

## Acknowledgements

We wish to express our profound appreciation to the people of Fiji Islands for the warm and hospitable reception afforded to us while we carried out our task. Wherever we went we were deeply moved by the welcome extended to us.

We wish to pay tribute to the Electoral Commission, the Supervisor of Elections, Mr Walter Rigamoto, and his staff, particularly those who worked tirelessly and patiently through the long days and nights at the polling stations and counting centres. They fulfilled the demands and challenges of the electoral process with patience and were always willing to answer any questions we asked of them. We were impressed by the dedication of the police to the democratic process and grateful for the assistance they gave us.

We particularly appreciated the co-operation of the political parties, the members of the press and non-governmental organisations and individuals who found time in the most demanding circumstances to meet us and share their opinions and concerns. We noted the high number of young people working as election officials and party agents and wish to thank them for their assistance to us and hope that they will continue to participate in such large numbers.

We wish to acknowledge our gratitude to the United Nations Fiji Election Observer Mission (UNFEOM) and the ACP/EU Observer Group for the assistance and co-operation we received from them.

We reserve our warmest tribute to all the people of Fiji Islands who, by turning out peacefully on voting days and waiting patiently while the count was in progress, did their country proud and served so ably the cause of democracy.

We also wish to extend our appreciation to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Don McKinnon, for inviting us to participate in this historic mission.

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# Composition of the Commonwealth Observer Group

### **Sir Henry Forde QC MP (Barbados – Chairperson)**

Sir Henry Forde was Attorney-General and Minister of External Affairs of Barbados from 1971 to 1981 and was again a Minister of State in 1983. He has been a Member of Parliament for 30 years, was Leader of the Barbados Labour Party from 1986 to 1993 and was also Leader of the Opposition for most of that period. He was a Member of the Privy Council from 1976 to 1992, and again since 1997. Sir Henry was a Member of the Commonwealth Committee of Experts on Vulnerability of Small States, such as Fiji Islands. He chaired the Commonwealth Observer Group for the Elections to the Constitutional Commission in Seychelles in 1992. In 1998 he chaired a Special CARICOM Group which sought to help resolve political problems in Guyana following the elections of the previous year. He has led Barbados delegations to the United Nations, the Organisation of American States, and several other international conferences and organisations.

### **Ms Jeanette Bolenga (Vanuatu)**

Ms Jeanette Bolenga has been the Acting Principal Electoral Officer for Vanuatu since April 1997. She conducted and supervised the 1998 National General Elections to Parliament, four by-elections, two Municipal Council elections, six Provincial Council elections and the Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs' election. She was also Acting Director-General in the Ministry of Internal Affairs from January to July 2001. Ms Bolenga's primary expertise is as an electoral administrator/supervisor, a public sector administrator and a policy adviser to government.

### **Hon Ben Humphreys AM (Australia)**

Mr Ben Humphreys was an Australian Labor Party Member of Federal Parliament for 19 years, having served between 1977 and 1996. His roles during this time included a six-year term as Minister for Veterans' Affairs, two years in Cabinet as Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Northern Australia and four years as Government Whip. Since 1987, Mr Humphreys has held the positions of Deputy Chair and Director of the Stockman's Hall of Fame, and is currently a Member of the Board for Bush Doctor Australia Ltd.

### **Mr Reuben Kaiulo MBE (Papua New Guinea)**

Mr Reuben Kaiulo has been Electoral Commissioner of Papua New Guinea since 1991. He was a member of the Commonwealth Observer Group to the Parliamentary Elections in Bangladesh in 1996. In 1980 he was part of the Commonwealth Observer Group which was present in Southern Rhodesia for the elections which preceded independence. In 1991 Mr Kaiulo was awarded an MBE by HM Queen Elizabeth II.

### **Mr Bandula Kulatunga (Sri Lanka)**

Mr Bandula Kulatunga has held a number of posts in the Sri Lanka Administrative Service. He was Assistant Commissioner of Elections from 1969 to 1983 and then Deputy Commissioner from 1984 to 1987. He is still involved with the Department of Elections, as a consultant, when presidential, parliamentary, provincial council and local authority elections are held. He was Commissioner of Registration of Persons from 1987 to 1993. He also worked in the Ministry of Defence, as Additional Secretary from 1993 to 1994 and as a consultant from 1994 to 1996. He chaired the Board of Investigations into Disappearances in the North of Sri Lanka from 1997 to 1998. Mr Kulatunga was in Southern Rhodesia in 1980 as part of the Commonwealth Observer Group for the elections prior to independence. He was also involved in the United Nations Assistance Mission in East Timor (UNAMET) in 1999, as a District Electoral Officer.

### **Hon Margareth Mensah MP (Namibia)**

Ms Margareth Mensah is Vice-Chair of the National Council (the Upper House of the Namibian parliament) and a member of the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO).

### **Secretariat Support Staff**

Mr Richard Gold	<i>Team Leader</i>
Mr Christopher Child	<i>Assistant to Observers</i>
Mr Mwambu Wanendeya	<i>Media Adviser and Assistant to Observers</i>
Mr Jeremy Clarke-Watson	<i>Assistant to Observers</i>
Mr Albert Mariner	<i>Assistant to Observers</i>
Ms Shirley Edwards	<i>Administrative Assistant</i>

## Arrival Statement, 20 August 2001

### **COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP**

**Fiji Islands General Election 2001**

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#### **ARRIVAL STATEMENT BY SIR HENRY FORDE QC MP CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP**

We are very pleased to be here in the Fiji Islands. We are present in your country at the invitation of the Government and after a visit by an Assessment Mission whose purpose was to consult with your political parties. We are not here to interfere. We are here to consider the various factors impinging on the credibility of the electoral process as a whole; to assess whether, in our own judgement, the conditions exist for a free expression of will by the electors; and to determine if the results of the elections reflect the wishes of the people. At every stage we will act with neutrality, impartiality, objectivity and independence. We will abide by the laws of this country.

We cannot visit every polling station or be present everywhere. But we can and will attempt to take a representative sample of the process, so that we can arrive at a broad overview. We will see the end of the immediate pre-election period, visit as many polling stations as we can and see the counting at all four counting centres. We will travel extensively, consult widely and take every opportunity to see the process for ourselves. We look forward to meeting as many people of this country as possible. We will, of course, co-operate closely with the United Nations Observer Group.

Each of us has been selected by the Commonwealth Secretary-General to participate in our individual capacities, but we represent the whole Commonwealth rather than the countries from which we have come. We are independent of our governments and any organisations to which we belong. Our concern is purely with the electoral process and its credibility.

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One of our members has already been here for a week and will be briefing us shortly. We have already been briefed by members of the Electoral Commission, the Supervisor of Elections and senior police officers. Today and tomorrow we will meet political parties and on Wednesday non-governmental organisations and others. On Thursday we will deploy around the country to begin our observation.

After the count we will then return to Suva to consider our report, which we will write here and sign before we depart, which is due to be on 8 September. When we leave we will submit our report to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, who will in turn forward it to the Government of the Fiji Islands, the Electoral Commission, the leadership of all the political parties and then to all Commonwealth governments. The report will be made publicly available, here and throughout the Commonwealth.

We will do our utmost to ensure that we observe as well as we can. We hope that the Fiji Islands have a good election.

Suva  
20 August 2001

### Schedule of Engagements

#### Sunday, 19 August

1430 Briefing by Supervisor of Elections Mr Walter Rigamoto

#### Monday, 20 August

0930 Arrival Press Conference

1030 Briefing by Advance Observer

1145 Briefing by Soqosoqo ni Vakavulewa ni Taukei Party (SVT): Mr Jone Banuve (General Secretary) and Mr Berenado Vunibobo (former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Board Member and Candidate)

1400 Briefing by Fiji Labour Party: Mr Pratap Chand (Management Board Member and Minister for Education)

1515 Briefing by Fijian Association Party: Dr Isimeli Cokanasiga (Deputy Leader)

1630 Briefing by United General Party: Ms Veronica Jang (Vice-President) and Mr Joseph Magnus (Member)

#### Tuesday, 21 August

0930 Briefing by National Federation Party: Mr Vijay Nand (Assistant General Secretary)

1030 Conservative Alliance/Matanitu Vanua (MV): Mr Metuisela Mua (Assistant Secretary-General) and Mr Vilimani Rakaseta (Candidate)

1130 Soqosoqo Duavata ni Lewenivanua (SDL): Mr Jale Baba (General Secretary)

1230 New Labour Unity Party: Ms Ofa Duncan (Candidate)

1430 Briefing by non-governmental organisations: Reverend Akuila Yabaki (Executive Director, Citizens' Constitutional Forum); Mr Ponipate Ravula (Project Officer, Citizens' Constitutional Forum); and Mr Hassan Khan (Executive Director, Fiji Council of Social Services)

1530 Briefing by religious bodies: Reverend Mamasa Lasaro (Methodist Church); Right Reverend Ifereimi Cama (Anglican Church of Diocese of Polynesia); Sister Teresa Naidu (Archdiocese of Suva, Roman Catholic Church); Mrs Esiteri Kamikamice (General Secretary, Fiji Council of Churches); Mr Henry W Rigamoto (Co-ordinator, Interfaith Search Fiji); Mr Jagdish Prasad (Education Convenor, Sri Sathya Sai Service); Ms Elina Paki (Baha'i faith); and Mr Bhuwan Dutt (Arya Pratinidhi Sabha of Fiji)

1630 Briefing by women's organisations: Ms Shamima Ali (Co-ordinator, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre); Ms Edwina Kotoisuva (Deputy Co-ordinator, Fiji Women's Crisis Centre); and Ms Miriama Leweniqila (President, National Council of Women)

**Wednesday, 22 August**

- 0900 Briefing by United Nations Election Assistance Project: Mr Hugh Cholmondeley (Co-ordinator) and colleagues
- 1115 Briefing by UN Observer Group: Mr Dong Huu Nguyen (Head of Mission) and colleagues
- 1200 Briefing by Commonwealth High Commissioners:  
HE Mr Mohammed Takwir Din (High Commissioner of Malaysia); HE Ms Susan Boyd (High Commissioner of Australia); HE Mr Adrian Simcock (High Commissioner of New Zealand); HE Professor Ishwar Chauhan (High Commissioner of India); Mr William Nindim (Deputy High Commissioner, Papua New Guinea); Ms Jocasta Sibbel (Third Secretary, Australian High Commission); and Mr Fakavae Taomia (Deputy High Commissioner, Tuvalu)
- 1400 Briefing by media organisations: Ms Viriska Buadromo (FM 96); Mr Netani Rika (*Fiji Times*); Mr Tukaha Mya (Fiji TV); Mr Mika Turaga (*Fiji Sun*); and Mr Vijay Narayan (Viti FM)
- 1500 Final Briefing: Office of the Supervisor of Elections
- 1545 Deployment Briefing



## Deployment of Observers



### Commonwealth Observer Group

Fiji Islands General Election, 25 August-5 September 2001

News Release

23 August 2001

#### Commonwealth Observers Deployed

Members of the Commonwealth Observer Group to the Fiji Islands General Election deployed to base locations across the country today. The Observers deployed in six teams – two based in Suva, two in Nadi, one in Savusavu/ Labasa: another team will travel throughout the country and will visit the smaller islands including those in the Lau Group. In addition the Chairperson of the Observer Group, Sir Henry Forde, will visit key locations across the country.

The Observers will travel throughout the divisions in which they are based attending the final campaign rallies, meeting election officials and voters. On voting days they will visit polling stations. Later they will see the counting of votes at all four centres.

Speaking before the Observers were deployed Sir Henry Forde said:

“Since we arrived we have held briefings with political parties, non-governmental organisations, Heads of Commonwealth diplomatic missions and other groups. These meetings have provided our Group with very useful background. Now we will be on the ground, looking at as many polling stations as we can, meeting as many voters as possible and observing the counting of votes.”

#### **Note to Editors:**

*The Fiji Islands are currently suspended from the Councils of the Commonwealth following the overthrow of its democratically elected government last year. This will be the first time that the Commonwealth will have observed elections in the Fiji Islands. This is the 34<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Observer Group since October 1990.*

Sir Henry Forde was Foreign Minister and Attorney-General from 1979 to 1981 and was again a member of the Barbados Cabinet in 1983. He has been a Member of Parliament for thirty years and has held numerous positions in international organisations. In 1998 he chaired a Special CARICOM Group which sought to help to resolve political problems in Guyana following the elections of the previous year.

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# Observation Notes for Poll and Count and Checklist for Polling Station Visits

5. The adequacy or otherwise of facilities at polling stations and their state of readiness.
6. Availability of adequate supplies, e.g. ballot papers, official stamps and stamp pads etc.
7. The performance of electoral officials at the polling stations visited.
8. The procedures in place to ensure proper security of ballot papers, ballot boxes and official seals.
9. Arrangements to facilitate voting by women.
10. The steps taken to ensure that the secrecy of the ballot is assured.
11. The general atmosphere at the polling stations visited.
12. Access of party agents to polling stations.
13. Whether illiterate voters are assured of a vote in secret.
14. Whether the ballot boxes are properly sealed at the end of the day and their security in transit is assured.
15. The conditions under which they are stored overnight.

**THE COUNT**

1. Inspection of seals.
2. The process of reconciling the number of people who voted with the number of ballots in the boxes.
3. The determination of invalid ballots.
4. The facilities for party agents and their representatives to witness and verify the count and overall transparency.
5. Access by international observers.
6. The conduct of election officers.

**COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP**  
Fiji Islands General Election 2001

**OBSERVATION NOTES FOR POLL AND COUNT**

**PART A**

The Observers may focus particular attention on the following aspects of the conduct of the election:

**THE CAMPAIGN**

1. Balance of TV/radio election coverage and extent and nature of access by party and other candidates.
2. Print media: nature of coverage and extent of access by the political parties.
3. The tone and content of material put out by the candidates, access to printing facilities.
4. The conduct of political meetings/rallies (permits for public meetings?)
5. The conduct of house-to-house canvassing of voters.
6. Nature, scale and effectiveness of Electoral Commission and other voter education on radio and television, in the print media and by other methods.
7. Activities/measures to encourage the participation of women.
8. Access to funds and sources of funds.

**THE POLL**

1. The location of polling stations.
2. Distances travelled by voters to polling booths, particularly in rural areas.
3. The procedure followed at the opening of the poll.
4. The length of time voters wait to cast their votes.

## PART B

Questions that may be put and which you may ask yourself:

1. Was the Voters' Register compiled in a satisfactory way? Were people missed out? Were the names of dead people or "phantom voters" included?
2. Who are the election officials? How were they chosen? Are voters confident that they will be impartial?
3. Is the person in the street satisfied with arrangements? Will he/she vote? If not, is he/she afraid to do so? Were there any attempts to discourage/encourage the participation of women and were they effective?
4. Have all parties been able to campaign freely? Has the campaign been free of intimidation etc? Have all parties had full access to the mass media?
5. Is there freedom to advertise and distribute posters, leaflets etc?

## ON POLLING DAY

1. Before polling starts, are the ballot boxes empty? Are they properly sealed? Are all procedures being adhered to?
2. Are all the parties/candidates represented at polling stations? Are they satisfied with the process?
3. Are the voters apparently voting freely? Are they enthusiastic? Do they talk freely? Do they exhibit signs of fear or intimidation?
4. Do voters understand the procedures properly? If not, are the procedures being explained fully and impartially? Are attempts being made to suggest how voters should vote?
5. Does the turnout indicate that women have been deterred from attending to vote?
6. Is only one person at a time being allowed into the voting compartment?
7. How long are voters waiting to vote? If a long time, are some being put off?

8. Will all parties be represented at the polling stations throughout voting and the count? Are agents adequately trained and vigilant?
9. Will observers have free access to all stages of the process?
10. Is the security presence effective/oppressive?
11. Were the proper procedures followed at the end of the day? Were they properly followed at the start of the next?

## THE COUNT

1. Are the boxes kept safe until opened? Are all parties present when they are opened?
2. Does the number of used ballot papers tally with the record of those who voted?
3. Are the papers counted properly? Are counting agents present? Are they satisfied with the procedures of the count?
4. Are the proper procedures followed for declaring votes as invalid?

FIJI ISLANDS GENERAL ELECTION 2001

**CHECKLIST FOR POLLING STATION VISITS**

Team Member(s): .....

Constituency: .....

Polling Station: .....

Time of Arrival: .....

Time of Departure: .....

Voters in Queue: ..... Rate of Processing: .....

1. **Opening of Poll** On time? No/Yes Procedures followed? No/Yes All materials? No/Yes  
Details:
2. **Party Agents** Present/Absent
3. **Register** State of the register? Are voters on it? Are parties complaining? Details:
4. **Layout and Facilities** Good? Adequate? Poor?
5. **Polling Staff** Efficient? Satisfactory? Poor?
6. **Security Presence** Discreet? Intrusive? Oppressive?
7. **Complaints by Party Agents** Are Party Agents present? Which parties? Any complaints? No/Yes Details:
8. **Complaints by Voters** No/Yes Details:
9. **Presence of unauthorised persons** No/Yes Details:
10. **Atmosphere at Station?** Orderly? Tense? Chaotic?

11. **Secrecy of Ballot** Assured? Poor? Uncertain
12. **Voting**
  - (a) Personation attempts alleged: No/Yes  
Details:
  - (b) Multiple voting attempts alleged: No/Yes  
Details:
  - (c) Women deterred from voting: No/Yes  
Details:
  - (d) Is the voting procedure (dye, stamping ballots etc) being followed? No/Yes
  - (e) Are procedures being followed re illiterate and incapacitated voters? No/Yes
  - (f) Is the correct procedure being followed for marking finger with indelible ink? No/Yes
13. **Fifty Metre Limit** – is it being observed No/Yes
14. **Closing of Poll** On time? Numbers still in queue? Seals applied? Procedure followed? No/Yes
15. **Transport Arrangements** – what arrangements to transport the sealed boxes after the end of voting?
16. **Security of Boxes** – how are they stored overnight? Are arrangements secure? No/Yes
17. **Agents** – are the party agents satisfied with closure, sealing, security, transport arrangements No/Yes

FIJI ISLANDS GENERAL ELECTION 2001  
**THE COUNTING OF VOTES**

1. **The Count** Are procedures being observed? No/Yes  
Detail:
2. **Post Count** Procedures followed? No/Yes
3. **Apparent fairness overall** Good? Acceptable? Questionable?
4. **Other Comments**

## Statement on the Voting, 3 September 2001

### **COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP Fiji Islands General Election 2001**

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#### **STATEMENT ON THE VOTING BY SIR HENRY FORDE QC MP CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP**

The Commonwealth Observer Group has had six teams in the Fiji Islands observing the immediate pre-election period and the voting. On each of the election days our teams visited as many polling stations as possible, including in the most remote areas: altogether we visited 323, in all four of the Divisions. We were given access to all parts of the voting process: we saw the opening of the polls, the voting, the polling station closures and the transfer and security of the ballot boxes and we spoke with voters, party agents, candidates and election officials. Yesterday we went to the counting centres to see the verification of the postal ballots. Today we will begin our observation of the count. Once we have observed that part of the process we intend to make a further statement.

In the meantime, we wish to congratulate all those who were involved in the voting – particularly the voters, so many of whom turned out to take part in the process. We are pleased that the voting took place in such a calm and peaceful atmosphere. We are impressed with the professionalism and dedication of the election officials, especially the polling station staff.

There were some problems, there have been some complaints and some matters will need to be investigated. The Supervisor of Elections, Walter Rigamoto, has himself stated that action will need to be taken before the next election to ensure that the register is completely accurate. We share that view. Queues were sometimes very long and slow-moving. That too needs to be tackled before the next election. There were other shortcomings. And some voters found the voting system to be complicated. However, overall the voting process functioned well: indeed, it compared favourably with that of many other countries.

So far the process has been credible, but it is not over yet. Now our attention will turn to the counting process. Then, on 6 September the members of our Group will return to Suva to write our report to the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Don McKinnon, on the electoral process as a whole, which we will complete here before we depart. We intend to make a further press statement before our departure.

Suva  
3 September 2001

## Statement on the Counting and the Electoral Process as a Whole, 8 September 2001

### **COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP Fiji Islands General Election 2001**

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#### **STATEMENT ON THE COUNTING AND THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AS A WHOLE BY SIR HENRY FORDE QC MP CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP**

On 3 September 2001 we said that overall the voting process functioned well and that so far the process had been credible. Now we are commenting on the counting process and giving our view on the process as a whole.

Members of the Commonwealth Observer Group made visits to each of the counting centres from the start of the postal ballot verification until our return from deployment at lunchtime on Thursday 6 September. We were at liberty to go wherever we wished and were able to check on several counts during each visit to each centre.

The high percentage of invalid votes caused by voters ticking below the line rather than numbering is of concern, and we trust that following this election there will be a thorough review of the relevant arrangements. We believe that Parliament should restore the legal provision which enables counting officers to use their discretion to admit a vote when the intention of the voter is clear.

There were delays and the procedures took a great deal of time. We believe that there are ways in which the organisation of the counting centres can be improved and hope that the Office of the Supervisor of Elections will give proper consideration to these for the future. However, the count was generally in line with procedures. The process was transparent. And it was painstaking, with repeated checking and double-checking. The officials showed great care, reflecting Supervisor of Elections Walter Rigamoto's frequent remarks that accuracy was paramount and that this was not a race.

Complaints have been made and it is right that these should be examined and investigated by the Supervisor of Elections. There are procedures for those who feel that there have been irregularities in the counting process. However, based on our own observations and analysis and having considered the allegations and taken into account the explanations we

have received, we believe that the vote-counting process was credible. There were problems and shortcomings but they were not of such significance as to have compromised the integrity of the process.

We have observed widely and, we believe, well. We have been able to meet with a wide range of people and organisations and, most of all, the voters. We have travelled extensively, sampling the process in all parts of the country. On the voting days we visited some 323 polling stations and during the counting of the votes we were present at all four counting centres.

On visits each team made detailed reports to our Chairperson on its observations. These reports and all other information, including representations made by political parties, were thoroughly studied and analysed at our final meetings in Suva prior to compiling our report.

When we prepared our report we noted that the General Election took place in conditions of peace. The political parties campaigned openly. The media could and did report objectively. The Elections Office organised the polling well. The voters voted freely and secretly. The counting process was generally in line with procedures and credible.

The General Election has not been perfect in every respect, but in our view it can command the confidence of the people of the Fiji Islands. Having observed as much of the process as we could we are strongly of the view that the conditions did exist for a free expression of will by the electors and that generally the results of the elections reflected the wishes of the people.

We hope that the results of the elections will be accepted by all and that all those involved in the political process will work for reconciliation, harmony, respect for the rule of law and the strengthening of the Fiji Islands' democracy.

Our report - which contains a number of recommendations and suggestions for the future - will now be forwarded to the Commonwealth Secretary-General. It will be released to the press once it has been sent by the Secretary-General to the Government, the Electoral Commission and the Supervisor of Elections, the political parties and Commonwealth Governments.

We leave the Fiji Islands with lasting memories of the warm welcome, friendship and courtesy that was extended to us by people in every walk of life, and gratitude to the Electoral Commission, the Supervisor of Elections and the many others who have helped us. We feel privileged at having been allowed to observe this country's return to the democratic process.

8 September 2001  
Suva

# Elections Office Leaflet on How to Vote

Remember for this ballot paper either put a tick in the top section or number all the boxes in the lower section.

Either **ONE TICK** above the line

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PNE	TOH	CRN	FLO	Rigamato	
LUM					
RAIKINI					
SUNDRESHWAR					
FLAVELL					
RIGAMOTO					

**OR**

**NUMBER ALL** below the line

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PNE	TOH	CRN	FLO	Rigamato	
LUM					
RAIKINI					
SUNDRESHWAR					
FLAVELL					
RIGAMOTO					

Instructions are printed on the ballot paper.  
**3. Is it possible to receive a ballot paper that is different from the above?**  
 Yes. That ballot paper will look like the one below:-

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 NAURONINUTARIBI OPEN CONSTITUENCY

Number the boxes from 1 to 5 in the square next to the symbols of each of the candidates in your order of preference.  
 Remember - number every box to make your vote count!

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
LUM	RAIKINI	SUNDRESHWAR	FLAVELL	RIGAMOTO	

Fiji is to hold a general election at least once every five years under the electoral system called the Alternative Vote

This is a preferential system of voting where a voter ranks each candidate, giving the number '1' to the 1st choice candidate, '2' to the 2nd choice candidate, '3' to the 3rd choice candidate, '4' to the 4th choice candidate, '5' to the 5th choice candidate and so on.

You will find here, a few questions and answers about filling out your ballot papers under the Alternative Vote.

**1. How many ballot papers will I receive?**

You will receive two. One will be for an open seat and the other for a communal seat.

**2. How do I fill in my ballot papers?**

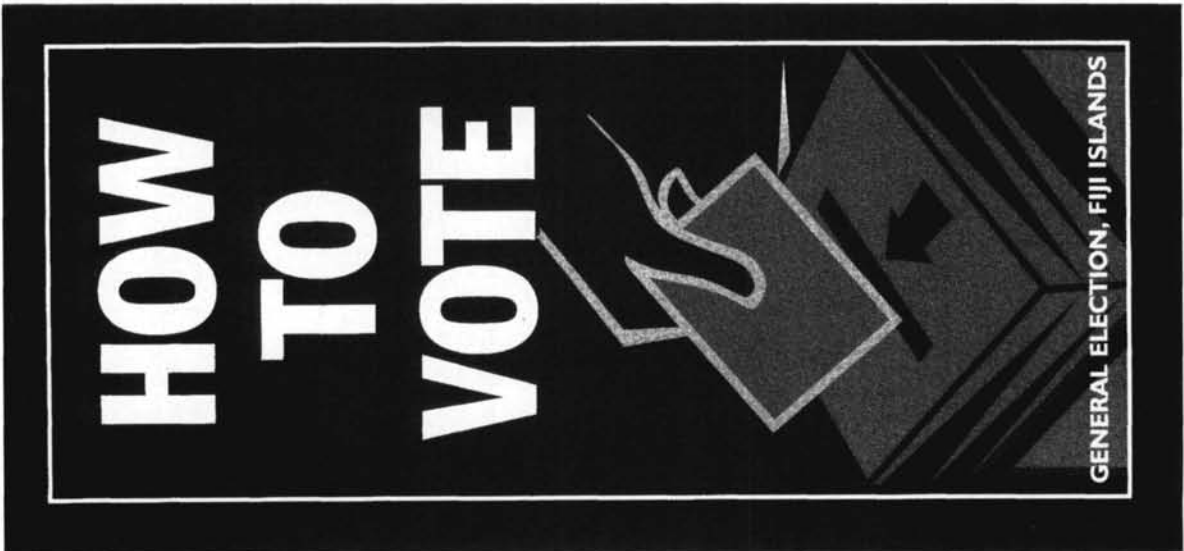
You are most likely to receive ballot papers that look like the one below.

Either place a tick in this section **OR** place numbers here.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
PNE	TOH	CRN	FLO	Rigamato	
LUM					
RAIKINI					
SUNDRESHWAR					
FLAVELL					
RIGAMOTO					

This ballot paper has two sections. You can either: Vote in the top section by putting a tick in one (and only one) of the boxes beside the symbol of the party or independent candidate of your choice. You must leave all the other boxes blank.

**OR**  
 You can vote in the lower section. If you vote in the lower section, clearly write:  
 \* the number '1' in the box beside the symbol of the candidate who is your first choice.  
 \* the number '2' in the box beside your second choice.  
 \* the number '3' in the box beside your third choice, and so on until you have numbered every box in this section.  
 Take care not to repeat or miss out numbers.  
 Every box in this section must be numbered.  
 Do not use ticks or crosses in this lower section.





## Where your vote goes.

### The most likely ballot paper

If you place a tick in a box in this top section, your preferences or choices will be counted the way that party or candidate (of the symbol that you have chosen) has registered them with the Supervisor of Elections.

#### EITHER

You may vote in one of two ways!  
Do NOT do both.  
By placing a single tick in one of these boxes to indicate which party's or candidate's preference you wish to adopt as your vote.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PNE	TDR	CDN	FLD	REG	REG
LUM					
RAIKINI					
SUNDRESHWAR					
FLAVELL					
RIGAMOTO					

OR  
Number the boxes from 1 to 5 in the squares next to the symbols of each of the candidates in your order of preference.

In this case number every box to make your vote count.

You may vote in one of two ways!  
Do NOT do both.  
By placing a single tick in one of these boxes to indicate which party's or candidate's preference you wish to adopt as your vote.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PNE	TDR	CDN	FLD	REG	REG
LUM					
RAIKINI					
SUNDRESHWAR					
FLAVELL					
RIGAMOTO					

OR  
Number the boxes from 1 to 5 in the squares next to the symbols of each of the candidates in your order of preference.

In this case number every box to make your vote count.

You place numbers here: '1' to your 1st choice, '2' to your 2nd choice, '3' to your 3rd choice and so on until you have numbered every box in this section. You are deciding for yourself all your choices.

#### OR

### A possible (But less likely ballot paper)

You place numbers here: '1' to your 1st choice, '2' to your 2nd choice, '3' to your 3rd choice, and so on until you have numbered every box. You are deciding for yourself all your choices.

If none of the candidates for a constituency registers a list of preferences with the Supervisor of Elections, you would receive this particular ballot paper.  
You vote in the same way as you do for the lower section of the ballot paper in 2.

Remember that you clearly write:  
\* the number '1' in the box beside the symbol of the candidate who is your first choice.  
\* the number '2' in the box beside your second choice.  
\* the number '3' in the box beside your third choice, and so on until you have numbered every box.  
Again, take care not to repeat or miss out numbers.

For this ballot paper remember, every box must be numbered. Do not use ticks or crosses.

#### 4. What can I do if I make a mistake when filling in my ballot paper?

If you make a mistake when filling out your ballot paper, you can return it to a polling official and ask for another one.

#### 5. What if I need assistance to fill in my ballot paper?

Voters who can't read or write, or who are disabled, or need help for any other reason may arrange with the officer in charge of the polling station for polling officials to assist them in the filling out of ballot papers.

#### 6. What will happen if I don't register or vote?

If you do not register or vote in a general election without a good reason, you may be penalised as follows:-

##### Failure to register

- Failure to register- \$50 fine.  
You may be fined \$50 by a court if you are found guilty of failing to register yourself on the Electoral Roll without a reasonable excuse.
- If you have been convicted of failing to register, you should apply for registration within 30 days. If you don't do that, then you could be taken to court again and fined up to \$500 or be imprisoned for 1 month.

##### Failure To Vote

- Failure to vote- \$20 penalty  
This penalty is paid to the Supervisor of Elections if you don't have a valid and sufficient reason for not voting.
- If you refuse to pay the penalty of \$20, you may be taken to court. Upon conviction you may have to pay a fine of \$200 and face possible imprisonment of 1 month.

#### 7. Where Can I Get More Information?

If you have any questions at all regarding registration and voting, call the Elections Office: Phone 211 646, Fax 302 436.

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

##### NAUKORIMATAMU OPEN CONSTITUENCY

Number the boxes from 1 to 5 in the squares next to the symbols of each of the candidates in your order of preference.  
Remember ... number every box to make your vote count.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LUM	RAIKINI	SUNDRESHWAR	FLAVELL	RIGAMOTO	



Elections Office, Suva, Fiji  
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