



Fijian Elections Office

My Election. My Fiji

LAVETIVITI

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From left: Chairperson of the Electoral Commission Mr. Suresh Chandra, Electoral Commission Member Ms. Margot Jenkins, Supervisor of Elections Mr. Mohammed Saneem and Electoral Commission Member Mr. Simone Naiduki.

Electoral Commission Appointed

After the expiry of their term in early February, a new Electoral Commission (EC) was appointed on 20 March 2020 with Mr. Suresh Chandra being re-appointed as Chairperson.

Mr. Jawahar Lal, Mrs. Kavita Raniga, Mr. Simone Naiduki and Mrs. Margot Jenkins retained their roles as EC Members while Ms. Mere Roden and Ms. Selina Lee Wah were newly appointed to the roles.



Ms. Mere Roden



Ms. Selina Lee Wah



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Opening of the Suva Voter Services Centre



The new Voter Services Centre (**VSC**) in Suva officially opened in February and recorded 2,212 engagements in its first month of operation. These engagements included new registrations and VoterCard corrections as well as replacements.

The relocation of the VSC to the Old Fiji Visitors Bureau Building involved renovation works at the facility with a new set up designed to make customer service more efficient and transparent. The new setup includes a second screen to encourage voters to verify their details and polling venue before it is finalised on the VoterCard.

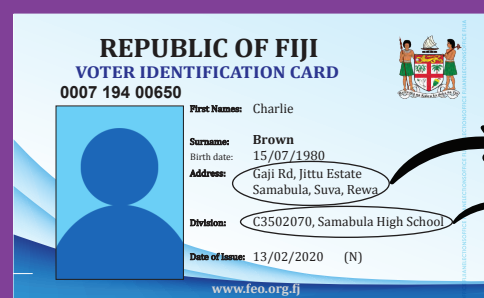
In February, the three (3) VSCs recorded 5,562 engagements throughout Fiji.

Fijians Urged to Upgrade VoterCard

Fijians are urged to upgrade to the new blue colored VoterCard as the Fijian Elections Office (**FEO**) will be effectively expiring VoterCard 1.0 or the green colored VoterCard by 30 June 2020.

The blue coloured VoterCard (VoterCard 2.0) has the voter's Residential details and Polling Venue details printed on it.

Supervisor of Elections, Mr. Mohammed Saneem explained that since the Polling Venues are known for the next General Election, the FEO has opted to upgrade the VoterCard with added security features and information.



Residential Address details

Polling Venue details

Fijian Elections Office Commences Destruction of 2018 Ballot Papers



The FEO team at the warehouse.

The destruction process of approximately 9 tons of sensitive materials, including ballot papers from the 2018 General Election, commenced in late March.

Supervisor of Elections, Mr. Mohammed Saneem said the Fijian Elections Office (**FEO**) was committed to fostering environmentally friendly practices and had again opted to recycle ballot papers as was done for the 2014 General Election materials.

“Under Section 153 of the Electoral Act, 2014, the FEO, under the direction of the Supervisor of Elections, may destroy the records in relation to

an election after one year,” Mr Saneem said.

“We are conscious that there are around a million sheets of paper involved in the destruction process and that is why we have again opted to engage an environmentally friendly procedure to destroy these records.”

The destruction of sensitive materials was carried out over 9 days and in the presence of Police Officers. The pulping of all ballot papers was done at the South Pacific Waste Recyclers plant in Laucala Beach.

Since the destruction process was undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing protocols and other preventative measures were strictly followed throughout the 9 day process.



A Police Officer observes staff whilst they sort materials from the ballot box.



The FEO team sorting out materials for destruction.



Theme 2020: I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights

The Fijian Elections Office (**FEO**) took an unconventional approach to International Women's Day celebration this year with efforts being directed towards social responsibility.

In the months leading up to the main event, staff members ran an internal 'Clothes & Sanitary Drive' with the proceeds being donated to assist survivors of rape and domestic violence.

A delegation led by Director Corporate Services, Mr. Sanjeshwar Ram, presented the donations including pre-loved clothes and sanitary products to the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (**FWCC**) on 17 March.

FWCC Coordinator, Ms. Shamima Ali, expressed her gratitude and appreciation upon receiving the donations and assured the FEO team that it will be forwarded to single mothers and victims of rape and domestic violence.

The FEO delegation later learned that many of these women left their homes with nothing but the clothes on their backs, so the donations were indeed a timely blessing.



The FEO delegation presenting the donations to the FWCC team.

At a Glance...



A VSC Refresher Training was held in February for selected staff.



Training for all staff on the procedures and processes relating to Acquittals and Claims was conducted at the FEO HQ in February.



An Induction Workshop was conducted for all new staff in March.

Student Body Elections at Yat Sen Secondary

Year 10 students of Yat Sen Secondary School demonstrated a unique model of putting theory to practice as they applied the Introduction to Elections Module to conduct the school's Student Body Elections.

The Elections Curriculum for Social Science was delivered to Year 10 students around the country in February, and while most schools conducted lessons and carried out a Mock Election, Yat Sen Secondary took a different approach.

A Student Supervisor of Elections was appointed together with other Election Officials from the Year 10 batch to carry out the electoral process, while the rest of the students got an opportunity to vote for the student leaders who would represent them in 2020.



Yat Sen Secondary students during the Student Body Elections.

Supervisor of Elections, Mr. Mohammed Saneem, visited various schools in the Central Division earlier this year where he spoke with students on the Elections Module and had the opportunity to witness how students conducted mock elections.



SoE with the student Election Officials.

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