

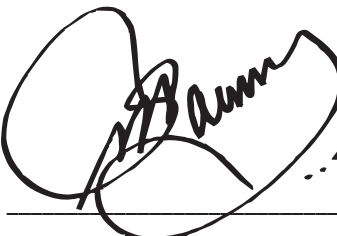
2022 GENERAL ELECTION

PUBLIC NOTICE ON CAMPAIGN AND MEDIA RESTRICTIONS

(Section 63 and 118 of the Electoral Act, 2014)

1. In accordance with section 63 and 118 of the Electoral Act 2014 [Act], the Fijian Elections Office would like to notify all members of the public that the 48 hours Campaign and Media Blackout period will commence at 12am on Monday 12 December 2022. The Blackout will continue until 6pm on Wednesday 14 December 2022.
2. All persons must note that the following actions are prohibited during the Blackout Period as outlined in sections 63(2) and (3) of the Act:
 - a) Engaging in any campaign, including any broadcast, advertisement or publication and distribution of any campaign material anywhere including any place within the 300 metre radius of the polling venue where the boundary is not ascertainable;
 - b) Displaying slogans, banners posters, flags or colours of a political party or a candidate in the election;
 - c) Approaching voters for the purposes of campaigning;
 - d) Distributing in any manner (including through telephone, internet, email, social media or other electronic means) any campaign material or communicating political messages, including calls to vote for or against a particular political party or candidate in the election anywhere including any place within the 300 metre radius of the polling venue where the boundary is not ascertainable;
 - e) Constructing or erecting any structure at any place within the 300 metre radius of the polling venue where the boundary is not ascertainable;
 - f) Organising any meeting, gathering or assembly of persons at any place within the 300 metre radius of the polling venue where the boundary is not ascertainable;
 - g) Providing any enticement, incentive or inducement, including food and beverage to any person at any place within the 300 metre radius of the polling venue where the boundary is not ascertainable; or
 - h) Using public address or sound systems that could be heard in the polling station or polling venue or its surroundings.
3. Also note that in accordance with section 63(1) of the Act it shall be unlawful for any person at any place within the 300 meter radius of the polling venue to conduct any of the following from 6.30am on Wednesday 14 December 2022 until 6pm on the same day:
 - a) Wearing any emblem, clothing, badge, apparel or accessory of a political party or of a candidate in the election;
 - b) Displaying slogans, banners, posters, flags or colours of a political party or a candidate in the election;
 - c) Approaching voters for the purposes of campaigning;
 - d) Distributing printed campaign material or communicating political messages, including calls to vote for or against a particular political party or candidate in the election; or
 - e) Using public address or sound systems that could be heard in the polling station or polling venue or its surroundings.
4. Furthermore, in accordance with section 118 of the Electoral Act 2014, all media organisations must note that during the 48 hour blackout period until the close of polling at 6pm on Wednesday 14 December 2022, it is prohibited for any media organisation to publish, print or broadcast any campaign advertisement, debate, opinion or interview on any election issue or on any political party or candidate. Any publication or broadcast by any media organisation relating to the election must obtain the prior approval of the Media Industry Development Authority.
5. Any person who contravenes section 63 of the Act commits an offence and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or to both. Also, any media organization in contravention of section 118 of the Act, the editor, publisher or owner of the media organization (as the case may be) commits an offence and shall be liable upon conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years.

Dated in Suva this 09th December, 2022.



Mohammed Saneem

Supervisor of Elections