



Fijian Elections Office

*My Election. My Fiji*



ISSUE 20



# Lavetiviti

March and April



*First time voter Dikavu Fong with her mother Elizabeth Iroa after registering to vote.*

## FEO exceeds 200,000 engagements in KYE

The Fijian Elections Office concluded its Nationwide Voter Registration Drive and Know Your Election campaign on 16 April 2022 with 200,899 voter engagements and 19,879 new registrations. The FEO exceeded its target twice indicating the drive was a massive success.

Supervisor of Elections, Mr Mohammed Saneem said the 49-day Drive was the culmination of a year's worth of planning and preparation that saw fruition as the FEO reached a record number of Fijians through its outreach.

"Our teams travelled to some of the most remote villages, crossing rivers and making journeys on foot to provide voter services to Fijians ensuring that no one person was deprived of the opportunity to register, update their details or upgrade their VoterCard ahead of the 2022 General Election," Mr Saneem said.

"The FEO thanks all the Fijians who came out and registered, updated or upgraded their VoterCard with us during this drive as well as the FEO teams who toiled through the 49 days to provide our voters

with these critical services," Mr Saneem said.

"We also extend our appreciation to our stakeholders; the Turaga-ni-Koros, Advisory Councilors, government agencies, as well as businesses and individuals who provided our teams with venues from where we conducted our services."

Whilst the Drive is over, our Voter Services Centres in all towns and cities will remain open until Writ Day which is when voter registration will officially cease.

INSIDE:



**Official Campaign Period Announced**



**FEO Appoints Deputy Supervisor of Elections**



**FEO's Remote Outreach**



# FEO Holds First Ever Stakeholder Forum

The Fijian Elections Office [FEO] yesterday hosted its first ever Stakeholder Forum on Enhancing Voter Participation with registered political parties, academia, representatives of various Civil Society Organizations and attendees from the New Zealand and Australian Electoral Commissions among other stakeholders.

Supervisor of Elections [SoE], Mr Mohammed Saneem said that it was imperative that the conversation on enhancing voter participation included the views and opinions of all stakeholders which the FEO was able to achieve through this Forum.

"This was the first time that we had six (6) of the (7) registered political parties in Fiji on a panel

together having a discussion on elections so I think that the Forum truly achieved its objective of getting the stakeholders talking on how voter participation can be further improved," Mr Saneem said.

"The FEO has noted the views and recommendations from the stakeholders and we will be working with the relevant stakeholders in implementing some of the outcomes that were derived through mutual discussions."

Mr Saneem also presented the results of the Pre-Election Voter Survey to the attendees.

"While voter participation in an election is dependent on many factors, the Survey

provides statistical data on voter perceptions, behavior and voter confidence in the electoral system and the analyses presented will be useful for all stakeholders including political parties in organizing themselves for the election," Mr Saneem said.

The Forum also featured panel discussions based on thematic areas such as Regional Initiatives in Enhancing Voter Participation and various techniques on increasing voter awareness in Fiji. The final panel discussion featured representatives of Political Parties on their approach to engaging voters.

The Stakeholder Forum was held at the Grand Pacific Hotel on 30 March 2022.



# 2022 Pre-Election Voter Survey Launched

## 9,576 Respondents

**Male: 4,138**

**Female: 5,438**

After a month of extensive data collection from newly registered voters as well as seasoned voters, the FEO has launched the 2022 Pre-Election Voter Survey Report.

Supervisor of Elections, Mr Mohammed Saneem said the report was built on the foundations of the survey conducted in 2020 to understand voter knowledge, views, behaviour and voter expectations when it came to elections.

“The survey report provided for the first time an opportunity to develop familiarity with the behaviour, perceptions and aspirations of the most important stakeholder in the election, the voter,” Mr Saneem said.

There was a total of 9,576 respondents in the survey, of which 5,438 were females and 4,138 were males and the survey was conducted between 21 January 2022 and 11 February 2022.

The survey was conducted in two (2) phases:

1. Collection of survey responses from the field for three (3) weeks during which the FEO staff went around the country collecting responses from a sample population.

The responses were also collected at the FEO's 14 Voter Services Centres.

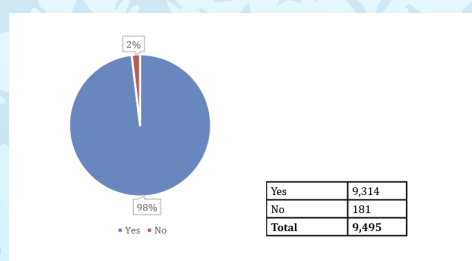
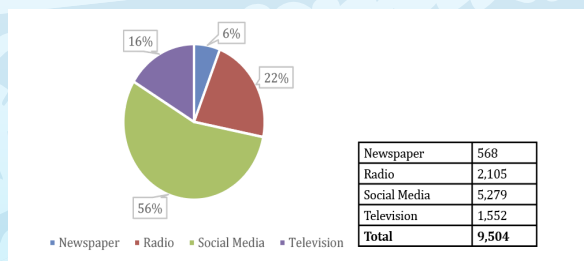
2. Analysis of results and compilation of report pertaining to the data.

The questions focussed on thematic topics such as;

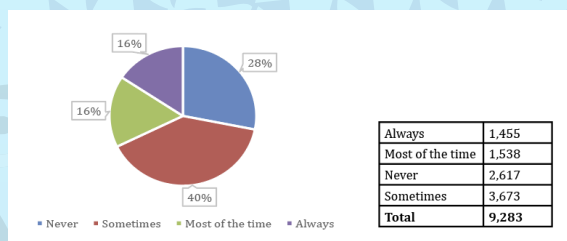
- Voting, which looked at voter preparedness and readiness,
- Information Questions which contained questions regarding information consumption patterns of voters and the awareness level on fake news and misinformation
- Behavioural Questions were used to identify patterns of behaviour among the respondents and how they interact on social media
- Aspirational Questions which looked at the opinion of voters on their preference for the election date and identify voting trends for the 2022 General Election
- Perception Questions aimed to gauge voter confidence in the Fijian electoral process

## Key Findings

### a. Where do you get most of your election information from?



### c. Do you verify the information you receive on social media about elections?



Scan This



## FEO Community Engagement Project Launched

To enhance awareness and participation during the 2022 General-Election, the Fijian Elections Office ['FEO'] has launched the FEO Community Engagement Project.

Speaking at the launch, the Supervisor of Elections ['SoE'] Mr Mohammed Saneem said that this initiative forms the second phase of the FEO's Know Your Election Campaign which is the major voter awareness drive conducted before a general election.

"At the end of the day, the goal is to engage, educate and empower Fijians to

meaningfully participate in the electoral process which ultimately ends with them casting a valid vote in the 2022 General Election," Mr Saneem said.

The project aims to engage and empower Fijians at the grassroots level by directly training community representatives in elections and then having them conduct election awareness sessions within their communities.

The SoE also added that all Community Elections Advocates will be trained by FEO trainers and provided with awareness materials such as flipcharts

and the Election Information Booklet to help them facilitate their sessions.

"The FEO recognizes that you the community representatives are the movers and shakers on the ground. You are the people who are best placed to start the conversation on elections in your respective communities and you are the ones who can not only prepare people to vote but to be informed, confident voters," Mr Saneem said.

The FEO hopes to equip and certify 240 Community Elections Advocates all over Fiji.



*Community Elections Advocates during a training session.*



# Official Campaign Period Announced



*Supervisor of Elections Mr Mohamed Saneem at the Candidates Handbook launch.*

The Official Campaign Period for the 2022 General Election has been announced by the Electoral Commission [‘EC’], bringing into effect campaigning laws as prescribed by the Electoral Act 2014.

Political Parties and candidates can begin campaigning on 26 April and must end campaigning 48- hours before Election Day.

The EC is mandated to determine the campaign period under Section 109 A (1) of the Electoral Act of 2014.

“While we do not know the date of election yet, the campaign period will start a month before the earliest date that the election writ can be issued by the President which is 26 May 2022,” said Mr Nand, Chairperson of the EC.

He also urged all political parties and affiliates to campaign in a manner that is fair, transparent and as per the electoral laws of the country.

The Candidates Handbook for the 2022 General Election was also launched.

## 300 Winners in Bonanza Draw



*The Chairperson of the Electoral Commission, Mr Mukesh Nand during the Bonanza Draw.*

300 voters walked away with \$100 cash prize in the Know Your Election Bonanza Draw.

The Bonanza Draw was for all eligible Fijians who either registered for the first time, upgraded to the Blue VoterCard, or updated their details at any FEO Registration Venue between 25 February to 14 April, 2022.

The Chairperson of the Electoral Commission, Mr Mukesh Nand said that the Draw was to encourage as

many Fijians as possible to utilize voter services. “Due to the great number of participants in this Bonanza, the Draw will be done electronically and this software will randomly select the Electronic Voter Numbers of 300 lucky winners,” he said.

**The list of winners can be found on:**



**Scan This**

# Writ to Writ Workshop

The FEO held a three-day workshop to finalize its operational plans for the 50-day period that will commence once the Writ of Election is issued.

The Supervisor of Elections Mr Mohammed Saneem said the workshop was a follow-up to the one conducted in February this year to ensure that all critical electoral processes and activities in the lead up to the 2022 General Election were reflected in FEO's preparatory plans.

"There are over 600 hundred processes that the FEO carries out in the Writ period to ensure the delivery of a free, fair and credible election and this is something

that we must meticulously prepare for," Mr Saneem said.

"We also had Technical Advisors from the Australian and New Zealand Electoral Commissions present on all three (3) days who gave their input on the plans and timelines presented by the managers and project holders."

At the end of the workshop, the FEO has managed to finalize the Media, Observer and Political Party Itineraries in addition to its own comprehensive work plan for the 50-day period.

The first possible date for the issue of Writ is 26 May 2022.



*Participants at the Writ to Writ Workshop.*

## Postal Voting Awareness

In line with the preparation for the 2022 General Election, the FEO has commenced Postal Voting Awareness sessions throughout Fiji.

The FEO teams in the Central Division have visited business houses, and will visit all Divisions in Fiji to raise awareness on Postal Voting in the coming weeks.

Postal Voting Applications will open on the day the Election date is announced.

Who can apply for Postal Voting:

- (i) A registered voter who is living outside of Fiji or will be outside of Fiji on Polling Day.
- (ii) A registered voter who is unable to travel to a Polling Station due to serious illness, religious beliefs or work commitments.
- (iii) A registered voter who is under pre-trial detention or sentence of imprisonment.



*Postal voting awareness at the Golden Age Home in Lautoka.*





*The Chairperson of the EC, Mr Mukesh Nand.*

## Presiding Officers' Training Launched

"You will all play a vital role come Election Day. You will not only represent yourself during the national exercise but also act as ambassadors for the Fijian Elections Office."

This was the message from the Chairperson of the EC, Mr Mukesh Chand during the launch of the Presiding Officers Training in Lautoka on 19 April 2022.

"You all will be the senior most Election Officials on the ground and in-charge of the polling place. This is a huge responsibility and we all believe that each of you have proven on merit that you are capable of the task," said Mr Nand.

This training is for both potential Presiding and Assistant Presiding Officers.

"The Presiding Officers Manual will be your guide and it will have all the answers you may have. Also, each one of you will undertake specific tasks at your respective Polling Venues and Polling Stations on Election Day," said Mr Nand.

7,145 participants are expected to be trained, in full day sessions, during this phase which ends on 26 May 2022.

## Nationwide School Registration Drive Launched

The FEO launched the Nationwide School Registration Drive on 19 April 2022 that will solely focus on registrations in schools.

While launching the drive, the Supervisor of Elections Mr Mohammed Saneem said the school registration drive will allow the FEO to carry out registration at all secondary schools so that eligible voters who have turned 18 years can be registered for the upcoming 2022 General Election.

"We here at FEO not only see students as future voters but also future leaders of this country," Mr Mohammed Saneem said.

He highlighted that it was important that voter participation and awareness is done at an early stage so that voters who have just turned 18 or will be voting for the first time in an election know the importance of elections and the processes and systems involved.

The FEO teams intend to cover 175 schools around Fiji during the drive, with visitations to 82 schools in the Central Division, 45 schools in the Western Division and 48 in the Northern Division.

The school registration drive concluded on 29 April 2022.



*Students of Votualevu College with their new VoterCards.*



*Students of Savusavu Secondary School with their new VoterCards.*

## FEO's Remote Outreach



*The SoE with voters during an awareness session in Naitasiri.*

The Supervisor of Elections, Mr Mohammed Saneem with the FEO voter registration team travelled to the farthest Polling Venue; the village of Tubarua, in the Central Division to provide voter services and conduct awareness for the 57 voters residing there.

During the trip, the team also made stops at the Nasava village which has 180 voters, the Matawailevu village which has 187 voters and the Narokorokoyawa village which is home to 212 voters.

"We have to ensure that no Fijian voter gets left behind," Mr Saneem said.

The teams travelled for three hours (3) and then travelled another 10 kilometers on foot, crossing rivers more than 21 times to be able to cover those remote villages.

The Acting Deputy Supervisor of Elections, Ms Ana Mataciwa and her team travelled

almost four (4) hours to the villages of Lutu and Wainimala.

Among the many voters registered was 74-year old Vasita Kucula who looks after her grandchildren and manages the house, which means that travelling to the nearest town centre to register would have been difficult for her.

"I am happy and thank the FEO team for visiting remote places like my village to register and provide all necessary voter services to us," Ms Kucula said.

"It would have taken an entire day to travel to town and return after registering. But we didn't have to do this as the service was brought to our door steps."

Many first-time voters were also able to register and say they are excited to participate in what will be their first ever general election.



# FEO TURNS

# 8

The FEO celebrated its eighth-anniversary on 28 March 2022.

Over the last eight (8) years, the FEO has conducted two (2) successful elections, the 2014 and 2018 General Elections.

Supervisor of Elections, Mr Mohammed Saneem said that 2022 was a very important year for the FEO, and for the country in the lead up to the 2022 General Election.

"I urge each and every staff of the FEO to continue to strive for excellence in whatever role and capacity you play in the organization. We need a team effort to conduct a free, fair and credible election," he told the staff during FEO's anniversary celebrations.

To commemorate the occasion, the FEO hosted the second 'Know Your Election' [KYE] Quiz, with over 600 teams registering for the competition.

The winner of KYE Quiz 2, a husband and wife duo from Waimari, Rakiraki scored 93.3% and walked away with the first prize of \$500 cash.

## FEO's Achievements

In the eight (8) years since its inception, the FEO has achieved the following milestones:

- On 28 March 2014, it became an independent body upon the establishment of the Electoral Decree
- Conducted the 2014 General Election after a lapse of eight (8) years and introduced a new electoral system in Fiji.
- Introduced biometric technology for the registration of voters.
- Developed and implemented a five (5) year '2015-2019 Strategic Plan' and also for the period of 2020-2023 containing a detailed roadmap leading to improvements in elections in the country.
- Introduced the Election Management System (EMS)



The Fijian Elections Office celebrated its eighth anniversary at the Toorak Headquarters on 31 March 2022.

which provided an integrated platform for all aspects of election management including election logistics.

- Introduced the inclusion of a disability feature on the revamped FEO website for people living with disabilities, which allowed them to read and understand voter information by clicking on the disability icon and selecting the option that best suits them.
- The Centre for Credible Election Information (CCEI) was developed to assist in eliminating misinformation/disinformation
- Conducted Voter Turnout Analysis and followed it up with a voter survey for 2018 General Election. Both of which were published in a report that was tabled in Parliament.
- Conducted the first Pre-Election Voter Survey and published the report on 29 March 2022
- Held its first Stakeholder Forum on Voter Participation with relevant stakeholders on 30 March 2022



KYE Quiz 2 winners, Team Dutt, Rahul Vikrant Dutt (Left) and Komal Dharshni (right) won \$500 cash prize.



# Deputy Supervisor of Elections Appointed



Mr Craig Rickards as Deputy Supervisor for the 2022 General Election.

The FEO has announced the appointment of Mr Craig Rickards as Deputy Supervisor for the 2022 General Election.

In announcing the appointment, the SoE, Mr Mohammed Saneem said: "Craig brings a wealth of election experience having worked with the Australian Electoral Commission for the last 38 years and having retired in 2021."

Apart from Australia, Mr Rickards has also worked in

Fiji, Tonga, Myanmar and other countries.

"Craig was here in 2014, as Technical Advisor in the area of Logistics and an advisor to the Divisional Managers in the 2018 General Election," Mr Saneem said.

"He is very familiar with the Fijian electoral system and the processes and we look forward to his contribution to the national election this year," he added.



FEO senior management staff with their certificates.

## Electoral Commission and Fijian Elections Office Sign MOU with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems

The Electoral Commission ['EC'] and the Fijian Elections Office ['FEO'] signed a Memorandum of Understanding ['MOU'] with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems ['IFES'], a US-based international organization specializing in elections.

The agreement was signed to enhance co-operation and collaboration to develop electoral practices in Fiji as

well as for the FEO to benefit from various activities of IFES in the Pacific region and the world.

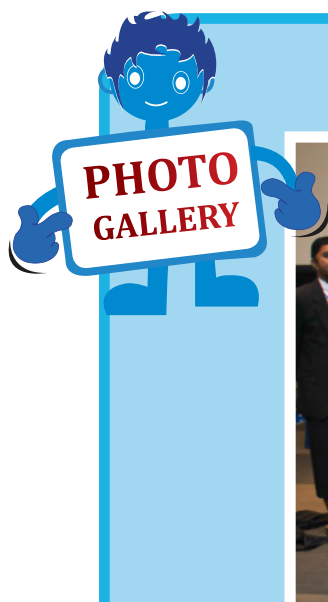
IFES and the FEO have had a cordial relationship in the past and the media was trained for the previous two (2) elections by IFES directly.

This year, IFES has conducted leadership training for the FEO senior management together

with development of material for media training for the 2022 General Election.

In signing the MOU, the Chairperson of the EC, Mr Mukesh Nand acknowledged the contributions of IFES to building the credibility of Fijian elections and expressed that he looked forward to better relations with IFES in terms of key objectives of elections in Fiji.





## KYE LAUNCH



### HEADQUARTERS

59-63 High Street Toorak, Suva.  
P.O.Box 2528, Govt Bldgs, Suva.  
Phone: +679 331 6225

### VOTER SERVICES CENTER

Old Fiji Visitors Bureau Building, Suva  
P.O.Box 2528, Govt Bldgs, Suva.  
Phone: +679 331 6225

### LAUTOKA OFFICE

36 Vitogo Parade, Lautoka.  
P.O.Box 2528, Govt Bldgs, Suva.  
Phone: +679 331 6225

### LABASA OFFICE

Legal Aid Building, Jaduram Street, Labasa.  
P.O.Box 2528, Govt Bldgs, Suva.  
Phone: +679 331 6225

## LAVETIVITI EDITORIAL TEAM



**Neelam Prasad**  
Manager Public Relations



**Jiuta Bogiso**  
Videographer / Photographer



**Richard Nath**  
Editor



**Asim Khan**  
Graphics Design Officer



**Ziyad Parvez**  
CCEI Co-ordinator



**Kathrin Krishna**  
Public Relations Officer



**Jennis Naidu**  
Public Relations Officer



**Vishaal Kumar**  
Public Relations Officer



**Sheenam Chandra**  
Marketing & Creative Officer



**Deniel Niraj**  
Graphics Design Officer

# Centre for Credible Election Information



## Consume online information smartly:

Read the full story and not just the title.

Check the source of the information.

Is the source neutral and credible?

Is there evidence to support the claim?

Is it a one sided story?



**Fijian Elections Office**  
*My Election. My Fiji*



Centre for Credible Election Information



[www.ccei.org.fj](http://www.ccei.org.fj)