



**INTERIM STATEMENT**  
**FIJI GENERAL ELECTION 2022**  
**Suva, 16 December 2022**

Ahead of Fiji's General Election on 14 December, the Multinational Observer Group (MOG) deployed 90 observers across Fiji. The MOG was comprised of participants from 16 countries and two regional organisations: the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Melanesian Spearhead Group.

The MOG has had unrestricted access to observe all key stages of the electoral process to date. At the time of issuing this Interim Statement, MOG observers are attending the National Count Centre and National Results Centre. In the first quarter of 2023, the MOG will issue a final report, which will include a more detailed assessment of the MOG's observations and recommendations to further strengthen Fiji's election processes.

The Co-Chairs of the MOG are pleased to provide the following Interim Statement.

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- **The MOG did not observe any significant irregularities or issues during Pre-Polling, postal voting, or Election Day voting. The MOG assesses that Fijian voters were able to exercise their right to vote freely.**
- **The Fijian Elections Office (FEO) had built upon lessons learnt from delivering the 2014 and 2018 General Elections to improve its administration and operational effectiveness. This included significant efforts to expand voter awareness to support voters in exercising their right to vote.**
- **The MOG observed the functions and operations of the FEO to be technically proficient and assesses that it was well-prepared to deliver a transparent and credible electoral process in a professional manner.**
- **Many non-government stakeholders reported their concerns regarding increased restrictions on some previously available formats of election-related activities and discourse ahead of the election.**
- **Voting took place in a calm, peaceful environment.**
- **The MOG observed that persons with disabilities were actively assisted to vote during Pre-Polling and on Election Day.**
- **Counting proceeded in a systematic, methodical and transparent manner, consistent with the pre-published FEO guidelines.**
- **On the evening of 14 December, the FEO reported immediately to the MOG an 'anomaly' in its *FEO Results App* presenting provisional vote results, which was rectified.**
- **The publication of updates on final results has been slower than anticipated, due to additional quality control processes.**

## About the MOG

The Multinational Observer Group (the MOG) was established at the invitation of the Fijian Government, comprising three co-chair countries, Australia, India and Indonesia. This is the third time the Fijian Government has invited the co-chair countries to establish a MOG to observe the General Election.

The three Co-Chairs were: Ms Rebekha Sharkie MP, representing Australia, Mr Dharmendra Sharma, representing India and HE Ambassador Muhsin Syihab, representing Indonesia. The MOG was comprised of participants from 16 countries and two regional organisations: the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Melanesian Spearhead Group.

Prior to the Writ for the General Election being issued, the Governments of Fiji, Australia, India and Indonesia agreed to a Terms of Reference (TORs),<sup>1</sup> which enabled the MOG to have freedom of movement and consultation.<sup>2</sup> The TORs also instructed the MOG to observe and evaluate a range of electoral processes and to assess (i) whether the voter processes of the FEO facilitated and assisted Fijian voters to exercise their right to vote freely, and (ii) whether or not the outcome of the election broadly represented the will of all Fijian voters.<sup>3</sup>

## Electoral Context

The *Constitution of the Republic of Fiji* ('the 2013 Constitution') provides the foundation for its electoral system. Following elections in 2014 and 2018, in 2022, Fiji held its third General Election under that system.

### *Parties and Candidates*

The total number of parties and candidates contesting the 2022 General Election was higher than in both 2014 and 2018.

In 2018, there were 235 candidates from six parties and no independent candidates contesting 51 seats. Subsequently in the election cycle, one of the parties was deregistered.

In 2022 there were nine parties, four of which were newly registered, and 342 candidates, including two independents, contesting 55 seats.

Of the 343 candidates contesting the 2022 General Election, 56 were women. This is the same number of women who contested the 2018 General Election. Due to the rise in candidate numbers in 2022, women made up 16.3 per cent, when compared with 17.7 per cent in 2014 and 24.0 per cent in 2018. The MOG notes with concern this proportional reduction in women's participation as candidates when compared to the 2014 and 2018 General Elections. The MOG recognises that

---

<sup>1</sup> Signed on 18 October 2022. Available at: <https://www.feo.org.fj/storage/2022/10/TOR-Endorsed-18.10.22.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> See Terms of Reference, paragraph 5.

<sup>3</sup> See Terms of Reference, paragraph 1(h).

a system of government that reflects the diversity of the community, including gender diversity, is a key pillar of democracy (see further, 'Women's Participation' below).

The MOG observed that political parties and candidates were able to utilise designated public spaces to campaign. Many non-government stakeholders reported their concerns regarding an increased restriction<sup>4</sup> on some previously available formats of election-related activities and discourse, such as opinion polling and surveys, research workshops, candidate-development activities, and publishing of private opinion articles.

### *Voters*

In 2022, there were 693,915 registered voters. This was an increase from 2018, when 637,527 people were registered to vote. In 2018, there was a voter turnout of 458,532 (71.92 per cent). At the time of issuing this Interim Statement, the FEO had not published any statistics on voter turnout for the 2022 General Election. The Supervisor of Election (SoE) informed the MOG that figures on voter turnout will be published with the final results.

In relation to Pre-Polling, in 2022, there were 77,907 (11.2 per cent) registered voters. Of those registered, 54,246 (69.63 per cent) turned out to vote. This was slightly higher than in 2018 which saw a turnout of 45,510 (65.6 per cent). There were no significant weather events or other impediments to pre-poll voting reported during the 2022 General Election.

As to women's participation, in 2022, there were 345,566 (49.8 per cent) women registered to vote, compared to 316,431 (49.63 per cent) in 2018. Accordingly, 2022 was the largest number of women voters registered to date.<sup>5</sup>

## **Legal Framework**

The 2013 Constitution establishes the legal framework for the conduct of Fiji's elections, including regular elections based on universal adult (18 years) and non-discriminatory suffrage, and secret ballot. In these respects, the 2013 Constitution provides a good basis for a general election that complies with fundamental international standards.

Further to the foundation provided in the 2013 Constitution,<sup>6</sup> Fiji's electoral framework is expanded upon in legislation.<sup>7</sup> This legislation sets out the roles and responsibilities of the relevant electoral authorities, as well as other bodies in the electoral system such as political parties, candidates, voters and the media.

---

<sup>4</sup> In particular, *Electoral Act 2014*, s 115, which was in the Act in 2018, as well as ss 110A and 144A, which are recent amendments.

<sup>5</sup> All statistics cited above, and throughout this Interim Statement, are subject to final verification at the end of the electoral process.

<sup>6</sup> See in particular, *Electoral Act 2014*, ss 17-19, 23, 52-59, 66, 75-76.

<sup>7</sup> Principally: *Electoral Act 2014*, *Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012*, *Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) Act 2013*, but other acts have been considered throughout the course of the observation process.

Fiji has also ratified several international treaties that contain obligations relevant to the electoral process, including the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR), the *Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) and the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* (CRPD). These international commitments provide voters with rights and protections, many of which have been implemented in Fiji's domestic framework.

Since 2018, the *Electoral Act 2014* ('*Electoral Act*'), the *Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2014*, the *Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) Act 2013*, and other related legislation<sup>8</sup> have been amended on the basis that it would improve the electoral process.

The MOG notes that many non-government stakeholders and members of the public raised concerns in relation to these amendments and their impact on the interaction between the public and electoral authorities.

## **Electoral Authorities**

The legal framework establishes an independent electoral management body headed by an oversight and policy-making body<sup>9</sup> - the Electoral Commission (EC) - and an executive, operational arm, the Fijian Elections Office (FEO), headed by the SoE.<sup>10</sup>

### *Fijian Elections Office and the Electoral Commission*

The MOG had unrestricted access to the FEO and its operations, including briefings on processes and procedures and weekly meetings with FEO staff and the SoE where MOG staff were free to ask questions. Observers were also present during all critical stages of the electoral process, commencing with the issuance of the Writ on 31 October.<sup>11</sup> Electoral processes covered included candidate registration, nomination, and lodging of appeals, campaign rallies, polling day worker training, the printing, storage and distribution of sensitive materials, Pre-Polling and Election Day across the four divisions, the counting and tallying of votes, and aspects of the information technology (IT) used to support the electoral process.

The MOG examined the FEO's processes and procedures put in place to support the running of the General Election in 2022. The MOG observed that they were robust and had adequate checks and balances to ensure that any irregularities would be detected and mitigated. The MOG also observed the FEO to be open and transparent in its engagements with the MOG and noted a depth of professionalism within the FEO structure, with an emphasis on the empowerment of officers, including women.

---

<sup>8</sup> Such as the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Act 1975*, and the *Interpretation Act 1967*.

<sup>9</sup> *Electoral Act*, s 3.

<sup>10</sup> *Electoral Act*, s 6.

<sup>11</sup> Writ for Election, published in Government of Fiji Gazette, Vol. 23, No. 129 (31 October 2022).

In 2017, amendments to the *Electoral Act*, which made the SoE the Secretary to the EC,<sup>12</sup> were designed to create greater coordination between the two components of Fiji's electoral management body. Although this model aligns with international standards, and greater coordination between the EC and FEO had been commended,<sup>13</sup> in 2022, various stakeholders reported to the MOG that this change created the perception of a lack of separation of powers between the EC and FEO. Furthermore, they reported that this perception had contributed to a disconnect between the public and electoral authorities. The MOG notes that the appeal procedure for the EC was utilised in 2022 in relation to candidate nominations: of the ten appeals lodged, one appeal was upheld.<sup>14</sup>

### *Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption*

In addition to the electoral management body, the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC) plays a significant role in supporting the integrity of Fiji's electoral framework. Noting the *Electoral Act* creates several electoral offences, FICAC is directed to investigate and prosecute 'any offence of corrupt or illegal conduct pertaining to any election'.<sup>15</sup> At the time of issuing this Interim Statement, the MOG noted that during the 2022 campaign period, FICAC received 60 complaints, seven cases were taken to court, seven cases were closed and 46 cases were under investigation.<sup>16</sup> Overall, the MOG observed FICAC to be a professional institution that sought to conduct its functions in the public interest.

## **Voter Register**

The EC has responsibility for the registration of voters.<sup>17</sup> Voter registration for the 2022 General Election closed on 31 October at 6 pm, as specified in the Writ.<sup>18</sup> In total, there were 693,915 registered voters, including 77,907 Pre-Poll and 9,448 overseas voters. This was the highest number of voters registered to vote in a general election in Fiji's history.

The FEO has continued to maintain the voter register to a high standard. This includes a range of initiatives and awareness campaigns that support Fijians to update their personal information efficiently and effectively. To bolster the integrity of the voter register, during an election year the FEO cleanses the data against the birth, deaths and marriages register monthly to mitigate the chance of deceased voters being included. This is done biannually outside of the election year.

---

<sup>12</sup> *Electoral Act*, s, 5(7).

<sup>13</sup> See 2018 Final Report of the Multinational Observer Group, p. 14.

<sup>14</sup> *Electoral Act*, s 31.

<sup>15</sup> *Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 2007*, s 2A(c).

<sup>16</sup> See for example: <https://www.fijitimes.com/2022-bgeneral-election-elections-office-refers-duo-to-ficac/>; <https://www.feo.org.fj/national-federation-party-referred-to-ficac/>; <https://www.fijitimes.com/flp-refer-fijifirst-to-ficac-for-breach-of-electoral-act/>; <https://www.fijitimes.com/2022-general-election-fijifirst-party-candidate-oconnor-fronts-court/>.

<sup>17</sup> *Electoral Act*, s 3(1)(a).

<sup>18</sup> *Electoral Act*, s 19; Writ for Election, published in Government of Fiji Gazette, Vol. 23, No. 129 (31 October 2022).

## **Voter Awareness and Information**

### *Partnerships*

The 2018 MOG report recommended the FEO focus on voter awareness and an expansion of partnerships, including with civil society organisations (CSOs). The MOG welcomes the FEO's recent expansion of its partnerships, including with the United Nations Development Programme, to increase voter awareness, including in remote areas, with young voters and women. This includes the rollout of the *Know Your Election* campaign across all four divisions. The FEO also published a 2022 election information booklet in six languages. During the electoral cycle, the FEO implemented programs with the Ministry of Education to include civic education for high school students.

The FEO significantly increased its engagement with grass-roots organisations who have strong community links, having engaged over 180 organisations. This was a shift in approach from 2018 where the FEO engaged larger CSOs, including those that deliver civic education to communities while also engaging in policy formulation and advocacy.

The MOG commends the FEO for its efforts to expand its engagement with voters at all levels of the community. However, CSOs reported their concerns having been excluded from the electoral process given their traditional role in civic education. The MOG notes that these CSOs traditionally deliver education and awareness initiatives that go beyond the voting process to include education on broader matters such as human rights, gender and strengthening democracy. The MOG notes that active participation of civil society in election-related activities, including using civil society as domestic observers and engaging with civil society as stakeholders, is a component of a healthy democracy (see further 'Inclusiveness and Participation in the Electoral Process' below).

### *Voter Cards*

Prior to the 2022 election, the FEO introduced a new voter card which included the name of the polling venue where the voter must cast their vote. This was a direct response to an issue raised during the 2018 General Election when a cohort of voters were unable to vote because they attended the wrong polling station. In 2022, the MOG observed that there were a small number of voters that attended the incorrect polling station, but of the polling stations observed, this error in attendance was not systemic. The MOG also noted that in the majority of these instances, FEO officials were able to assist voters to find their correct polling station by texting the FEO hotline.

The MOG understands that 90 per cent of voters changed over to the new card. The new card is not required to vote; a point that was not well-understood or communicated in the lead up to Pre-Polling. During Pre-Polling, the MOG observed that voters without identification were able to vote after identifying themselves to the Presiding Officer at their designated polling station. The MOG welcomes the FEO's subsequent efforts to clarify this fact closer to the election.

## Use of Government Resources during the Campaign

A criticism from the 2018 General Election was a lack of laws, guidance or conventions regarding the conduct of Ministers, Members of Parliament and the bureaucracy once Parliament is dissolved ahead of a general election. In 2022, many non-government stakeholders again raised this criticism with the MOG as an ongoing key concern that directly impacts on public confidence in the electoral process. Many non-government stakeholders told the MOG that this gave any incumbent government an unfair political advantage in elections by allowing them to announce and implement government programs during the campaign period.

The 2018 MOG report recommended the Fijian Government introduce guidelines to foster a greater level of public confidence in the electoral process. The MOG observed the limited changes made to the *Electoral Act* in 2021 which prohibits the use of government vehicles to conduct campaign activities.<sup>19</sup>

## Inclusiveness and Participation in the Electoral Process

### *Domestic Observers*

The Minister for Elections has the power to invite domestic observers to take part in a general election.<sup>20</sup> The MOG noted that there were no domestic observers invited in 2022 or public notice that would both encourage and support applications from domestic observers. Fijian civil society representatives have expressed to the MOG a strong interest in observing this and future general elections.

### *Women's Participation*

A key concern raised with the MOG was the September 2021 amendment to the *Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012* which required individuals to register to vote using their name as specified on their birth certificate. Many non-governments stakeholders, including the public, criticised this amendment as adversely affecting women and iTaukei, who frequently use names that differ from that used on their birth certificate.

Without further disaggregated statistics on voter turnout and the voter register, the MOG cannot assess the impact of the amendment. However, stakeholders raised concerns that the amendment had not been subject to sufficient consultation contributing to declining trust and confusion amongst some communities. The MOG is aware that this amendment is currently the subject of constitutional challenge.

In relation to women's participation as officials in the electoral process, the MOG commends the high proportion of women in leadership roles within the FEO. Of the polling stations visited by observers, during Pre-Polling and Election Day, at the time of issuing this Interim Statement,

---

<sup>19</sup> See *Electoral Act*, s113(4A).

<sup>20</sup> See *Electoral Act*, s 119.

the MOG observed that 73.79 per cent of polling day workers were women, and 67.54 per cent of Presiding Officers were women.

### *Participation by voters with a disability*

The MOG appreciates that electoral authorities have continued to make significant efforts to engage with organisations representing persons with disabilities to enable assisted voting. The MOG welcomes amendments to the *Electoral Act* in this regard.<sup>21</sup>

The MOG commends the intention of the Elections Disability Access Working Group (EDAWG) to continue to meet after the 2022 General Election, rather than disbanding and regrouping ahead of the next General Election, so that disability-related issues can be improved iteratively. The MOG observed that persons with disabilities were assisted to vote during Pre-Polling and on Election Day, including voter materials being available in braille.<sup>22</sup> However, noting the challenging locations in which many polling stations were located, of the polling station visited, at the time of issuing this Interim Statement, MOG observer teams rated 66.28 per cent of Pre-Polling and Election Day polling stations as having adequate infrastructure to support independent access for persons with disabilities. Where infrastructure was not adequate, the MOG welcomes that persons with disabilities were assisted to vote outside of the pre-polling and polling stations.<sup>23</sup>

## **Media Coverage of the Electoral Process**

Fiji's media reported widely and relatively comprehensively on the electoral campaign, and hosted debates and interviews with a range of candidates from all political parties on radio, television, and social media. Despite a relatively robust industry, many media stakeholders told the MOG that the environment in 2022 was more restrictive than in 2018. Stakeholders said that this had led to a culture of self-censorship amongst journalists due to severe consequences of statutory default.<sup>24</sup> Stakeholders also noted the onerous requirements for publishing opinion polls, which resulted in no polls being published since these requirements were legislated in August 2022.<sup>25</sup>

The *Media Industry Development Act 2010* establishes the Media Industry Development Authority (MIDA),<sup>26</sup> as well as the Media Tribunal to, *inter alia*, hear and determine complaints referred to by

---

<sup>21</sup> See *Electoral Act*, ss 53 and 57.

<sup>22</sup> See *Electoral Act*, s 43(4), which requires that 'facilities provided at a polling station where practicable must be reasonably equipped and designed to enable persons with disabilities or other special needs to cast their vote'.

<sup>23</sup> In accordance with *Electoral Act*, ss 53 and 57.

<sup>24</sup> For example, under the *Electoral Act*, contravention of the media blackout laws (s 118) carries a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment, and commission of the offence of 'publication of false statements' (s 144A) carries a maximum penalty of \$50,000, 5 years imprisonment, or both.

<sup>25</sup> See *Bill No. 49 of 2022*.

<sup>26</sup> To, *inter alia*, 'encourage, promote and facilitate the development of media organisations and media services in Fiji...[and] ensure that nothing is included in the content of any media service which is against public interest or order, or national interest, or which offends against good taste and decency and creates communal discord'. See *Media Industry Development Act 2010*, s 8.

MIDA and to adjudicate breaches of media codes.<sup>27</sup> Although legislatively remaining a body, the MOG observed that the status of MIDA and the Media Tribunal had changed considerably since the 2018 election. The MOG was advised that MIDA no longer has any full-time staff and nor performs the functions prescribed to it under the Act. The MOG also observed that the FEO had taken over some roles that it had previously shared with the MIDA, such as media accreditations, and had taken on a monitoring role, such as requesting the media issue retractions or corrections using the newly created offence on ‘publication of false statements’.<sup>28</sup>

## **Pre-Polling, Postal Voting and Election Day**

Voting during Pre-Polling and on Election Day took place in a calm and peaceful environment in which Fiji’s police performed their duties diligently and voters demonstrated commitment, often queuing in heat, wind and rain. The MOG observed polling station staff to be competent, courteous, and well-prepared.

### *Pre-Polling*

Pre-Polling provided residents of nursing homes or health care facilities, members of the disciplined forces, those under pre-trial detention or serving a sentence of imprisonment, and those living in remote areas with the opportunity to vote. The MOG acknowledges the geographical and environmental challenges associated with delivering Pre-Polling in Fiji, particularly in remote areas. The MOG commends the FEO on their efforts to support all members of the community in exercising their right to vote.

From 5 to 9 December, the MOG observed Pre-Polling across Fiji’s four divisions and visited 115 pre-polling stations. The MOG visited polling stations unannounced and had unrestricted access to conduct their observations. The MOG observed the FEO to be well-prepared to deliver pre-polling services.

Most pre-polling stations respected the published times for opening. The MOG welcomes the FEO’s decision to extend the time to vote in certain areas to support students who were finishing exams. Pre-poll teams and Fiji Police secured ballot boxes and adhered to ballot box seal and transfer processes. The MOG also witnessed the packing of sensitive materials for Pre-Polling at the FEO Central Warehouse and the checking of materials by the corresponding Presiding Officers on arrival at polling stations. The MOG did not observe any campaigning at pre-polling stations. The overall conduct of Pre-Polling was rated as ‘very good’ (76.39 per cent) and ‘good’ (23.61 per cent) by MOG observer teams.

---

<sup>27</sup> *Media Industry Development Act 2010*, s 50.

<sup>28</sup> *Electoral Act*, s 144A.

### *Postal Voting*

The MOG notes the FEO supported voters to exercise their right to vote in the 2022 General Election via postal ballot. In particular, the MOG notes overseas registrations were facilitated by Fiji missions abroad who received training from the FEO in delivering voter services. Voter awareness efforts included an overseas registration drive which saw FEO representatives deliver a schedule of in-person awareness sessions to support overseas voters. Overseas voters who happened to be in Fiji, and who had not applied for postal voting, could vote at a designated polling station in Suva. The 2022 General Election was the first time this option was available to individuals registered as overseas voters but were in Suva on Election Day.

### *Election Day*

The MOG deployed 90 observers across Fiji's four divisions. The observers visited over 450 polling stations. As with Pre-Polling, the MOG visited polling stations unannounced and had unrestricted access to conduct their observations. Of the polling procedures observed, no significant irregularities or impediments were noted. The MOG also notes that staff were well-trained and resourced to undertake their duties. The MOG did not observe any campaigning at or around polling venues. At the time of issuing this Interim Statement, MOG observer teams rated the overall administration of polling stations on Election Day as very good (70.91 per cent) and good (28.81 per cent).

The MOG notes there were late changes to the location of some polling stations on Election Day due to *force majeure*. These changes were published widely, including on the FEO website, via local news and on social media which seemed to mitigate any potential impact on voters. The MOG is aware of criticism from some civil society members that these changes had not been communicated as effectively, especially outside urban centres. In many locations, the FEO provided free public transport to assist voters to get to polling stations.

Overall, the MOG observed that voting took place in a calm and peaceful environment in which Fiji's police performed their duties diligently and voters demonstrated commitment, often queuing in heat, wind, and rain.

## **Counting and Tabulation of Results**

Counting on Election Day took place at polling stations, immediately after closing. The count was observed and signed off, as required. The results were then communicated to the National Results Centre in Suva via phone and mobile application<sup>29</sup> to enable provisional results to be published. Hard copies of the protocol of results were placed into a tamper evident envelope at each polling station and then transported to the Central Processing Centre in Suva, from which they were dispatched to the National Results Centre. Pre-poll and postal votes were counted at the National

---

<sup>29</sup> Named the 'My Polling Assistant App'.

Count Centre in Suva and then the overall tabulation of votes was conducted at the National Results Centre in Suva.

As at the time of issuing this Interim Statement, MOG observers were recorded as being present for the counting of votes at 44 polling stations on Election Day, and during the counting of pre-poll and postal voting at the National Count Centre. The MOG had a continued presence for the tabulation of results at the National Results Centre from its commencement, at 6pm on Election Day. The MOG observed that the FEO's procedures were followed with no significant irregularities noted. Counting proceeded in a systematic, methodical and transparent manner. The MOG observed that the results tallying processes were designed appropriately and had sufficient safeguards to verify the protocol of results before figures were entered into the Results Management Information System (RMiS).

The MOG notes that the *FEO Results App* was taken offline on the evening of 14 December, due to an 'anomaly' in the data.<sup>30</sup> The MOG was notified immediately, and MOG observers attended the National Results Centre and were briefed by the SoE and their IT staff. The error was resolved, and the *FEO Results App* was restored after approximately four hours with corrected data.

Following this event, several political parties expressed concerns. The MOG notes that the *FEO Results App* is not used to count votes, but only to publish results. Election Day votes are tabulated and counted manually at polling stations and pre-poll, postal and recount votes are counted manually at the National Count Centre, as required. The MOG observed that the tabulation process is robust with appropriate quality assurance processes.

The MOG notes that the periodic publication of final results has initially been slower than anticipated, based on the publication of results every 6 hours in 2014 and 2018. The MOG understands that the delay has been due to additional quality control processes that were implemented after the 'anomaly' that occurred in relation to the *FEO Results App*.

The MOG congratulates the FEO, in particular the polling day workers, for their professionalism and commitment to provide voters with the opportunity to express their political will.

The MOG also congratulates the people of Fiji for taking steps to further advance their electoral democracy.

---

<sup>30</sup> The *FEO Results App* provides a means for provisional and final results to be published. The incident referred above occurred while provisional results were being published, as required under the *Electoral Act*, s 102A.