Assistant to SoE. Acting as the primary liaison and gatekeeper for the SoE and the Executive Management, she ensures effective communication and coordination across all levels of the organization.

Beyond her core responsibilities, Ms Raitamata oversees the management of complaints, ensuring they are addressed promptly and appropriately, reflecting the FEO's commitment to transparency and accountability. She also takes charge of the administrative functions for the SoE, including scheduling, document preparation, and logistical support, all of which are critical to the smooth operation of the office.



This series not only celebrated the individuals who keep the FEO running but also highlighted the collective effort that ensures the success of Fiji's electoral processes. The FEO takes immense pride in its team and remains committed to fostering excellence and innovation.

You can view full profiles and videos of the departments mentioned in this article on our facebook page - Fijian Elections Office.



Engaging the Nation: **SoE'S ACTIVITIES** from July to December 2024

The Supervisor of Elections Ms Ana Mataciwa with participants at the Introduction to Elections workshop for media houses in Suva.

The Supervisor of Elections (**SoE**), Ms Ana Mataciwa has been at the forefront of driving the Fijian Elections Office's (**FEO**) commitment to engaging stakeholders, fostering collaboration, and empowering communities across Fiji. Her leadership over the latter half of 2024 has exemplified the FEO's strategic priorities of transparency, inclusivity, and public awareness of electoral processes.

STRENGTHENING MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



Ms Rosi Doviverata Publisher of the Fiji Sun at the Media workshop.

From 15 to 22 July, the FEO, with the support of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (**IFES**), conducted workshops for members of Fiji's media houses. Recognizing the media's role as society's watchdog and educator, the SoE emphasized its critical

contribution to ensuring free and fair elections.

"The media serves as the watchdog, informer, and educator of society. Through your work, you have the power to shape public opinion, ensure transparency, and hold those in power accountable," said Ms Mataciwa during the opening of the workshop.

Conducted in Suva, Nadi, and Labasa, these sessions enhanced media personnel's understanding of electoral processes, ensuring accurate and transparent election coverage.

EMPOWERING YOUTHS THROUGH VOTER EDUCATION

Acknowledging the vital role of youth in electoral participation, the FEO launched the Empowering Youths Through Voter Education Workshop in collaboration with IFES.

The first phase, held in Suva in July, attracted over 30 participants. While addressing the attendees, Ms Mataciwa highlighted the importance of equipping youth with knowledge about electoral processes.



The Supervisor of Elections Ms Ana Mataciwa with Youth Workshop participants in Lautoka.

“We as an organization are fully aware of the major role youth play in electoral participation as you form a significant percentage of our National Register of Voters. It is imperative that our youth are provided with a general understanding of electoral processes to enable them to become agents of promoting free and fair elections,” said Ms Mataciwa.

SHOWCASING THE 2022 ELECTIONS JOURNEY



The Supervisor of Elections Ms Ana Mataciwa (Third from left) with panelists at the WEBC Private Screening.

On 01 August Ms Mataciwa attended the private screening of Elections in Paradise, a documentary on the 2022 General Election. Organized by the Women Entrepreneurs Business Council, the event included a panel discussion featuring the filmmakers and other prominent women leaders.

The SoE shared her insights on the documentary’s portrayal of the elections, noting the unique perspective it offered on the challenges and triumphs of the electoral process.

INSPIRING FUTURE LEADERS

Ms Mataciwa’s engagement with the Leadership Fiji 2024 Cohort on August 28 showcased her dedication to mentorship and leadership development. Sharing her journey to



The Supervisor of Elections Ms Ana Mataciwa with members of the Leadership Fiji 2024 Cohort in Suva.

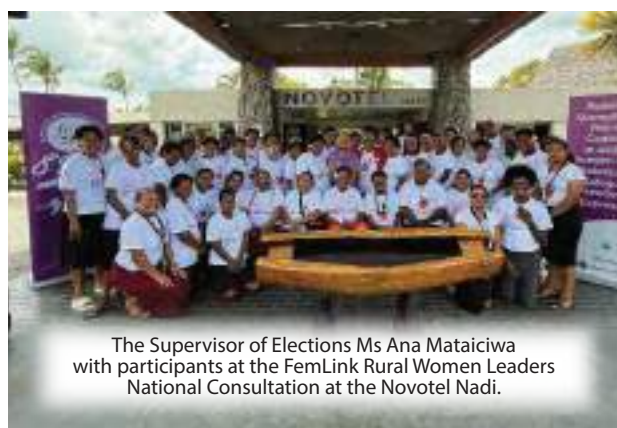
the role of SoE, she inspired participants to pursue leadership that fosters integrity and accountability.

ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

The SoE’s commitment to empowering women was evident in her participation at the FemLink Pacific Diverse Rural Women Leaders National Consultation in Nadi. In addressing rural women leaders, Ms Mataciwa emphasized the transformative power of women’s influence and the FEO’s initiatives to encourage women’s participation in elections.

“Leadership begins at the family and community levels. Women must step forward as agents of change, transforming their homes, communities, and the nation,” said the SoE.

Through these engagements, Ms Ana Mataciwa has exemplified the FEO’s mission to foster stakeholder collaboration, enhance voter awareness, and champion inclusivity in Fiji’s electoral landscape. Her tireless efforts are a testament to the FEO’s vision of empowering all Fijians to participate in a fair and transparent electoral process.



The Supervisor of Elections Ms Ana Mataciwa with participants at the FemLink Rural Women Leaders National Consultation at the Novotel Nadi.

FEO Conducts 2024 **VOTER PERCEPTION SURVEY**

The Fijian Elections Office (**FEO**) recently concluded its Voter Perception Survey (VPS), an initiative aimed at understanding voter experiences and perspectives, particularly in areas with historically low voter turnout. This landmark project highlights the FEO's commitment to continuous improvement and transparency in electoral service delivery.

UNDERSTANDING VOTER PERCEPTIONS



The Fijian Elections Office staff, Executive Management and stakeholders at the launch of the Voter Perception Survey in Novotel, Lami.

Launched in August 2024, the VPS was designed to gather critical feedback from voters regarding their interactions with FEO services. This initiative sought to answer key questions: What challenges do voters face? How can FEO improve their experience? What more can be done to encourage voter participation, especially in areas where turnout is low?

The survey targeted diverse demographics, ensuring a wide representation of voices. Its collaborative nature allowed voters to express their thoughts openly, providing the FEO with invaluable insights into areas of strength and opportunities for growth.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

1. Focus on Low-Turnout Areas:

Recognizing the importance of inclusivity, the survey concentrated on regions with lower voter engagement in past elections. The objective was to understand the underlying causes and identify practical



A Voter Survey Assistant conducts the survey at the Methodist Church in Fiji Annual Church Conference in Suva.

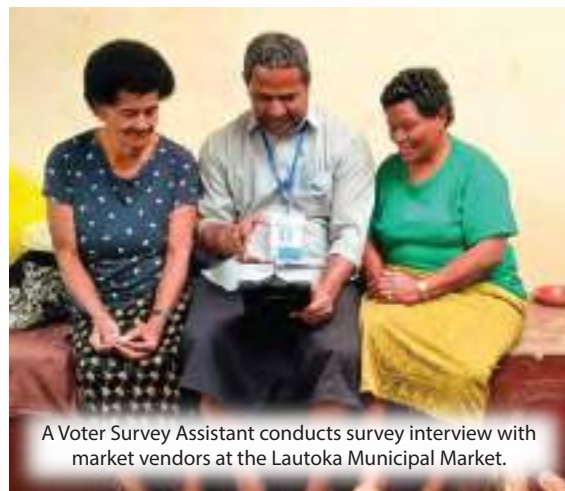
solutions to enhance participation.

2. Comprehensive Feedback Mechanism:

Participants provided feedback on a variety of topics, including voter registration, accessibility of polling venues, voter awareness initiatives, and overall satisfaction with electoral processes.

3. Voter-Centric Approach:

The FEO prioritized creating an environment where voters felt heard. This aligns with its mission to uphold democratic principles by ensuring all voices contribute to shaping electoral services.



A Voter Survey Assistant conducts survey interview with market vendors at the Lautoka Municipal Market.



A Voter Survey Assistant assists survey participants in filling their survey responses at the Hibiscus Festival in Suva.

EMPOWERING CHANGE

The feedback gathered from the VPS will play a pivotal role in refining FEO's strategies and policies. By addressing voter concerns and enhancing service delivery, the FEO aims to foster greater trust and engagement in the electoral process.

In emphasizing the significance of this initiative, the Supervisor of Elections (**SoE**), Ms Ana Mataciwa stated that listening to voters is the cornerstone of democratic progress.

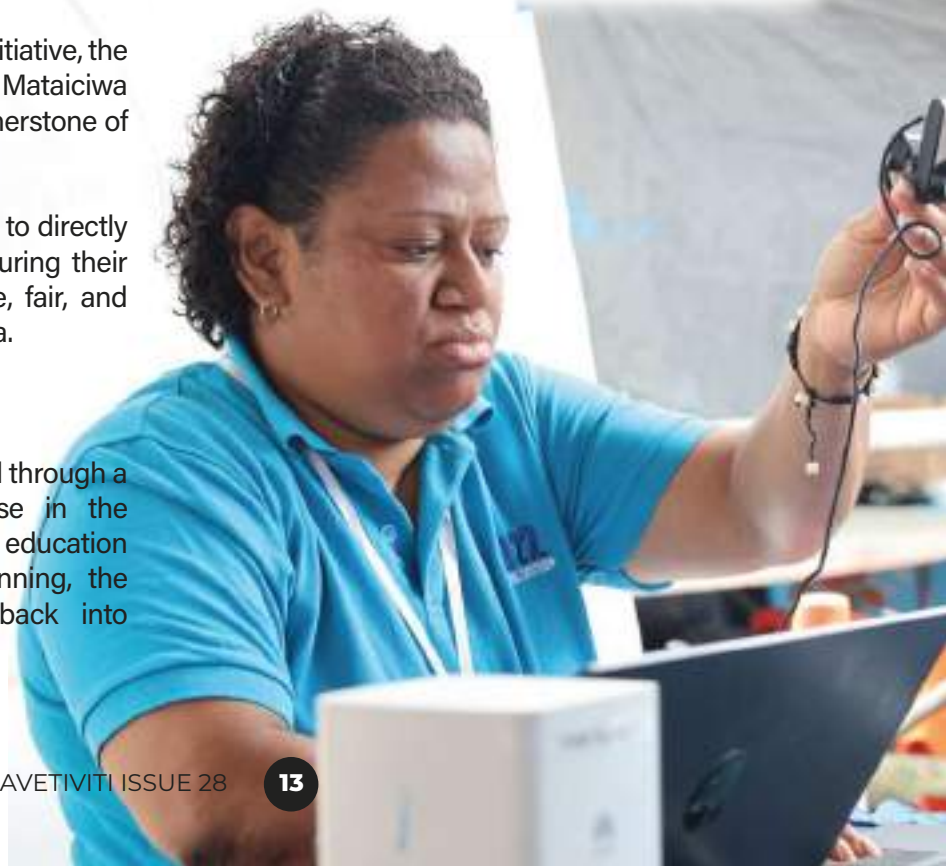
"The Voter Perception Survey allows us to directly engage with the people we serve, ensuring their voices guide our efforts to deliver free, fair, and accessible elections", said Ms Mataciwa.

LOOKING FORWARD

The insights from the VPS will be shared through a report which we envisage to release in the beginning of 2025. From targeted voter education campaigns to improved logistical planning, the FEO is committed to turning feedback into actionable improvements.

The VPS exemplifies the FEO's dedication to strengthening democracy in Fiji through collaboration, accountability, and innovation. By valuing the input of every voter, the FEO continues to set a high standard for electoral management.

A Voter Survey Assistant conducts Voter Registration at the Voter Survey booth at the Assemblies of God Divisional Conference in Suva.



FEO'S OVERSEAS ENGAGEMENTS:

Strengthening Electoral Excellence

From July to December 2024, the Fijian Elections Office (FEO) actively participated in a series of international engagements, showcasing its commitment to enhancing capacity, fostering global partnerships and observing best practices

in electoral management. These initiatives were pivotal in strengthening the FEO's operations, aligning them with international standards, and contributing to the broader dialogue on electoral integrity and innovation.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME WITH TOKELAU AND SAMOA



Manager Legal Mr Mesake Dawai (with garland) with the Electoral Commissioner of Samoa Tuiafelolo Alexander John Stanley (Centre) and his team at the Office of the Electoral Commission in Apia, Samoa.

This Knowledge Exchange Programme was initiated by the NZEC allowing the Manager Legal to shadow New Zealand Technical Adviser, Ms. Deidre Brookes, for two (2) weeks. The first week (22 – 26 July 2024) was spent with the Tokelau Apia Liaison Office in Apia and the second week (29 July – 2 August 2024) was spent with the Samoa Office of the Electoral Commission.

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CYBERSECURITY

From 24 to 26 September, the Supervisor of Elections (SoE), Ms Ana Mataciwa, and Manager ICT, Asish Chand, attended the signing of the Cyber and Information Resilience Elections Network (CIREN) initiative in Singapore. This groundbreaking initiative underscores the

importance of protecting electoral systems from cyber threats and misinformation in an increasingly digital world.



CIREN Workshop Participants pictured at the Google Office in Singapore.

PIANZEA SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING 2025, NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA

On 8 and 9 October, the SoE Ms Mataiciwa joined her counterparts from the Pacific Islands, Australia, and New Zealand Electoral Administrators (**PIANZEA**) Network in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, for the annual Senior Officials Meeting. This platform facilitated regional collaboration, enabling Election Management Bodies (**EMBs**) to address shared challenges and leverage collective expertise



PIANZEA Senior Officials at the Tanoa Dateline Hotel in Nuku'alofa Tonga.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE WITH THE AUSTRALIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION

As part of the FEO's Knowledge Exchange Programme with the Australian Electoral Commission (**AEC**), Operations Coordinators Ms Mereseini Vosa (East) and Mr Peni Natau (West) spent two weeks at the Parramatta and NSW AEC offices. This capacity-building initiative deepened their operational knowledge and fostered cross-border professional collaboration. The Knowledge Exchange Programme was held from 21 October to 1 November 2024.



Divisional Coordinator West Mr Peni Natau (left) and Divisional Coordinator East Ms Mereseini Vosa in NSW, Australia.

REPRESENTING FIJI AT A-WEB'S GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The FEO's Director of Corporate Services, Mr Sanjeshwar Ram, and Executive Secretary, Ms Veniana Raitamata, represented the FEO at the 6th General Assembly of the Association of World Election Management Bodies (**A-WEB**) in Bogotá, Colombia. This global gathering provided an invaluable platform for sharing experiences and insights on advancing electoral processes. The 6th General Assembly of A-Web was held from 21 to 25 October 2024.



Director Corporate Services Mr Sanjeshwar Ram and Executive Secretary Ms Veniana Raitamata pose with fellow participants at the A-WEB 6th General Assembly.

DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING OF INCLUSIVE VOTING

The Director of Operations, Ms Anaseini Senimoli, attended a Knowledge Exchange Programme at the New Zealand Electoral Commission headquarters in Wellington from October 21 to 25. Her engagement focused on Telephone Dictation Voting, an initiative that exemplifies inclusivity and accessibility for voters with disabilities.



Director Operations Ms Anaseini Senimoli (closest to camera) and Ms Tash Warren at the NZEC Headquarters in Wellington, New Zealand.

ELECTION OBSERVATION IN GEORGIA

From 24 to 26 October, the Divisional Manager Eastern, Mr Atish Chand, and Manager Procurement and Asset Management, Mr Pramnesh Chand, observed the Parliamentary Elections in Tbilisi, Georgia. Their participation contributed to understanding diverse electoral practices and observing election standards in action.



Participants in the International Observation Program in Tbilisi, Georgia.

WITNESSING THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

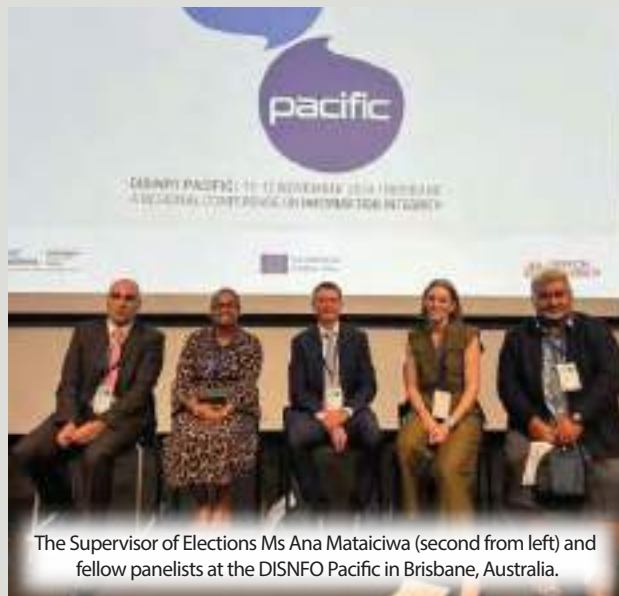
With funding assistance from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), the SoE Ms Ana Mataciwa, and the Community and International Engagement Coordinator, Mr Eric Drodrolagi, participated in the IFES-run US Election Program from 4 to 6 November in Washington, DC. This opportunity allowed them to witness the 2024 US Presidential Elections as well as the conduct of polling in the District of Columbia and Virginia State.



Community and International Engagement Coordinator Mr Eric Drodrolagi (left) and Supervisor of Elections Ms Ana Mataciwa (right) outside a polling venue in Washington, District of Columbia, USA.

ADDRESSING DISINFORMATION AT DISINFO PACIFIC

The SoE, Ms Mataciwa, attended the DISINFO Pacific Conference in Brisbane, Australia. As a panelist, she shared insights on combating disinformation in elections, reaffirming FEO's commitment to fostering transparency and trust. The DISINFO Pacific Conference was held from 11 to 12 November 2024.



The Supervisor of Elections Ms Ana Mataciwa (second from left) and fellow panelists at the DISINFO Pacific in Brisbane, Australia.

EXPLORING AI LITERACY IN ELECTIONS

The Manager ICT, Asish Prakash, represented the FEO at the Executive Workshop on AI Literacy in Elections, organized by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) from 18 to 20 November in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The workshop explored the role of artificial intelligence in enhancing electoral processes.



Manager ICT Mr Asish Prakash (right) receives his certificate of participation at the AI Literacy in Elections Workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

BRIDGE WORKSHOP FOR PACIFIC EMBs

The FEO concluded its overseas engagements with the BRIDGE Workshop on Introduction to Electoral Administration, held in Port Vila, Vanuatu, from 4 to 6 December. The workshop which fostered knowledge-sharing among EMBs in the Pacific Melanesia sub-region, was attended by Ashwini Kartika, Nemani Ravu, Ugendar Nand, and Elisa Toroca.

These international engagements reflect the FEO's proactive approach to capacity building, knowledge exchange, and fostering collaboration with global and regional partners. Each initiative contributes to strengthening the FEO's commitment to delivering transparent, inclusive, and innovative electoral services for all Fijians.



BRIDGE Workshop participants at the Warwick Le Lagon Resort & Spa, Port Vila, Vanuatu.

PACIFIC EMB SECONDMENTS & STUDY MISSIONS

PACIFIC EMB SECONDMENTS AND STUDY MISSIONS

The Fijian Elections Office (FEO) continues to strengthen regional collaboration and knowledge sharing among Election Management Bodies (EMBs) across the Pacific. Recently, the FEO hosted two significant engagements aimed at fostering technical expertise and enhancing electoral systems within the region.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE WITH SAMOA'S OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSIONER

From 28 October to 1 November, the FEO welcomed Mr Shalom Maiava, Principal ICT Officer from the Office of the Electoral Commission Samoa, on a secondment program focused on a Knowledge Exchange initiative. The program provided Mr Maiava with an in-depth understanding of the FEO's ICT Department structure and its pivotal role in ensuring the integrity of electoral processes.



Principal ICT Officer Office of the Electoral Commission Samoa Mr Shalom Maiava (in yellow shirt) during his secondment at the FEO.

During his time at the FEO, Mr Maiava explored:

- The FEO's ICT Department structure and operational setup.
- ICT backup systems supporting voter registration and the National Register of Voters.
- The Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department setup and its integration with electoral planning.

This collaboration highlighted the importance of regional support and expertise sharing to strengthen the technical capabilities of EMBs across the Pacific.

STUDY MISSION FOR THE SOLOMON ISLANDS ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The FEO had the privilege of hosting a one-week Study Mission for officials from the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC). The mission offered the SIEC officials comprehensive insights into the FEO's operations, focusing on:

- Ongoing voter registration processes.
- The FEO's organizational structure.
- The roles and responsibilities of key departments.

The delegation from the SIEC included:

1. Mr Jasper Highwood Anisi, Chief Electoral Officer/Commissioner.
2. Mr Fredrick Mata Bosoboe, Manager Operations.
3. Mr George Mali, Principal Legal Officer.
4. Mr Rayons Helehahimae, Electoral Legal Affairs Analyst

These interactions underscored the FEO's commitment to supporting, fostering mutual learning, and promoting best practices in electoral management. The Study Mission was held from 2 to 6 December 2024.

BUILDING STRONGER DEMOCRACIES TOGETHER

As part of the Melanesia Sub-Region, the FEO takes pride in empowering Pacific EMBs to uphold the principles of democracy. These engagements not only enhance technical and operational expertise but also strengthen the bonds of regional cooperation.

Together, through shared knowledge and collaboration, we are building stronger, more resilient democracies across the Pacific.



The Supervisor of Elections Ms Ana Mataciwa (Center) with officials from the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission outside the Office of the SoE at the FEO Headquarters.

CHAMPIONS FOR INCLUSIVITY

(Sign Language Classes for FEO Staff)



The Supervisor of Elections Ms Ana Mataciwa with the FEO Basic Sign Language Class of 2024 and Class Instructors Mel (SoE left) and Akesa (SoE right).

The Fijian Elections Office (**FEO**) marked a historic milestone with the celebration of fifteen staff members who successfully completed the Basic Sign Language Course, the first of its kind in the history of the FEO.

Over an intensive eight-week program, these dedicated participants completed 32 hours of training, gaining foundational sign language skills to better serve the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. This initiative embodies the FEO's unwavering commitment to inclusivity, as outlined in its 2024–2027 Strategic Plan.

Speaking at the graduation ceremony, the Supervisor of Elections, Ms Ana Mataciwa, commended the team for their dedication.

“Each of you play a vital role in fostering a culture of inclusion and respect. This initiative demonstrates your unwavering commitment to ensuring that every Fijian, regardless of their abilities, can engage fully in the electoral process,” said Ms Mataciwa.

This groundbreaking program was made possible through a fruitful partnership with the Fiji

Association of the Deaf, whose guidance was instrumental in equipping FEO staff with essential skills to communicate effectively with members of the deaf community.

The FEO's efforts to incorporate sign language training into its organizational development marks a significant step forward in breaking communication barriers and fostering an equitable electoral environment for all Fijians.

Vinaka vakalevu to the Fiji Association of the Deaf and to the trailblazing staff members who have become champions for inclusivity. Together, we are building a future where every voice matters.



Executive Secretary Ms Veniana Raitamata signs the word 'elections' at the certificate ceremony held at the FEO Headquarters.



The Supervisor of Elections Ms Ana Mataciwa delivering her keynote address at the opening of the Commonwealth CEP Talanoa in Nadi.

FEO CO-HOSTS COMMONWEALTH

Elections Professionals Pacific Regional Talanoa

with stakeholders are critical for ensuring that electoral systems reflect the diverse voices and needs of the population.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL TALANOA

The workshop featured a series of insightful sessions and activities, including:

- Managing misinformation and promoting inclusion in electoral processes.
- Hands-on exercises such as stakeholder mapping and strategic framework development.
- National presentations and case studies showcasing successful approaches to building trust in electoral systems.
- Strengthened regional collaboration, underscoring a shared commitment to credible, inclusive elections across the Pacific

From 18 to 22 November, the Fijian Elections Office (**FEO**) in partnership with the Commonwealth Secretariat, co-hosted the Commonwealth Election Professionals (**CEP**) Pacific Regional Talanoa at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi.

The five (5) day event, themed “Strengthening Electoral Integrity and Inclusion through Building Strategic Partnerships with Key Stakeholders,” brought together Election Management Bodies (**EMBs**) from across the Pacific to exchange knowledge, strengthen collaborations, and explore innovative ways to enhance electoral processes and stakeholder trust.

In her opening address, the Supervisor of Elections Ms Ana Mataciwa emphasized the vital role of collaboration and trust in achieving electoral integrity and inclusivity.

“This Talanoa has reminded us of the power of collaboration and trust. By strengthening partnerships with key stakeholders, we ensure that elections are not only credible but inclusive and transparent”, said Ms Mataciwa.

She further highlighted that robust relationships

The Talanoa fostered meaningful dialogue and actionable outcomes, with participants reaffirming their dedication to upholding electoral integrity while preparing for future electoral events.

A COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

As the FEO prepares for the 2026 General Election, this collaborative effort reflects its dedication to fostering integrity, inclusion, and trust in electoral processes. The outcomes of the CEP Pacific Regional Talanoa will contribute significantly to the ongoing development of credible and inclusive elections in the Pacific region.

The FEO extends its gratitude to the Commonwealth Secretariat and all participants for making the Talanoa a resounding success. Together, we will continue to build stronger democracies across the Pacific.

CAPTURED MOMENTS







Voter Services Information

Voter Services Available:

- New Registration;
- Replacement of VoterCard;
- Correction/Update of Voter details; and
- Reporting of Deceased Voter.

As a Voter, it is your responsibility to:

- Continuously update your VoterCard details when required;
- Keep your VoterCard safe and secure; and
- Check for latest election information.

Voter Services Centre Locations:

Division	Location
Central	FEO Voter Services Centre (Old Fiji Visitors Bureau Building)
Western	FEO Voter Services Centre 36, Vitogo Parade, Lautoka
Northern	FEO Voter Services Centre, Legal Aid Building, Jaduram Street

REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

1. New Registration of Voter or Correction of VoterCard

Birth Certificate (Original or Certified True Copy) and any of the following Current Photo ID:

- Fiji Passport; or
- Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) Card; or
- Driver's License; or
- Social Welfare ID; or
- T.I.N (Joint FIRCA/FNPF) Card; or
- Student ID from any Tertiary Institution registered with the Fiji Higher Education Commission.

Fiji Citizens born overseas:

Birth Certificate and Fiji Passport or any other Current Photo ID with Certificate of Citizenship or Certificate of Naturalization or Certificate of Registration as a Citizen of Fiji or Confirmation letter from the Fiji Department of Immigration.

2. Replacement of VoterCard

Present any of the following photo IDs with your Birth Certificate (Original or Certified True Copy):

- Fiji Passport; or
- Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) Card; or
- Driver's License; or
- Social Welfare ID; or
- T.I.N (Joint FIRCA/FNPF) Card; or
- Student ID from any Tertiary Institution registered with the Fiji Higher Education Commission.