



CONCERNED CITIZENS
FOR CREDIBLE ELECTIONS

Voter.
Perception
Based
Election
Report





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Abbreviations

CCF	Citizens Constitutional Forum
CCCE	Concerned Citizens for Credible Elections
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSO-DEOG	Civil Society Organization Domestic Elections Observer Group
CSO	Civil Society organization
DEOM	Domestic Electons Observer Mission
DF	Dialogue Fiji
ECREA	Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy
EVR	Electronic Voter Registration
FCC	Fiji Council of Churches
FF	FijiFirst (political party)
FLP	Fiji Labour Party (political party)
FUFP	Fiji United Freedom Party (political party)
FWCC	Fiji Women's Crisis Centre
FWRM	Fiji Women's Rights Movement
IEOM	International Election Observation Mission
NFP	National Federation Party (political party)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
One Fiji	One Fiji (political party)
PD	Pacific Dialogue
PDP	People's Democratic Party
PWD	Persons with Disabilities
SEEP	Social and Economic Empowerment Programme
SODELPA	Social Democratic Liberal Party (political party)

Content

- Executive Summary 1
- Welcome address from the Chair 2
- Short history of CCCE research project..... 3
- Introduction and purpose..... 4
- Electoral Decree and Electoral System 7
- Why is domestic election observation necessary? 8
- Findings of campaign survey..... 11
- Checklist for polling day 21
- Media monitoring on elections..... 31
- Perceptions on polling day outside the polling stations (Forms A) 42
- Perceptions of voters (Forms B)..... 43
- Conclusions 49
- Recommendations to CCCE..... 50
- Recommendations to Fiji Electoral Commission 51
- Reference..... 53
- Annexes 54



Executive Summary

The Concerned Citizens' for Credible Elections (CCCE)

This research report provides an analysis of the electoral procedures in Fiji's national elections on 17th September 2014. A number of recommendations were drawn from the findings and are presented in this report. These provide practical improvements for future elections.

The research process involved three methods:

1. 100 CCCE researchers collected data from 147 polling stations.
2. CCCE researchers collected data on personal voting experiences of 500 voters from across Fiji.
3. CCCE researchers recorded the vote count that was publicly displayed from 147 polling stations, also throughout Fiji. This was tallied alongside the official counting of votes and compared.

This report presents details of the research methodology, all data gathered by researchers, the analysis of that data and recommendations. Recommendations are presented for improvements to future CCCE work, as well as practical suggestions for the Electoral Commission and Fiji Elections Office to consider.

In summary, although some discrepancies were found in relation to the count, the 17 September elections were concluded to have been credible. Most discrepancies in relation to the count can be attributed to human error, and could be improved with appropriate software and cross-checking of the results. The research demonstrated the need for elections staff to be more familiar with electoral legislation, that more time is needed for voter education, and that greater transparency in relation to the process of postal voting would increase confidence in the process.

The report also reiterates the vital role civil society plays in ensuring a favourable environment for credible elections, and the valuable contribution of accredited domestic elections observer groups. Limitations that hinder the participation of civil society to perform domestic election observation should be reformed.

The report concludes by providing recommendations to both the CCCE with regard to domestic observation and the Electoral Commission to improve specific, mostly technical, areas of the election process.

It is the hope of the CCCE that the findings of this report, as well as its recommendations, will be taken into account when preparing for future elections in Fiji.

CCCE: Message from the Chairperson

In preparation for the 17th September 2014 national elections in Fiji, a group of 16 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) came together in August 2014 in the hope of forming an independent, professional Domestic Elections Observer Group (DEOG). The aim was to help monitor for the people of Fiji, their first democratic elections since 2006. Invitation forms for registration insisted on non-partisan persons for professional training by a highly experienced international trainer, and confidentiality of information gathered. The concerned CSOs hoped that the DEOG would work alongside the International Elections Observers (IEO) already announced by the government.

On 15th August 2014 the DEOG released a press statement applauding the Terms of Reference for the IEO even as its application for recognition by the Minister responsible for elections continued to remain unanswered. The statement stressed the vital role a domestic observer group could play in assuring a “completely favorable environment for credible elections”.

The DEOG’s claim on the value of a domestic elections observer group has been supported by a swathe of international experience documented by credible researchers as reported in *The Economist* of 3rd March 2012.¹ The same article reports the increasing engagement of domestic election observers in recent decades. Not only can they monitor pre-election manipulations, but will also field many more observers on election day/s enabling greater chances of fraud detection.

Unfortunately the Ministerial permission for the DEOG was refused 26 days from elections resulting in the quick formation of the Concerned Citizens for Credible Elections (CCCE). The CSO members of this group sent selected staff members to six training sessions in the major urban centers of Fiji. 106 volunteer researchers of which 100 were ready to gather information on the set up of election stations, counting of votes, and voters’ perceptions. The purpose was to learn from the experience to improve future elections and election monitoring.

The results of that quick research exercise were presented to the representatives of the CCCE member CSOs on the 25th and 26th November 2014 and recommendations made for future directions. Despite restrictions of time, and freedom to make proper observations on polling and counting procedures, the CCCE exercise managed to collect more than 500 completed research survey forms and results from 147 different polling stations throughout Fiji.

This report presents the details of the exercise, the results and the recommendations.

The CCCE group thanks the Board and CEO of the Citizens’ Constitutional Forum for hosting the project and dedicated staff of the CCCE - Ms Andrea Talei Montu, with assistance from Ms Lucrisha Nair and Ms Talei Tuinamuana. The group is especially grateful to the trainer Dr Heiko Meinhardt, who availed himself from Germany, to train our people in what is a new process for us. It is our hope that their efforts and those from the rest of us will not be in vain but will give rise to greater citizen participation in election monitoring for increasing faith in our democratic institutions into the future.

Suliana Siwatibau
December 2014

¹ *The Economist*, March 3rd 2012. “Election fraud: How to steal an election”

CCCE History and Purpose

On 17th September 2014, Fiji held its first election in eight years, returning the country to democratic rule after the December 2006 military coup. One milestone on the road to democracy was the drafting and the promulgation of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji on 6th of September 2013, which set the pathway for the preparations of the 2014 Fiji Elections. Following the promulgation of the Constitution, the Electoral Commission was appointed on 9th January 2014. The appointment of Supervisor of Elections and the introduction of the Electoral Decree 2014 took place on 28th March 2014.

The announcement of parliamentary elections was highly welcomed by most all stakeholders as it was seen as an important milestone in the return to parliamentary democracy. However, it was also clear that the elections had to be carried out in a peaceful, professional and credible way in order to legitimise the transition to democracy.

In most parts of the world it has been good practice in democratic states to involve CSOs in the observation of elections in order to add independent credibility to electoral processes and to the polling results. This however could only be achieved if the CSO-led domestic election observation mission was carried out in a highly professional, impartial and technical way.

Domestic election observation is not completely new. In the 2006 parliamentary elections the Fiji National University (FNU) deployed a small number of election observers. For a meaningful domestic election observation mission, it is essential that observers are deployed all over Fiji in order to cover a significant portion of the polling stations. For the 2014 elections, the suitable number of observers was estimated at 300.

Taking into consideration that credible democratic elections are a pre-requisite for democracy, civil society - according to international standards - is the backbone of democracy. It is therefore expected to play a major role in the observation of elections.

A letter outlining the NGO Coalitions' request to set up a Domestic Election Observation Group was hand delivered on 18th June 2014. From June to August 2014, CSO-DEOG actively sought an invitation from the Minister responsible for elections to participate as an accredited observer group. (Annex i)

Such an invitation could only be extended by the Minister as stipulated in section 119 of the Electoral Decree 2014.² According to this section, which governs the election observations, only the Minister responsible for elections can invite or appoint an election observer. The Minister, who was also the Attorney-General (AG) and the Secretary General of the newly formed FijiFirst Party, did not respond to the requests. Various attempts to get in touch with the Minister, using both formal and informal means, proved futile.

On the 23rd August 2014, at the drawing of numbers for election candidates at the Fiji Elections Office, the Coordinator for CSO-DEOG had an informal meeting with the Minister and broached CSO-DEOG's request to participate as observers. Discussions revolved around the value of domestic observation in adding legitimacy to the electoral process and the results of the elections. In response, the Minister confirmed that whilst he saw the value in a domestic observer group for future elections, this was not going to be made possible for the 2014 elections for the following reasons:

- 1. *The Multinational Observer Group (MOG) given their technical expertise and experience, were in a better position to observe elections (observers from 14 countries including Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Iran, India, Israel and Papua New Guinea);***
- 2. *Political parties were allowed to have up to 5 party agents in each of the 2028 polling stations;***

During discussions, the Minister also noted his reservations regarding involvement of civil society, stating that their 'reputation precedes them'. Without accreditation, domestic election observation could not go ahead as it would have breached s 119 of the Electoral Decree.

² Decree No. 11 of 2014

From Domestic Observation to Research Perception Surveys

On the basis of the verbal refusal for accreditation from the Minister, the CSO-DEOG was dissolved on 28th August 2014. In its place the Concerned Citizens for Credible Elections group (CCCE) was formed. Its main objective was to carry out research and gather perceptions from recruited CCCE researchers and provide an analysis of the 2014 Elections in a comprehensive report.

The research method was as follows:

- ❖ **Perception surveys: Researchers passively noted voting processes, and conducted interviews of the voting experience of voters. A total of more than 500 perceptions were received and verified.**
- ❖ **Media monitoring of the electoral process: media coverage of political parties and candidates was monitored during the campaign period. Media monitoring was focused on whether each political party was given equal access to media. This included paid advertisements. Media monitoring was centered on print media Fiji Times and Fiji Sun, television outlets Fiji TV and FBC news and talkback shows in these respective television stations.**
- ❖ **Comparisons of polling station results: CCCE researchers gathered and documented results from 147 polling stations from different parts of the country, which allowed the CCCE Secretariat to cross check and compare official preliminary results from the field with the official final results issued by the Fijian Elections Office (FEO) (See Annex ii).**
- ❖ **Information sharing: Two workshops were held to share the Perception Survey results and gather recommendations for accredited domestic observer missions and the engagement and training of party agents in future elections.**

Training researchers

For the research project, the Secretariat carried out trainings focused on familiarising researchers with the content of the forms to be used during the survey particularly for information during voting day, as voters were not allowed to take any personal items including pens and paper into the polling station. Training materials used were derived from voter education from FEO and approved voter education materials from civil society.

Researchers needed to bear in mind the questions in the forms whilst voting on voting day. The forms were completed after voting and assessed each researcher's personal voting experience and what they had perceived. Instead of training 300 election observers as planned, if official accreditation were granted, CCCE trained 106 researchers from around Fiji to conduct data collection. Researchers were committed not to disclose information derived from the perception survey, including media organisations. Researchers further undertook to avoid "communicating political messages" during the blackout period, and were not allowed to discuss polling matters in public on polling day. This was to ensure that the research project operated within the boundaries of the Electoral Decree (ss 63 and 146). Each researcher relied on his/her own perceptions, which may differ from perceptions of other researchers. Therefore statements by individual researchers are based on the subjective experience of each researcher.

Six training sessions administered by the CCCE Secretariat took place in Suva, Nadi (with participants from Nadi, Lautoka, Rakiraki, Ba and Vatukoula) and Labasa (with participants from Labasa, Savusavu and Taveuni).

106 researchers were trained. 100 were deployed on election day, and six had pre-polling experiences.

Research methodology

Without accreditation CCCE researchers were not allowed to observe inside the polling venue or station. However researchers were able to collect meaningful research on each of their experience. Researchers returned to the polling station later on polling day and passively surveyed voting processes.

After the closing of polling stations the researchers visited as many polling stations as possible in their designated areas in order to document election result sheets, that were made available to the public at each polling station, by taking photos or by copying the results into a prepared template. This was a key activity because it enabled the CCCE Secretariat to compare the official results established at polling station level with the official final results published by the FEO. A day after elections, when polling could be publicly discussed without breaching the Electoral Decree, each observer conducted interviews with voters in their respective areas of responsibility on their views of the elections and any improvements.

Researchers were tasked to sign or complete the following forms:

- ❖ ***Code of Conduct: providing guidelines for the manner in which researchers needed to comply as CCCE researchers (Annex iii).***
- ❖ ***Non-Disclosure Agreement: an agreement similar to confidentiality agreement that states CCCE researcher's commitment not to disclose information on any matters relating to CCCE research until the launch of the report (Annex iv).***
- ❖ ***Campaign Observation Form (Annex v).***
- ❖ ***Checklist for Polling Day Perceptions on opening of polling stations, voting experience and counting. Perceptions of researchers on their personal accounts of casting their votes (Annex vi).***
- ❖ ***Perceptions on Polling Day (Form A): For the perception of the researchers by passive observation outside their polling venue later on polling day (Annex vii).***
- ❖ ***Perceptions of voters after Polling Day (Form B): For the perception of the family, friends and public on their personal accounts of casting their votes (Annex viii).***
- ❖ ***Assessment Form for Senior Staff (Annex ix).***

Information Sharing Workshops

The first workshop was held at the Hideaway Holiday Resort in Sigatoka from 25th to 27th November 2014 with nineteen representatives from the CCCE stakeholders participating in the deliberations. There were vibrant and active discussions on the findings of the CCCE research project and especially on the question of how to improve future elections and how to carry out a fully accredited domestic election observation mission. The workshop came up with a good number of highly relevant recommendations.

Those recommendations were presented to a number of CSOs which did not participate in the Sigatoka workshop, to political parties and to the Electoral Commission in a second workshop at the Holiday Inn in Suva on 1st December 2014. In order to have fruitful discussions with political parties, the workshop focused on how to improve the role of party agents in future elections. The Electoral Commission, represented by Commissioner Father David Arms, was highly interested in CCCE's recommendations and undertook to consider them for their own report. A document with all recommendations was prepared and sent to the Electoral Commission on 3rd December 2014.

Unfortunately all invited donors from the European Union, UNDP, USAID, DFID, DFAT (AusAid) and NZAid sent apologies and could not attend. Therefore it was not possible to discuss funding and support opportunities for future elections. However, the EU in Brussels invited CCCE to present its recommendations at a forum in January 2015.

Value of the Research

Despite the difficult political environment, CCCE managed to collect highly relevant systematic information on the conduct of elections, including unique and valuable data from a voter's perspective.

A number of errors in the transmission of results from polling station level to FEO were detected and documented. The data collection of the 100 CCCE researchers is important, as recommendations can be implemented in order to improve future elections.

Despite being unable to carry out a domestic election observation mission, the CCCE research project played an important role in the democratic transition of the country. A number of CSOs effectively coordinated a large scale and important project and demonstrated the significance of CSOs in future elections.

This perception survey report will outline the results gathered from researchers and from the interviews they were able to carry out.

Participating Civil Society Organisations

The participating CSOs were:

- ❖ **Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC)**
- ❖ **Pacific Dialogue (PD)**
- ❖ **Social and Economic Empowerment Programme (SEEP)**
- ❖ **Fiji Council of Churches (FCC)**
- ❖ **Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECREA)**
- ❖ **Academics, School of Social Science, (FNU)**
- ❖ **Academics from School of Government, Development and International Affairs, USP**
- ❖ **Citizens' Constitutional Forum (CCF)**
- ❖ **Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM)**
- ❖ **Dialogue Fiji (DF)**

In addition to the above organisations, individuals and supportive civil society organisations in Nadi came on board to assist in the perception based survey.

Electoral Decree and Electoral System

The national elections of 17th September 2014 were governed by the Electoral Decree, which was promulgated in March 2014. It regulated a new electoral system for Fiji based on proportional representation. Contrary to the 2006 elections the constituencies were abolished and the whole country consisted of a single constituency. Every party or independent candidate had to meet the threshold of 5% of the votes cast in order to represent in Parliament. The House of Representatives has 50 seats, which were allocated to qualifying parties using the modified D'Hondt³ method.

Altogether 248 candidates were successfully nominated. They represented seven political parties and two independent candidates.

The Ballot Paper

The ballot paper consisted of 248 different numbers (ranging from 135-483), one for each candidate. The numbers were allotted in a publicly held draw on 23rd August 2014. For better orientation the voters were, at the polling station, provided with the national candidates list, which contained the name of the candidate, their photograph and their number. It, however, did not show the party logo or party name to which the candidate belonged.

Valid Votes

The voter was required to mark the preferred candidate's number by circling, crossing or ticking it. However, the vote was considered as valid as long as the intention of the voter was clear. This liberal approach was a major improvement compared to the 2006 elections when the number of invalid votes reached a dramatic 9% (according to international standards the number of invalid votes should not exceed 3%). In the 2014 elections the number of invalid votes decreased to the almost insignificant number of 0.75%. This clearly shows that the voters were able to cast a valid vote. However, there were also indicators that voters might have voted for a candidate unintentionally. For example, there were an unusually high number of votes for, Ilaijia Vuniyayawa from Peoples Democratic Party who was allocated the number 297 and scored more votes than the well-known president of his party. The popular Josaia Bainimarama, the Prime Minister, was allocated number 279. CCCE researchers collected anecdotal evidence of voters confusing the numbers 297 and 279. In an instance, the driver of a taxi hired by a CCCE researcher could not hide his frustrations when he discovered that he had confused the number of his preferred candidate (279, Voreqe Bainimarama with candidate 297).

Identity of Voters

Another welcome improvement was the fact that spelling mistakes in the voter list no longer disenfranchised voters. Even voters with no valid ID were allowed to vote as long as their names appear in the voter list and the presiding officer was satisfactorily convinced of the identity of the voter (by asking additional questions). Therefore – unlike in a number of other countries – it was not attractive for political actors to buy off voter IDs in order to disenfranchise voters who belong to competing candidates.

Voter Turnout on Polling Day

In total 500,078 of the 591,101 registered voters casted their votes. The turnout of 84.6% of registered voters is, even by international standards, impressive and demonstrates the eagerness of the Fijian voters to exercise their democratic right.

Voter Turnout at Pre-Polling

Voting took place on 17th September 2014 in a total of 1,489 polling stations, while pre-polling was carried out in 549 polling stations two weeks prior to polling day (3-15 September). Pre-polling was done in isolated areas with a limited number of voters in order to meet logistical challenges. Pre-polling was also offered to people who were to be on duty on polling day. About 66,389 voters were called for pre-polling but only 51,039 turned out (76.9%). This slightly lower turnout compared to the polling day turnout of 84.6% on the whole was still impressive.

³ **D'Hondt Formula** – One of the options for the series of divisors used to distribute seats in List PR systems which adopt the *Highest Average Method*. The votes of a party or grouping are divided successively by 1, 2, 3... as seats are allocated to it. Of the available formulas, D'Hondt tends to be the most favourable to larger parties. See *Electoral System Design: the New International IDEA Handbook*, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance 2005.

Postal Voting

Fijian nationals living in the diaspora, as well as Fijian citizens who are outside the country on polling day, were given an opportunity to cast their vote by postal voting. In total 12,190 people successfully applied for postal voting but only 7,948 postal ballots were received on time (65.2 %). The system faced some logistical problems, which seem to have disenfranchised some postal voters. After release of the official final results it was not clear whether the postal votes were included into final results. Requests for clarification made by CCCE have not yet been addressed by the FEO.

The Count

This move was welcomed as aposed to the 2006 elections when the counting was done in each polling station. This increased the safety and transparency of the counting process. CCCE managed to photograph or document the final results published at polling station level in 147 polling stations. Those results were then compared with the polling station results released on the FEO website. There were discrepancies detected in 25 polling stations (17%). While those inaccuracies were rather insignificant (in the range of 1 and about 15 wrongly allocated votes), there was one more significant case at Tacirua Primary School (227503) where the number of votes was increased from 360 (polling station final result) to 696 (FEO website). However, this obviously was due to technical or human error because the numbers of votes from different parties were doubled (i.e. candidate 279 of FijiFirst received 108 but was given 216 in the official final results, candidate 158 of SOEDELPA received 73 votes but was given 146 and 317, also of SODELPA, received 46 but was given 92 votes). It should, however, be noted that such an obvious error should have been detected either by appropriate software or by cross-checking of the results before publishing.

Media Reporting

There were 387 media personnel accredited representing 34 media organisations. While this is a welcome move, it should be essential that FEO offer special training for media personnel on electoral procedures in order to improve quality of reporting. This is usual practice in many countries.

Why is Domestic Election Observation necessary for the democratic transition and consolidation of Fiji?

The national elections of 17th September 2014 marked an important transition period in Fiji. The country has now entered into a new stage which is the consolidation of the democratic system of government.

A credible election is a precondition for democracy but is not sufficient for the consolidation of it. Democracy requires – among a whole range of other aspects – a vibrant civil society.

The participation of CSO-led domestic election observation missions is international standard. Even authoritarian countries like Zimbabwe under Robert Mugabe accredited CSO-led observation missions.

Many countries⁴ have Terms of Reference (TOR) for domestic election observation missions defined and incorporated into the electoral legislation. This includes the TOR for the accreditation process. Every CSO which is interested in getting observers accredited would easily know which requirements have to be met. This would increase the transparency of the accreditation procedures.

Accreditation is always based on the commitment of the domestic election observers to observe the Code of Conduct, all laws of the Republic of Fiji and on their strict impartiality. Observers have to be professional and non-partisan, and should not be connected to political parties or candidates running for elections.

It is international practice to measure elections by their credibility, and avoid using the standard of 'free and fair'. This is because it is very difficult to measure the fairness of the electoral process because this would include aspects such as the advantage of the incumbent government, access to resources, media access and legal provisions and their effects. Not many elections could be perceived as genuinely fair, not even in the so called 'developed' countries. A credible election might not have been fair but it still implicates the will of the voters. For a credible election no systematic and widespread rigging should appear. However,

⁴ Insert come example countries in footnote- see IDEA

human errors and omissions and procedural shortcomings would not prevent an election from being credible as long as those would not significantly change the outcome of the election.

Even irregularities in the registration of voters and nomination of candidates' processes or in the campaign period would not automatically compromise the credibility of an election. It all depends on the extent of the irregularities. A good indicator is whether the political actors are still willing to take part in the elections despite the shortcomings. They will only take part if they stand a chance of winning. Before elections all the political parties interviewed claimed that they had good chances of winning despite mentioning complaints of disadvantages.

Domestic election observation – if carried out professionally – can add a lot of legitimacy to the election results which is also in the clear interest of the winner.

There are clear advantages of a domestic election observation mission (DEOM) over international election observation missions (IEOM). While IEOM are able to deploy only a relatively small number of observers, the DEOM could recruit and deploy a significant number of observers all over the country. For more details see the table below.

Domestic and International Election Observation

Domestic EOM Advantages	Domestic EOM Limitations	International EOM Advantages	International EOM Limitations
Significant numbers of observers deployed all over the country		Observers are mobile	Small numbers of observers
Able to observe the entire electoral process from opening to counting in the assigned polling venue		Surprise visits at polling venues	Only stay 30-60min in a polling venue
Familiar with the local languages, traditions and social environment	Risk to be compromised by traditions, family ties, respect for elders	Command respect	Usually not familiar with local languages, traditions and social environment
High sustainability because trained observers can be utilised for other EOM			No sustainability
Observers will have a thorough understanding of the meaning of elections and can explain to others			
Especially women and youths will be engaged including those from remote areas			
Civil Society will gain increased relevance in the electoral process and will be more visible as an advocate for credible elections			
	Risk to be perceived as partisan	Not perceived as partisan	Real or perceived political interests of IEOM
Recruitment of motivated and well-trained citizens	Insufficient training	Recruitment of well-trained professionals	Recruitment of (former) politicians with less or no experience in IEOMs
Statement adds legitimacy to the election results	Verdict on credibility not based on international standards Hidden agenda	Statement adds international and national legitimacy to the election results; Statement of lack of credibility of the elections could have impact on aid	Political interests are more important than credibility

EOM: Election Observer Mission; IEOM: International Election Observer Mission

In conclusion domestic election observation should go hand in hand with international election observation in order to utilise the advantages of both as much as balance the limitations.

International observer missions should be invited and accredited on the condition that they adopt the code of conduct and respect all laws of the Republic of Fiji. They should, however, be allowed to use their own methodology based on the TOR laid down in the electoral legislation.

CCCE: Campaign Observation

During the September 2014 Elections a new form of campaigning emerged. Political parties opted to engage in pocket campaigns to address their supporters, rather than hosting public campaigns to draw in new supporters. These campaigns were held amongst youth groups, women church groups and community groups. It proved difficult for CCCE researchers to attend and observe campaign trail without invitation.

From CCCE interviews and reports the pocket campaigns were a result of experiences faced by political party campaigns being sabotaged by rival party supporters, creating chaos and disruptions. Political parties resorted to pocket campaigns to minimise the risk for clashes with other party supporters. The rationale of pocket campaigns is, however, not very clear because the main purpose of party campaigns is to win new supporters and members instead of just entertaining those already there.

The campaigns CCCE were able to observe for this research were announced either the day before or on the day. Additional challenges for CCCE researchers were covering campaigns that were announced in advance but locations were inaccessible. Fiji United Freedom Party campaigns were predominately in the Coral Coast, Western and Northern Divisions.

Majority of the political parties candidates carried out personal campaigns with one or two public campaigns. Therefore it was difficult to obtain detailed itineraries from their respective political party secretariats. This was reflected in CCCE communications with majority of the parties where requests for campaign itineraries were met with responses stating that details would be provided if and when candidates provided their political party secretariats with their campaign details.

It needs to be emphasised that CCCE were not able to take a more balanced sample of campaigns which were visited. CCCE had to rely on information given by the various political parties and candidates. Some parties were reluctant to share information on their campaign activities. They feared that their political opponents were behind the request.

In total, 25 campaigns were observed in the Central, Eastern, Western and Northern Divisions:

14 campaigns for FIJIFIRST

4 campaigns for NFP

3 campaigns for SODELPA

1 campaigns for ONE FIJI

1 campaigns for FLP

1 campaigns for PDP

1 campaigns for Independent

It was within legal boundaries for the research project to send researchers to political party campaign rallies however researchers refrained from wearing CCCE symbols or t-shirts and filled the observation forms after leaving the rally. This was necessary to avoid questioning by party officials or state authorities. Despite the fact that it was perfectly legal to observe campaigns it was of concern to researchers that security on the ground were not aware. The researchers were trained by an elections Consultant and were informed on how to access the campaigns with the forms they were provided with. There was a Campaign Observer Form (Annex v) provided to all researchers in order to allow for structured compilation of relevant information.

In Summary:

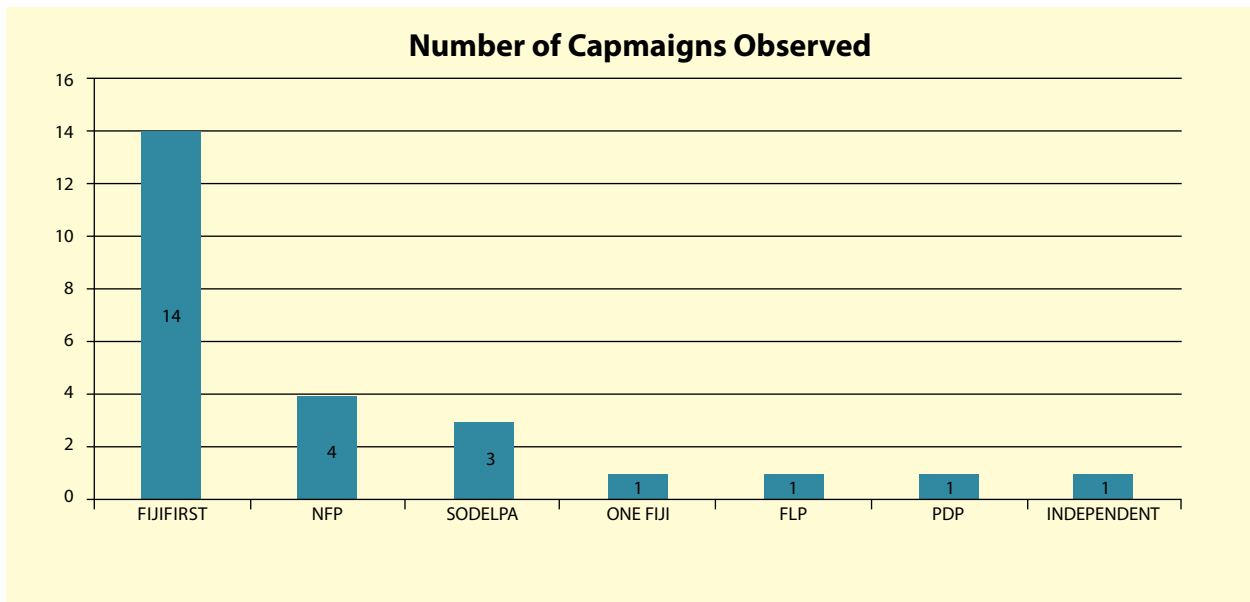
FijiFirst had highest average attendance of 200-300 people. SODELPA averaged 100-160 people in attendance. NFP had the third highest average of 100-150 attendance. FijiFirst had the highest average estimated share of women in attendance, which was an estimated 53.5%. SODELPA had an approximated 46.3% and NFP had an approximated 43.6% of women in attendance.

From reports gathered 3 political parties FijiFirst, SODELPA and NFP were noted for distribution of campaign materials. This is legal and is expected from party campaigns.

Political parties and Independent candidates released manifestos rather late in the campaign period. Manifestos as the backbone of the political parties and independent candidates include an outline of policy which includes promises and priorities of the party.

The following are the analysis and findings at the conclusion of the CCCE research for political campaigns for the 2014 Elections.

Analysis of Campaign Observation



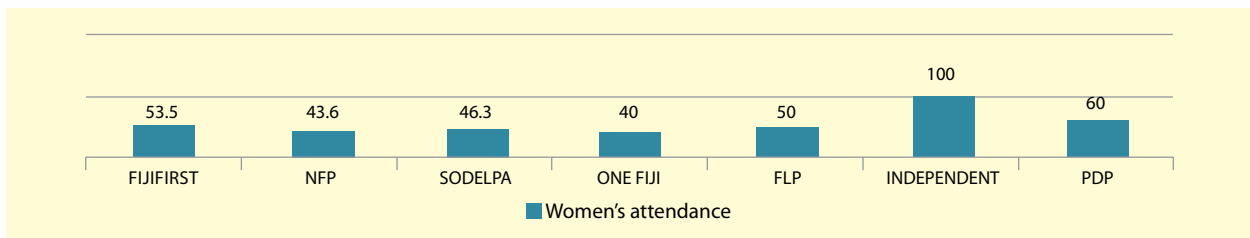
14 campaigns for FijiFirst, 4 campaigns for NFP, 3 campaigns for SODELPA, 1 campaign for One Fiji, 1 campaign for FLP, 1 campaign for PDP, 1 campaign for Independent

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE IN CAMPAIGNS

Average Attendance	FIJIFIRST	NFP	SODELPA	ONEFIJI	FLP	PDP	INDEPENDENT
	200-300	100-150	100-160	11-50	10	11-50	11-50

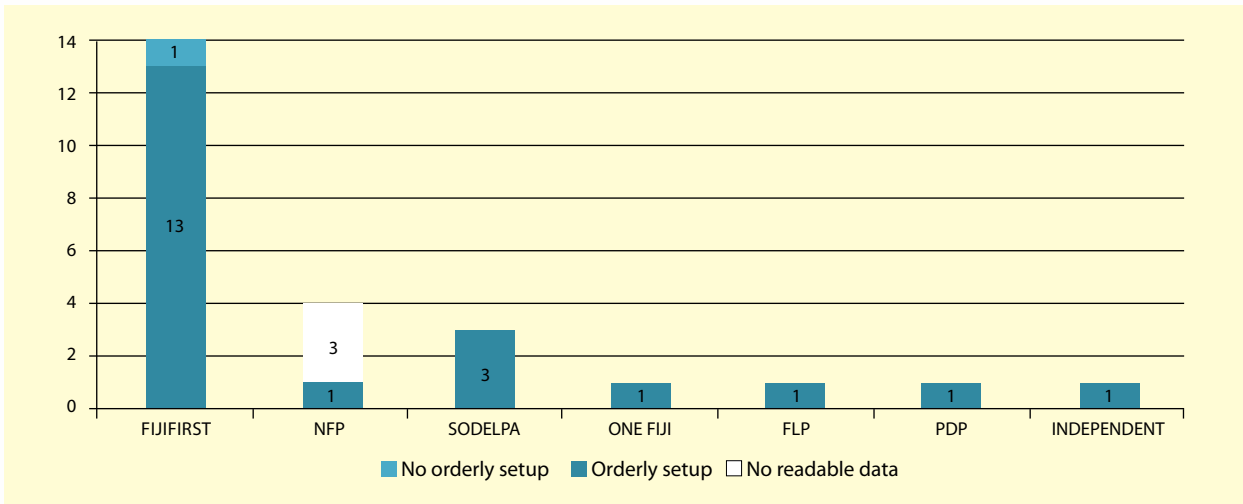
FijiFirst campaigns clearly had a wide following with an average of 200-300 people attending campaigns. Followed by SODELPA and NFP.

WOMEN'S ATTENDANCE:



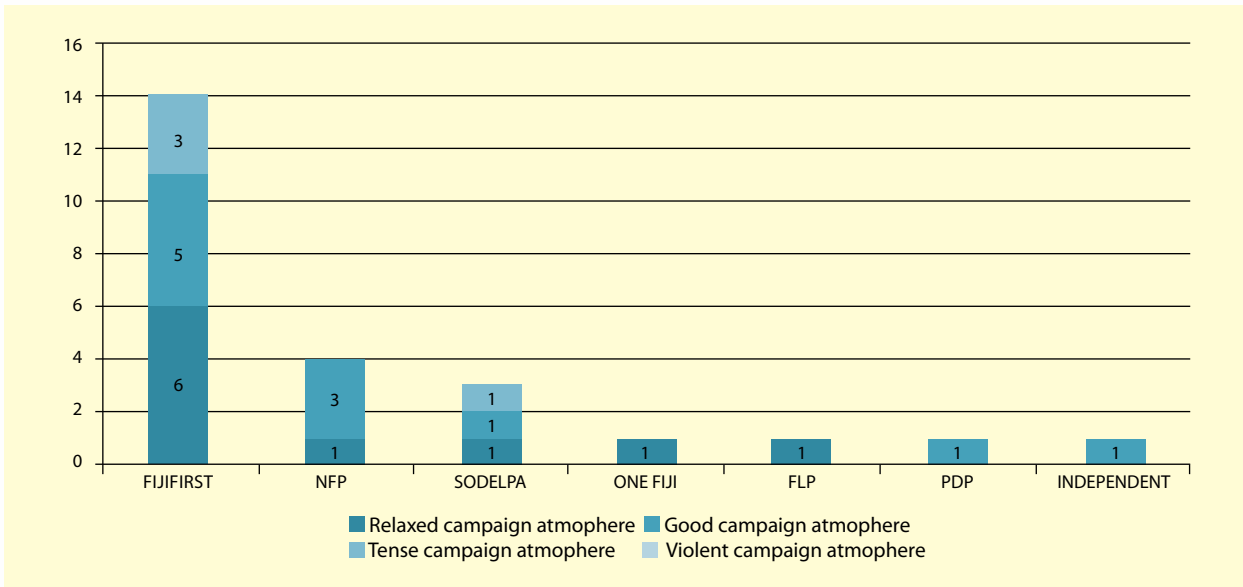
PDP had the highest female attendance in their sole campaign out of all political parties (not including candidates) with 60%, followed by FijiFirst at 53.5% and FLP at 50%. Independent candidate, Roshika Deo held a single campaign. There were no males in attendance.

WAS THE SET UP ORDERLY?



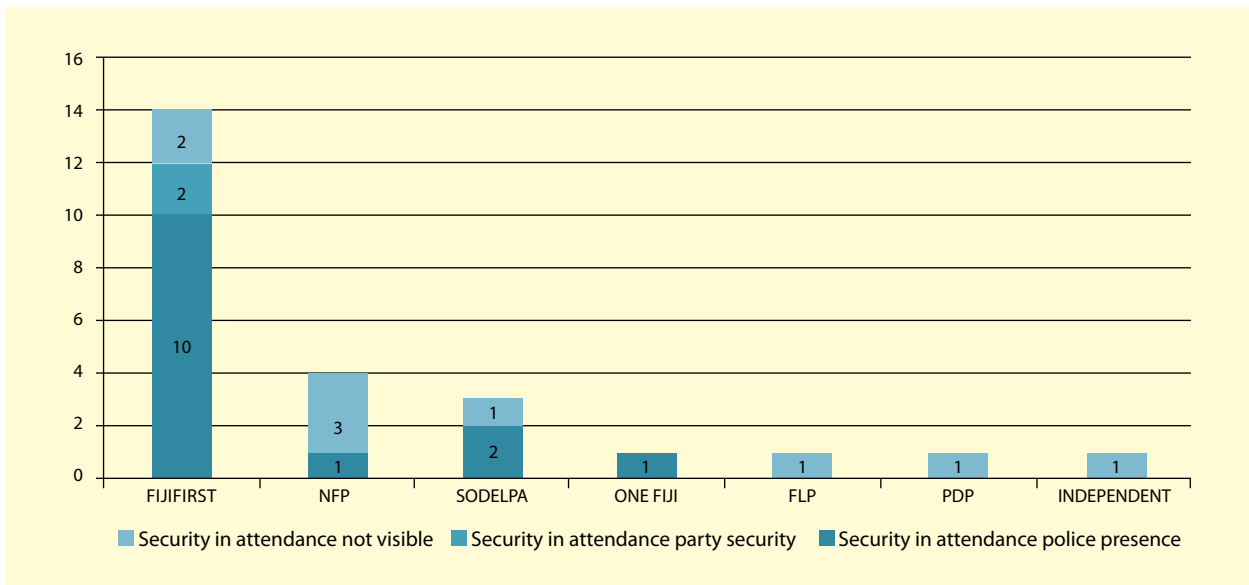
The disorderly campaign took place at an annual women's club meeting in Rakiraki where FijiFirst candidate joined to carry out campaign

WHAT WAS THE CAMPAIGN ATMOSPHERE?



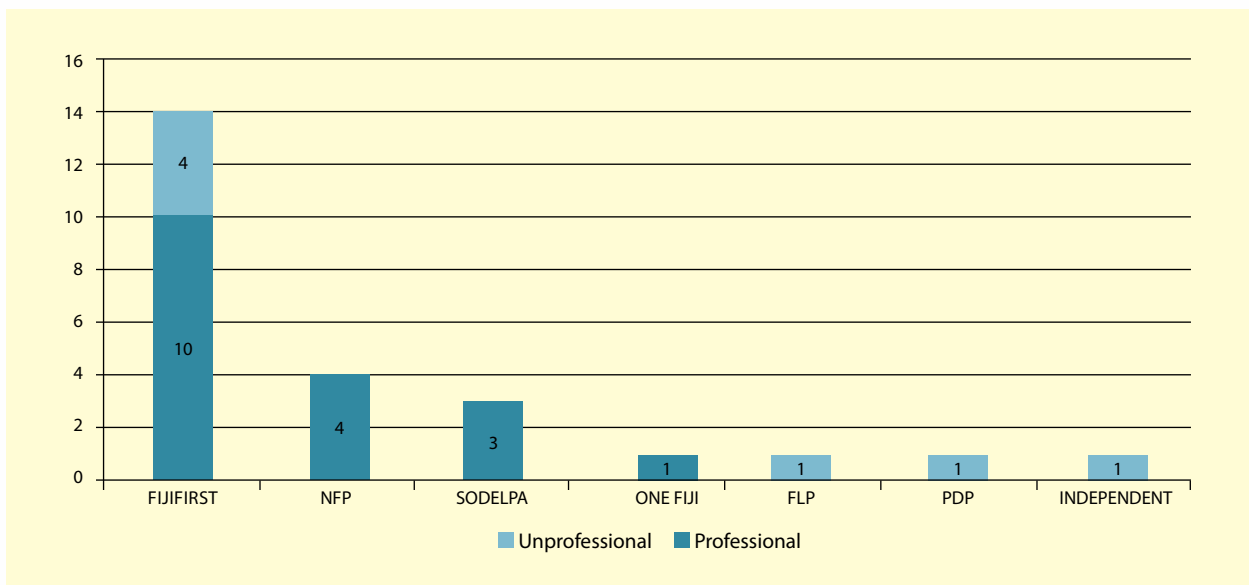
The tense atmosphere was noted for three FijiFirst campaigns and one SODELPA in Rakiraki and Nadi respectively. FijiFirst and SODELPA supporters engaged in heated arguments at a SODELPA campaign. The women's club meeting in Rakiraki turned into a FijiFirst campaign.

SECURITY DURING CAMPAIGNS?



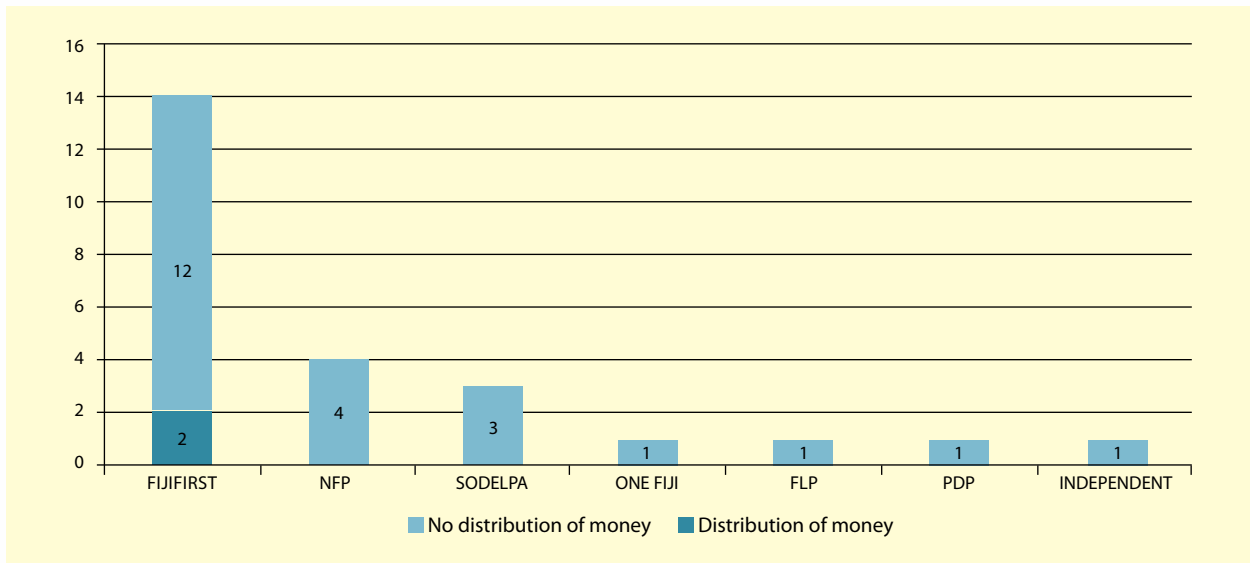
CCCE researchers faced difficulties in identifying and differentiating security, personal bodyguards and visible security as area majority of them wore civilian clothing. The above status illustrate police presence and high security presence for SODELPA and FijiFirst parties. Only FijiFirst had party security for two campaigns when police presence was noted.

DID THEY CONDUCT THEMSELVES PROFESSIONALLY?



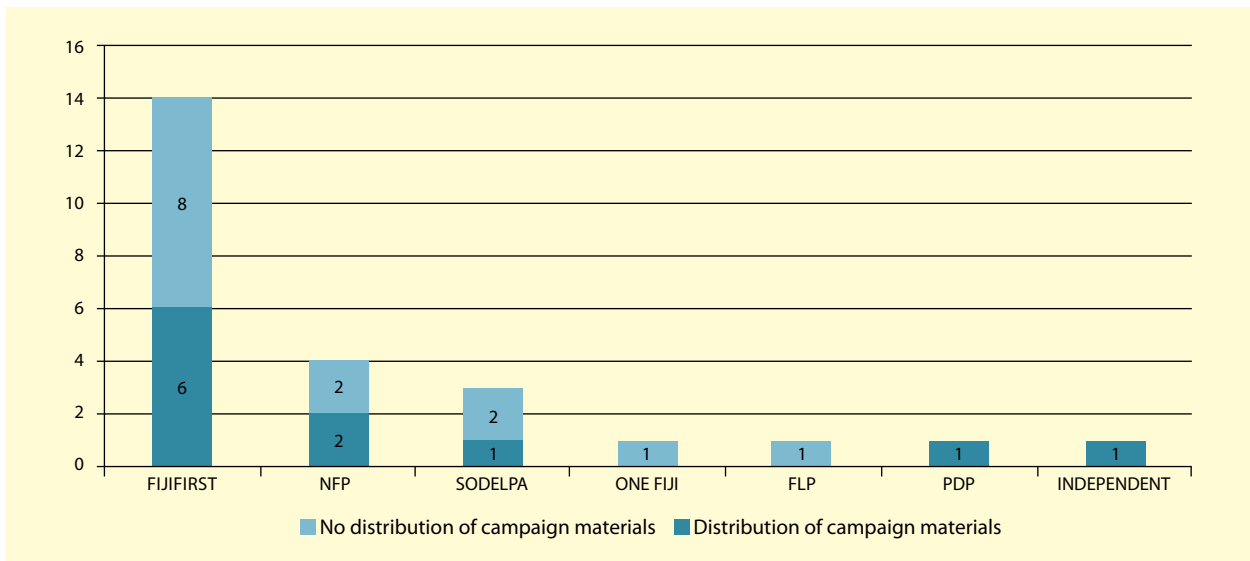
Only four reports said the campaigns were conducted unprofessionally. Researchers wished not to comment further as they felt uneasy at those campaigns.

DID YOU SEE DISTRIBUTION OF MONEY?



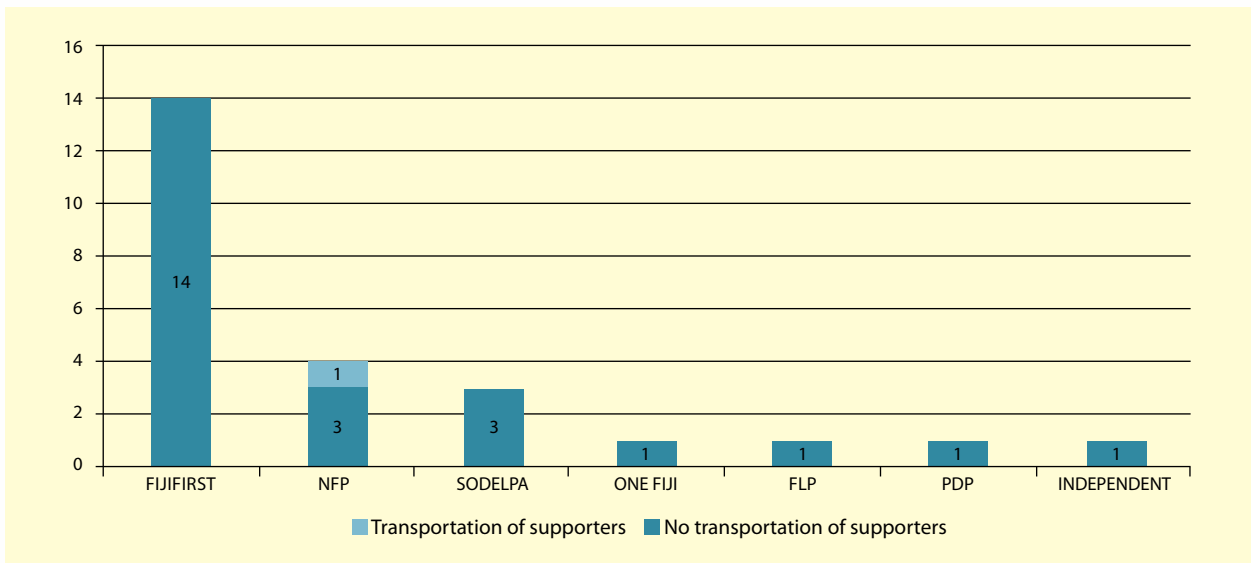
Two campaigns reported distribution of money to supporters. One was an annual women's club meeting in Rakiraki where women of six villages were in attendance. The women requested return fares to their respective villages and the candidate was seen to distribute money. A FijiFirst candidate heard word of the women's gathering and joined to campaign. The second report was noted in Qalewaqa, Labasa by the researcher who had attended the meeting.

WAS THERE DISTRIBUTION OF CAMPAIGN MATERIALS?



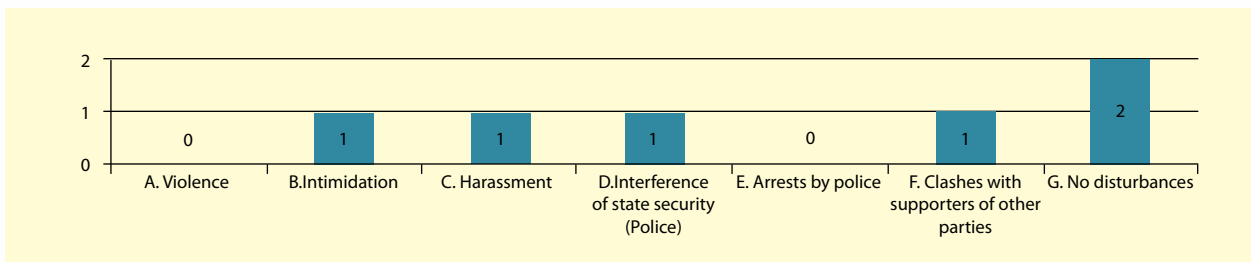
Campaign materials such as party manifestos, t-shirts, caps etc. were not readily available. Even the bigger and richer parties such as FijiFirst and SODELPA did not provide campaign materials at all campaigns visited.

TRANSPORTATION OF SUPPORTERS?



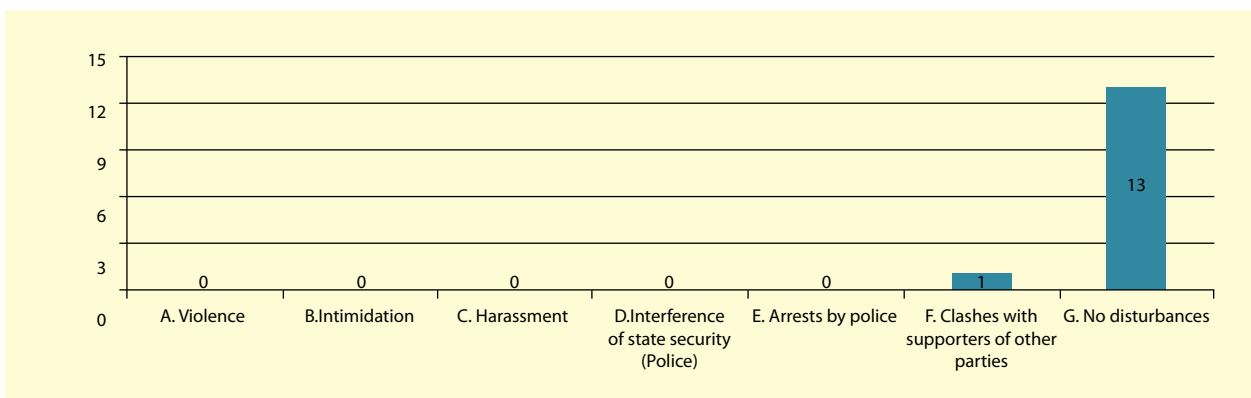
Only one campaign was noted for ferrying supporters to the campaign NFP-1 (BUS). There is no law against this, this and is only illegal if people are transported to polling stations on polling day as this will be considered vote buying.

ANY DISTURBANCES OBSERVED IN SODELPA CAMPAIGNS?



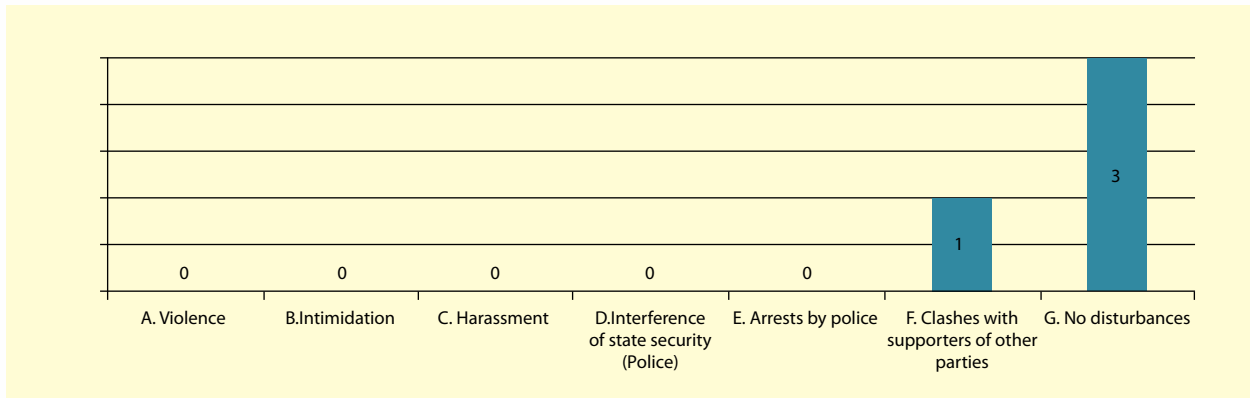
The SODELPA campaigns noted intimidation, harassment and police interference between SODELPA and FijiFirst supporters.

ANY DISTURBANCES OBSERVED IN FIJIFIRST CAMPAIGNS?



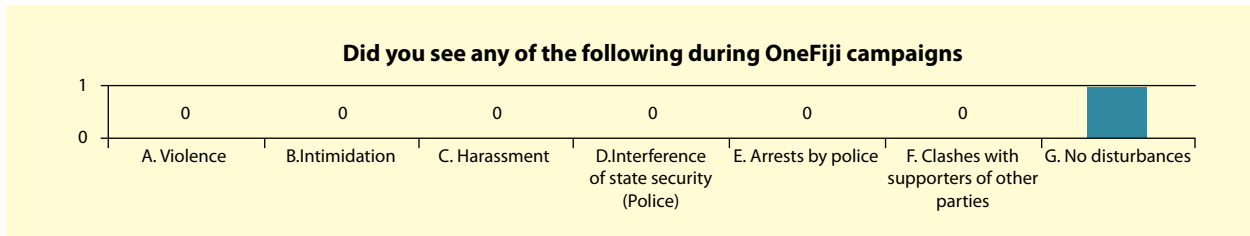
FijiFirst clashed with SODELPA supporters in one campaign but recorded no disturbances in the other thirteen.

ANY DISTURBANCES OBSERVED IN NFP CAMPAIGNS?



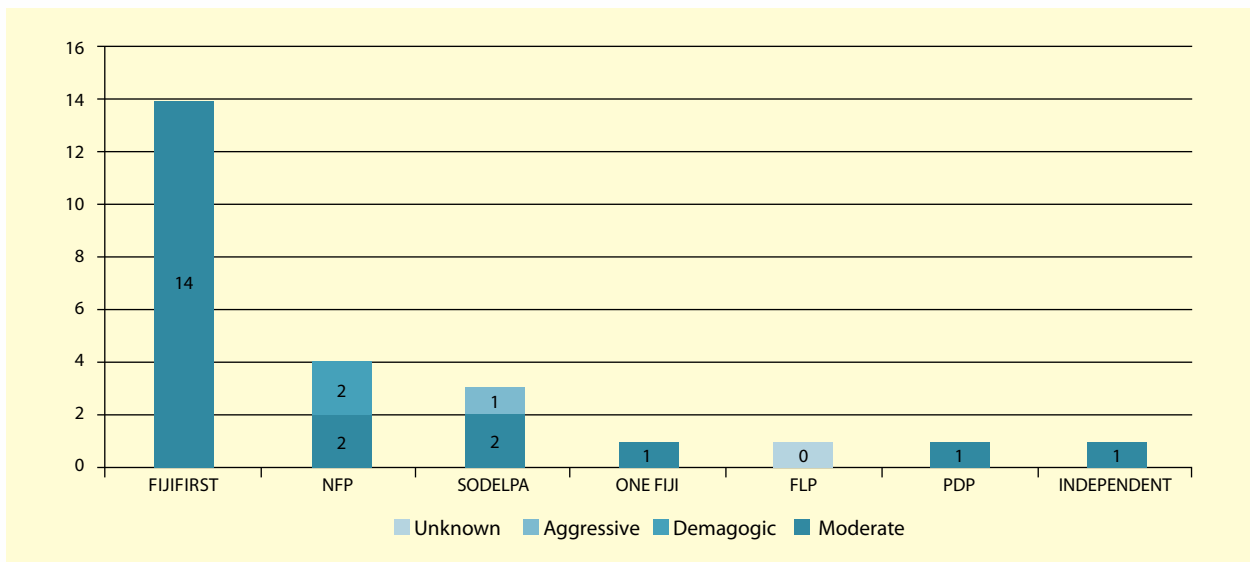
NFP supporters clashed with supporters of other parties and otherwise recorded no disturbances in their other campaigns.

ANY DISTURBANCES IN ONE FIJI, FLP, PDP AND INDEPENDENT CAMPAIGNS



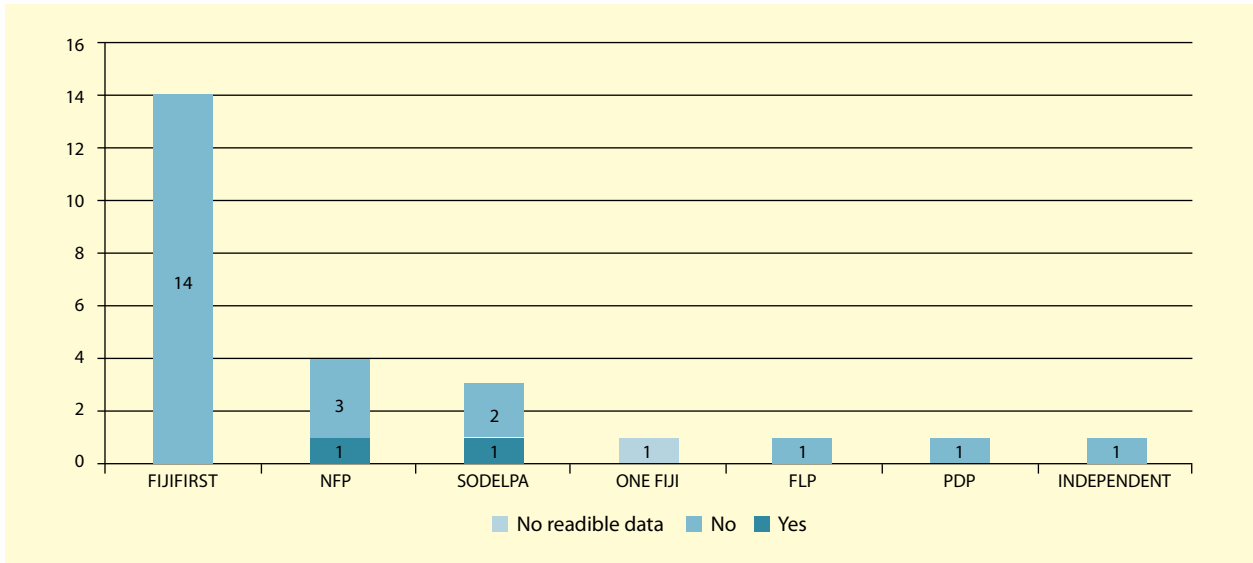
No disturbances at the One Fiji, FLP, PDP parties and independent candidate campaigns.

LANGUAGE USED DURING CAMPAIGNS?



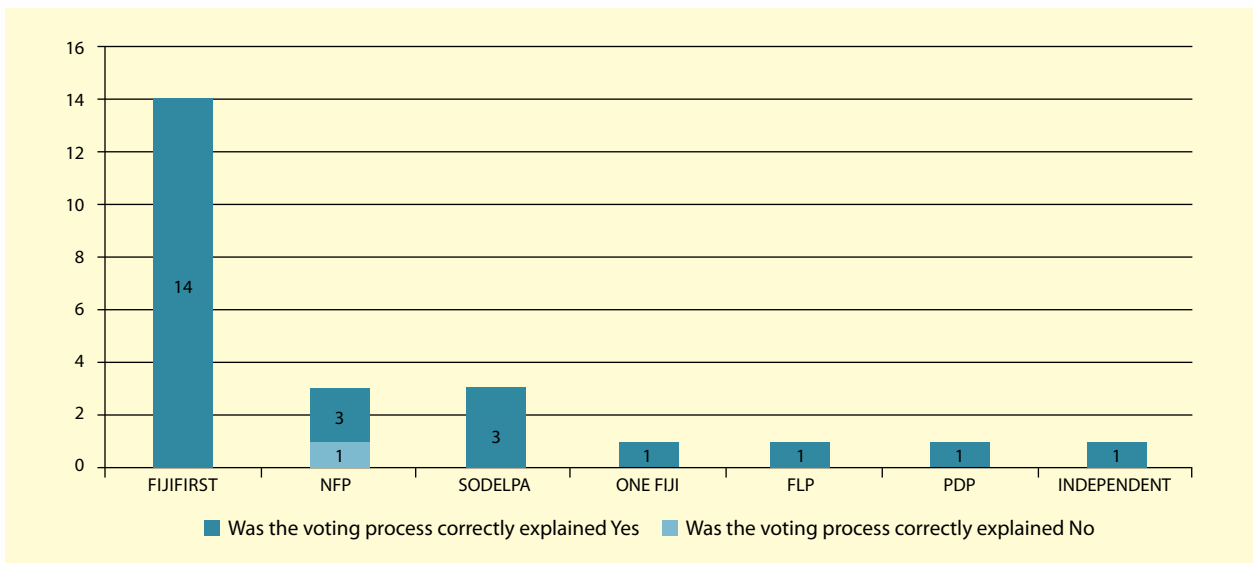
The overall language used in campaigns were moderate, there were 2 cases where demagogic languages were used. And one SODELPA campaign where aggressive language was used.

DID YOU HEAR CALLS FOR INTOLERANCE AND HATRED?



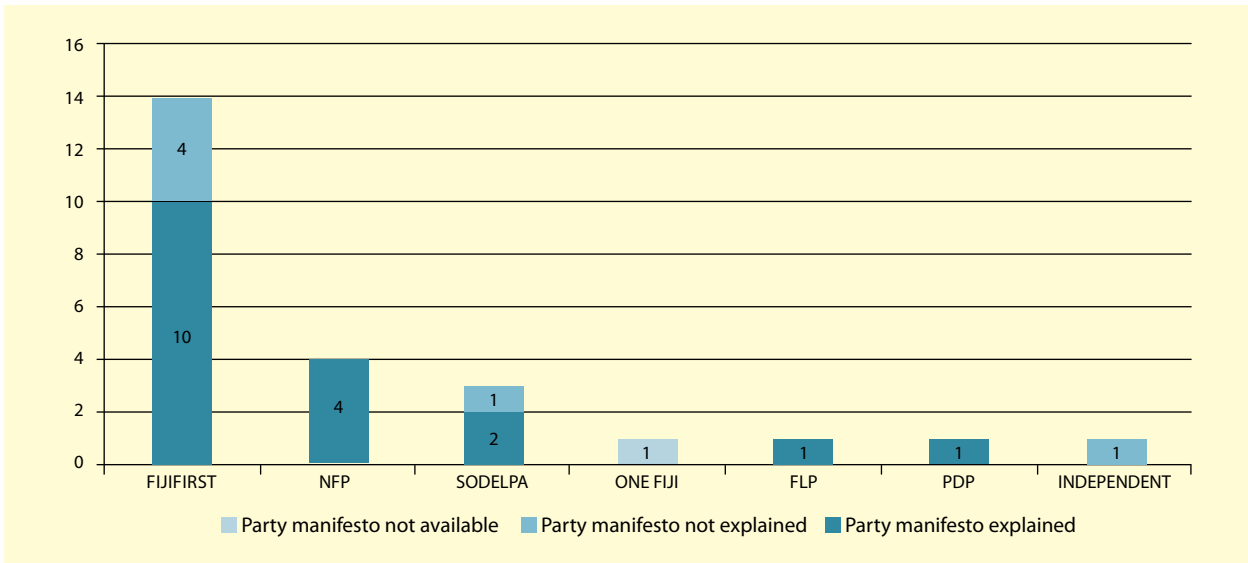
Two campaigns were noted, one from SODELPA campaign and one NFP in Labasa

WAS THE VOTING PROCESS CORRECTLY EXPLAINED?



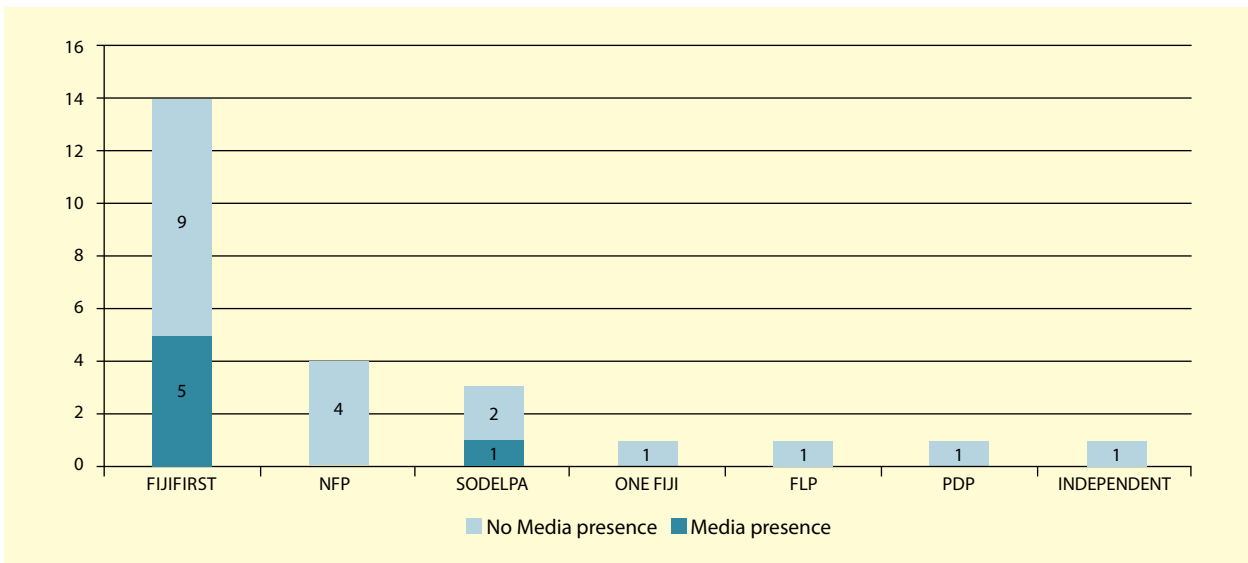
Only one NFP, incorrectly explained the voting process.

WAS THE PARTY MANIFESTO EXPLAINED?



Party manifestos were explained in majority of campaigns.

WERE THE MEDIA PRESENT? WHICH?

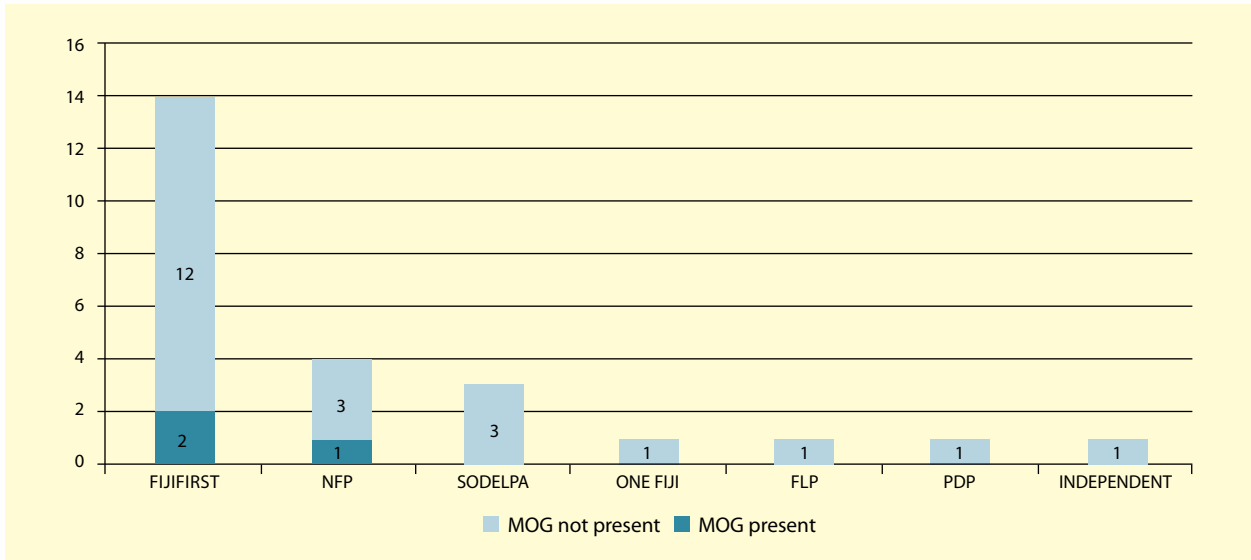


Media organisations were present at five of FijiFirst Campaigns included the Fiji Sun in one campaign, FBC in 3 campaigns, Fiji Times and Fiji Sun in 1 Campaign. SODELPA noted presence of media in one campaign. FBC TV and Radio Fiji Two appeared at SODELPA campaign and there were no reports documented with interference to media work.

DID ANYONE INTERFERE WITH THEIR WORK?

There were no interference with the media in their work.

WERE OTHER OBSERVERS PRESENT?

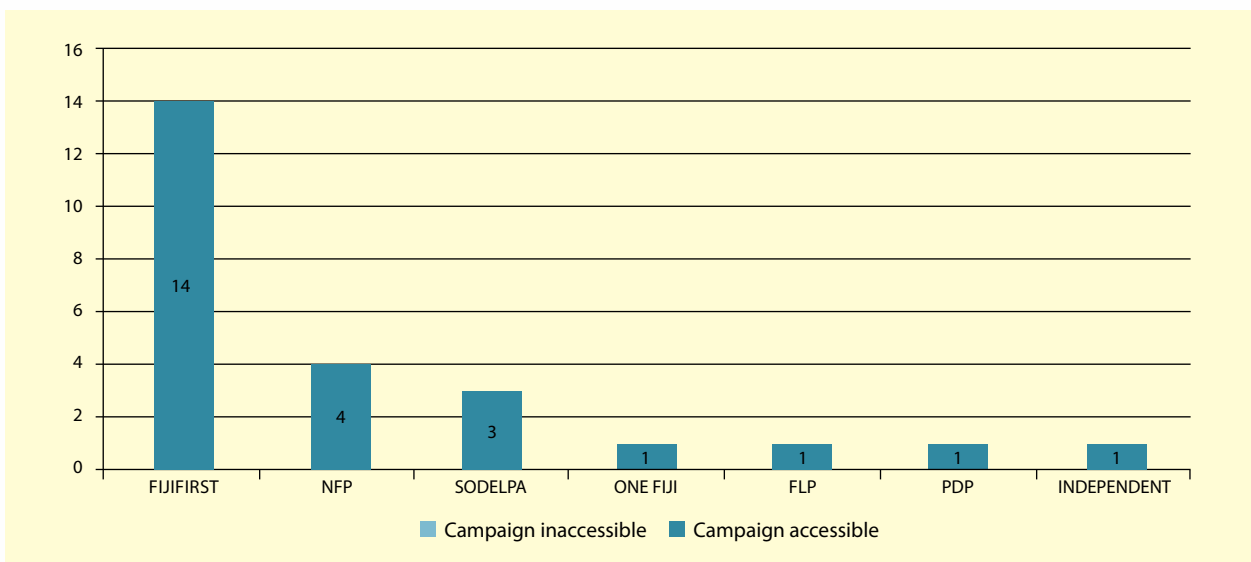


MOG were present in two FijiFirst campaigns and one NFP campaign.

WAS THE CAMPAIGN MEETING DISSOLVED BY POLICE OR SECURITY FORCES?

No campaigns were dissolved by police.

WAS THERE FREE ACCESS TO CAMPAIGN VENUE?



All campaign venues were accessible.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT:



SODELPA 3 campaigns visited. 2 were rated as good and 1 bad

FijiFirst 14 campaigns visited 6 RATED very good, 6 good and 2 bad

NFP 4 campaigns visited. 1 rated as very good and 3 rated good

PDP 1 campaign visited and rated good

One Fiji 1 campaign visited and rated good

Independent 1 campaign visited and rated good

FLP 1 campaign visited and rated good.

According to the CCCE perceptions of the 25 visited party campaigns there were no major disturbances. With the exception of clashes between supporters of different parties – which are common in many countries – the campaign went on well.

CCCE: Checklist for Polling Day

Researchers were trained to observe during the casting of their votes to note down information in Checklist Form (Annex vi). The checklist for Polling Day Perceptions focused on the opening and voting processes and the general atmosphere and environment during polling day. Were there police presence? Did the Elections office staff adhere to electoral decree and ensure the smooth process and accessible environment for Fijian citizens to cast their vote?

Of the 106 trained CCCE researchers, 100 were deployed. We were able to retrieve a total of 76 completed perception observation forms, 53 from female researchers and 21 from male researchers.

It is of paramount importance to emphasise that all findings of this survey are based on the perceptions of our researchers during the time when they casted their votes. This means that the perceptions are only valid for the short time period when they visited the polling station. We were not able to collect data from before or after that visit. Another restriction was that our researchers were not allowed to be present inside the polling station during counting of votes. As such, there is no information on the vote counting process.

A major challenge for the CCCE researchers was that they were not allowed to take the checklists inside the polling station due to restrictions in the Electoral Decree. Consequently researchers had to familiarise themselves with all questions and complete the forms after they had left the polling venue. The researchers were trained accordingly and most of the requested information was provided correctly.

A number of concerns were raised in these checklists which are highlighted in the recommendations chapter of this report. These recommendations provided by researchers include clarification on lines according to surnames and the need for medical presence to cater for the old and sickly. The feedback also include more thorough voter education for elections office staff to understand all provisions of the Electoral Decree.

Researchers were required to take notes of results from polling stations by copying the figures into a provided template or – preferable – by taking a photo of the official result sheet. Under the Electoral Decree the elections office and officials at all polling stations are required by law to publicly display results.⁵ However, not all of the presiding officers and FEO staff were aware of the requirement to publicly display the polling station results. Researchers were intimidated and threatened by the police; informed by officials that no results would be displayed. The CCCE Secretariat gathered results from 147 polling stations from Suva, Nausori, Tailevu, Nadi, Lautoka, Labasa. However, this means that about 10% of all polling station results were documented. This is quite remarkable and allowed CCCE to verify the final results from those stations.

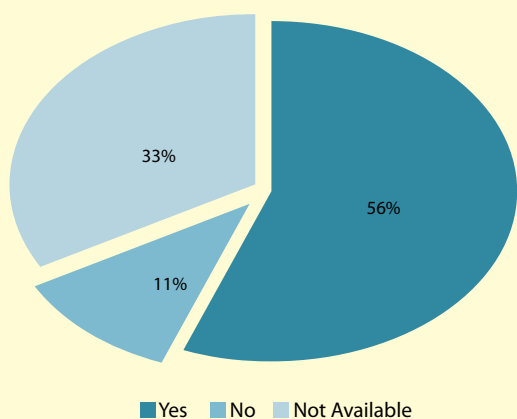
From this observation 42 presiding officers were female and 32 were males.

Out of the 74 CCCE researchers which completed this section of the checklists, 53 were female and 21 male. 68 of the CCCE researchers casted their votes in the morning, six in the afternoon. CCCE researchers were encouraged to cast their votes in the morning because it was expected that more voters would be there which would help to make better and more meaningful perceptions.

⁵ Section 97(2) of the Electoral Decree 2014.

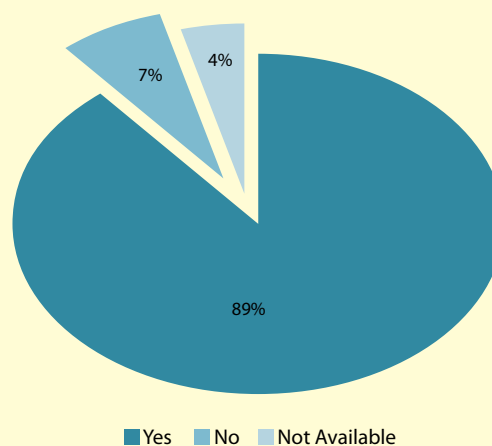
Analysis of Checklist by Researchers on Voting Day

1. Was the observing place assigned to party agents satisfactory?



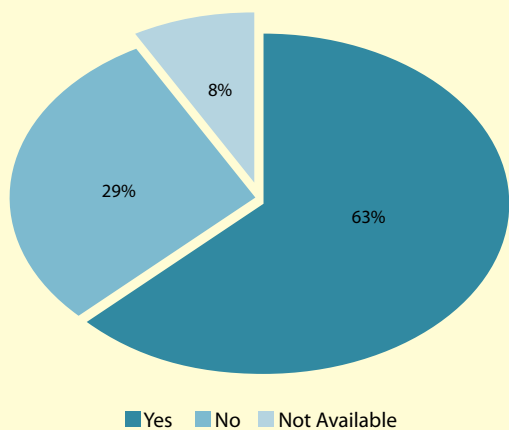
The high amount of n/a is due to the fact that at some polling stations it was difficult to identify party agents or that no party agents were present.

3. Was all FEO staff present?



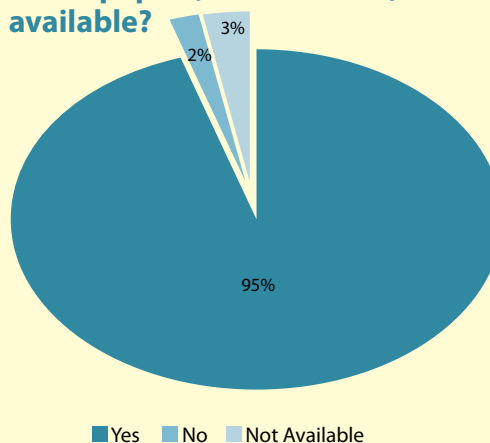
Majority indicated FEO were present, 7% said staffs were not present at some point during voting and 4% did not answer this question.

2. Was the polling station correctly identified with its number?



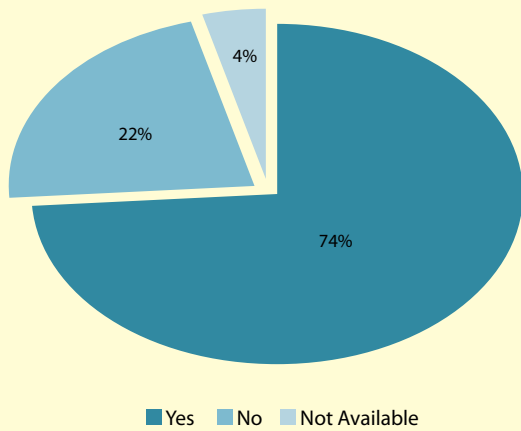
Majority of the polling stations were correctly identified. In 29% of the polling venues there was confusion on the alphabetical order by surnames along which the polling venue was split into the various polling stations. Voters queued in wrong lines and were frustrated when they discovered that they had to queue all over again in the correct line. This caused commotion in a number of places. Some voters almost spent an average of one hour waiting to cast their vote only to be informed of incorrect polling station.

4. Were all sensitive materials (VL, ballot papers, indelible ink) available?



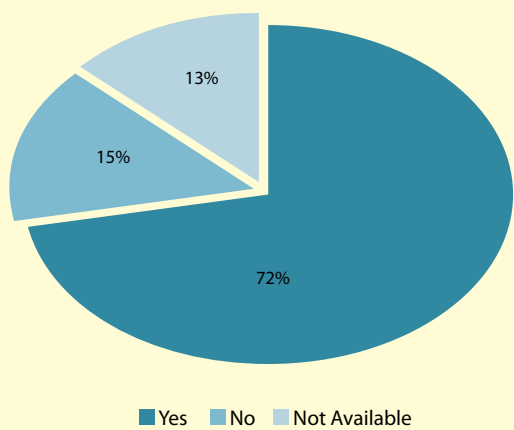
In almost all cases all sensitive materials were present. Sensitive materials are those that are needed to carry out the voting. There were a few incidents where voters went in the morning and had to wait for materials to arrive in order to start voting. Without Voter List, ballot papers, ballot box, indelible ink voting could not commence.

5. Did the voting screens ensure the secrecy of the ballots?



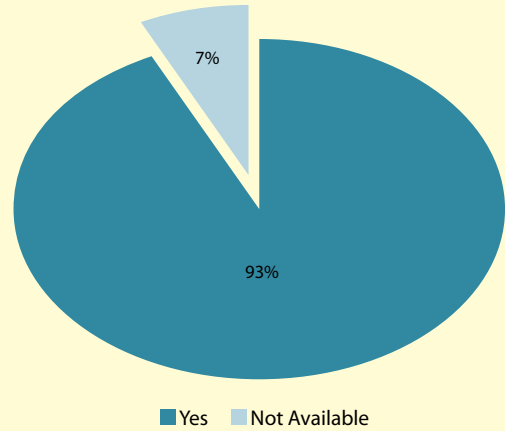
Graph 5 shows that in almost a quarter of the visited polling stations secrecy was compromised. Researchers attributed this due to the fact that screens were not high enough and the set up was not done satisfactorily. In most of the cases – and this was the official procedure for the arrangement of the polling station by FEO - the screen was open towards the room which compromised in some cases the secrecy. This could be prevented if screens are put the other way round with the open side facing a wall. However, for three quarters of the researchers this was not an issue.

6. Where more than one party agent by party present at a time?



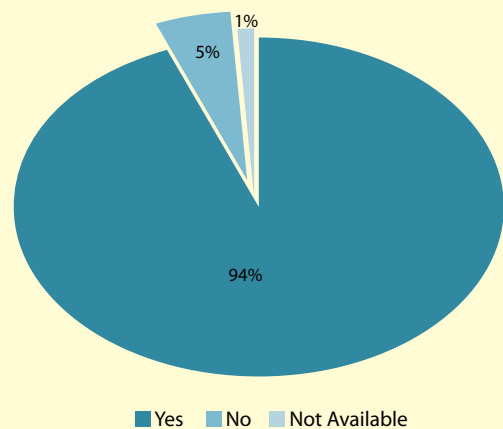
13% said yes which is a clear violation of the Electoral Decree. According to the Decree only one party agent by party at a time is allowed inside the polling station. This is to avoid overcrowding and also intimidation by the presence of many party agents from one party.

7. Was the presiding officer of the voting station present?



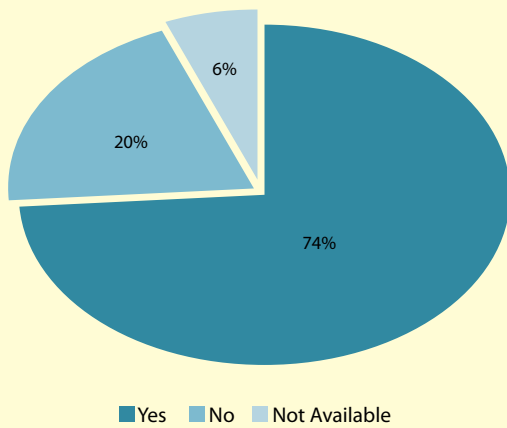
Majority of the researchers noted the presence of Presiding Officers. The same 7% are those listed previously in Question 3 who indicated that a Presiding Officer was not present at the time of their casting of vote. The Presiding Officer is the most important FEO staff on polling day. However they had a deputy designated who could stand in times of temporary absence.

8. Was there any campaign material displayed inside or outside the polling venue?



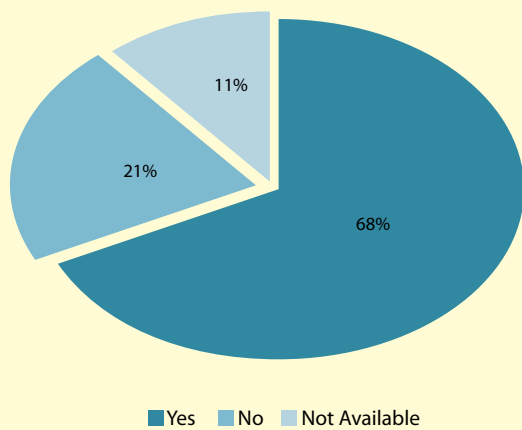
Majority of researchers did not see any form of campaigning. 5% did not answer this question and 1% indicated that campaign material was present in the polling venue premises. A small percentage but still in violation of the Electoral Decree.

9. Was the polling station accessible for disabled voters?



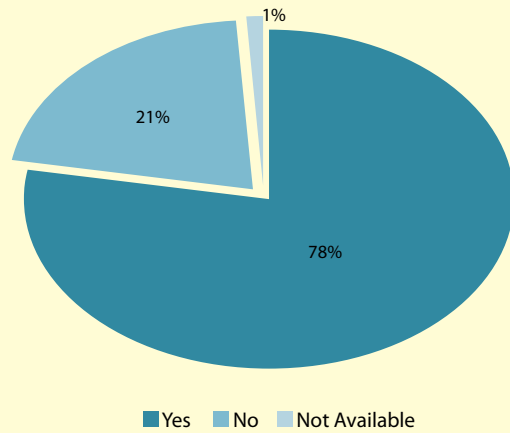
20% were not accessible for disabled voters, which shows that there is a lot of room for improvement. Some of these venues included those that had stairs, upper floors/levels. Researchers which included personnel from the Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation shared members' frustrations with misinformation of polling station venue, staff not aware of procedure on how to assist people with disabilities and difficulty in accessing polling station venue. In one incident a member requested ink pad to place thumbprint, there was none and the officer had to sign on behalf of the voter.

10. Did voting start on time?



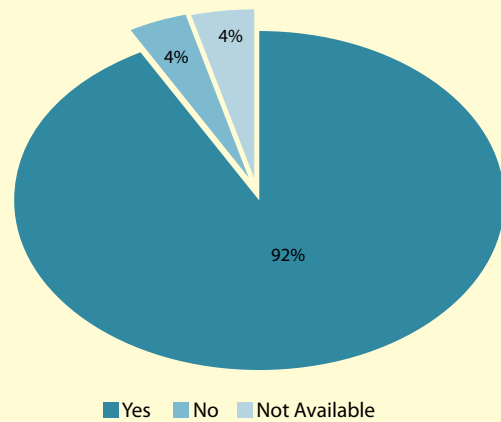
21% voting started late because of the late arrival of sensitive materials. The sensitive materials referred to here are those that are needed for voters to cast their vote. These voters were informed that the ballot papers had not arrived.

11. Was there an orderly queue in front of polling station premises?



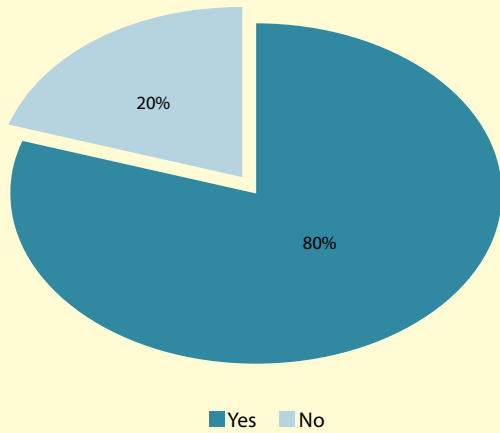
In 21% of the cases there was no orderly queue. There was commotion because of misdirection of voters to the polling stations within one venue. This was almost exclusively in the morning when the voter turnout was high.

12. Was there any kind of violence or campaigning near or inside the polling station?



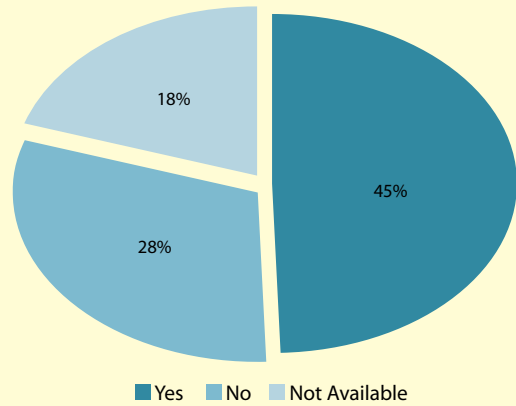
Only in very few cases there were campaigns identified as verbal campaigning amongst party supporters standing in line waiting to cast their votes. This should have been discouraged by the queue controllers.

13. Was the voting procedure well organised and orderly?



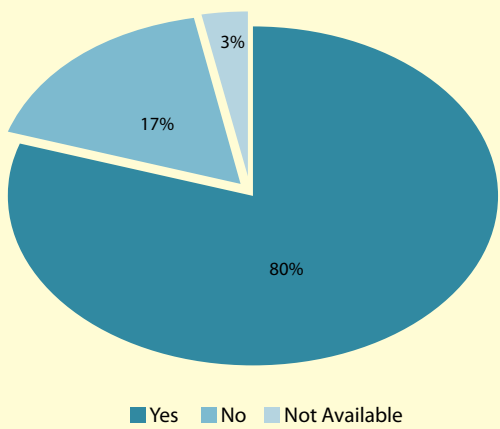
In 20% it was not especially during the morning, when there were a lot of voters. This is natural because FEO staff has to get experienced with the procedures. Some were not sufficiently trained.

15. Did you see the voters entering the station with how to vote instructions?



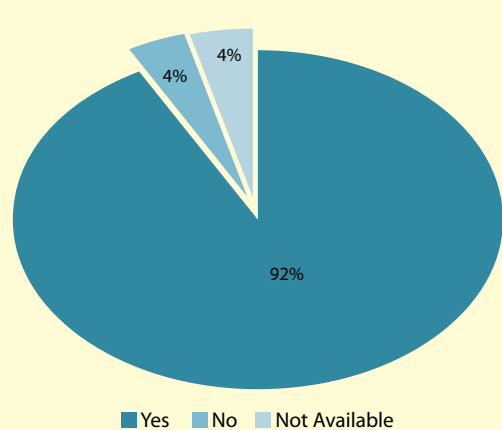
The outcome of this question is problematic because it appears that quite a number of our staff mistakenly considered the official instruction booklet (national candidates list) for how to vote instructions which would have been illegal. With how to vote instructions we meant pieces of paper with a candidate's number on it. Despite all the workshops and trainings this was not clear to 45% of the staff. Consequently the results of this question have to be ignored.

14. Were the fingers of voters properly checked for indelible ink?



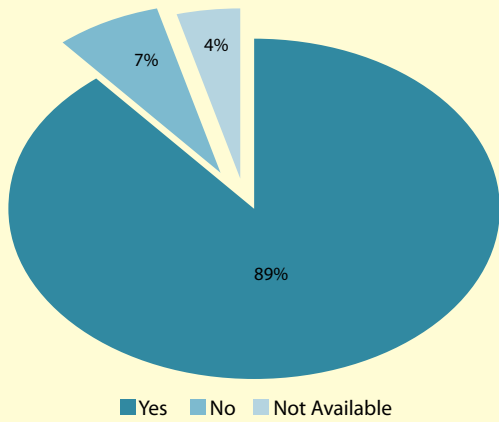
In remarkable 17% of the visited polling stations voters were not checked for indelible ink contrary to the Electoral Decree. Ink is applied to prevent the voters from multiple voting. It was also discovered that the ink was not strong enough to last between pre-voting and Election Day as one of the CCCE staff in Labasa confirmed. However, the risk for multiple voting was very limited because it would have required the multiple voter to forge a signature of another voter in the voter list. In such a case he would need a forged ID or the valid ID of another voter who is registered at the same polling venue. This could only be possible if he conspires with FEO staff.

16. Were the Voters properly identified?



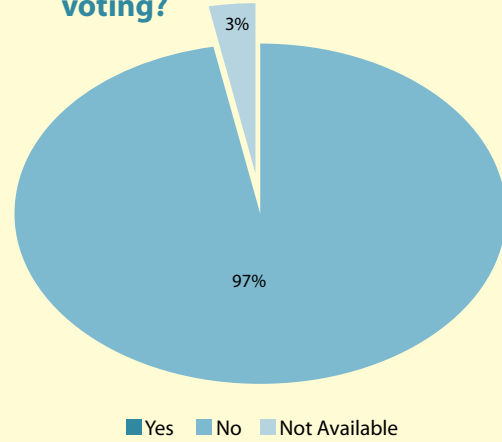
Identification process seemed to run smoothly. There were different ways of voter identification using the voter ID or any photo ID. A voter was even allowed to vote without an ID as long as his/her name was on the voter list and the Presiding Officer was satisfied with the identity of the voter by asking him additional questions. This was a clear improvement compared to the 2006 elections where voters without valid IDs were disenfranchised.

17. Were voters requested to sign or mark against their names in the VL?



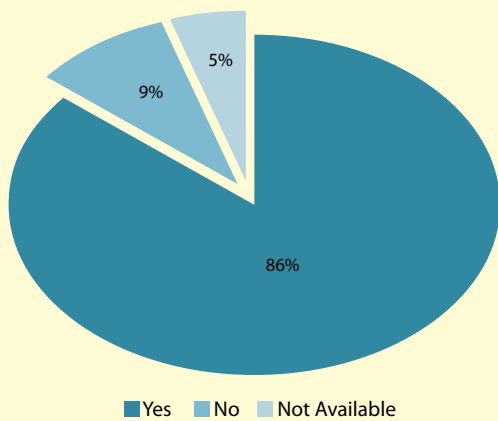
7% did not sign according to the information of our researchers, voters who are members of the Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation did not sign. There should be provisions for voters who wish to thumb print against their names. A missing signature in the voter list would cause major reconciliation problems during closing and counting procedures.

19. Did you observe attempted or completed cases of multiple voting?



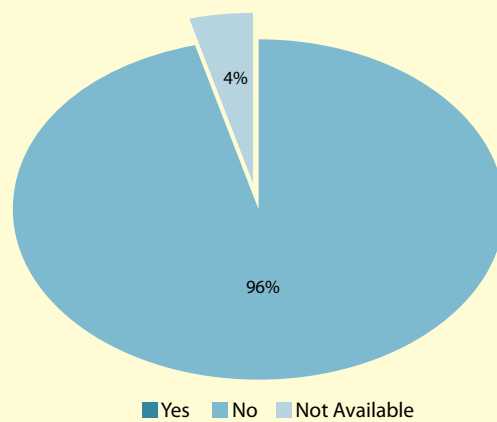
97% of the researchers indicated that they did not witness any case of multiple voting. 3% of the researchers did not attempt this question. The reason could be that there were no other voters present at the polling station at the time of the visit.

18. Were the voters fingers marked with indelible ink after casting the vote?



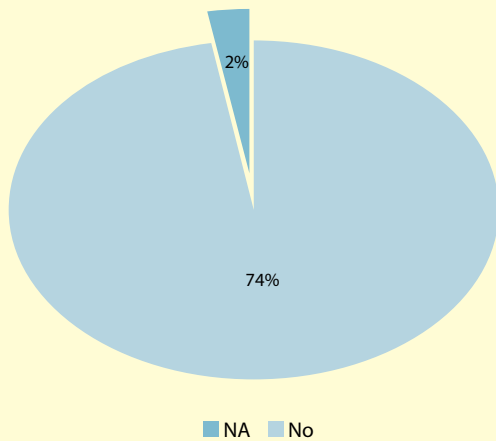
According to our researchers in 9% of the polling stations visited, fingers of voters were not properly inked which was a clear violation of Electoral Decree. It bears a limited potential risk for multiple voting as outlined under graphic 18.

20. Did you observe family or proxy voting?



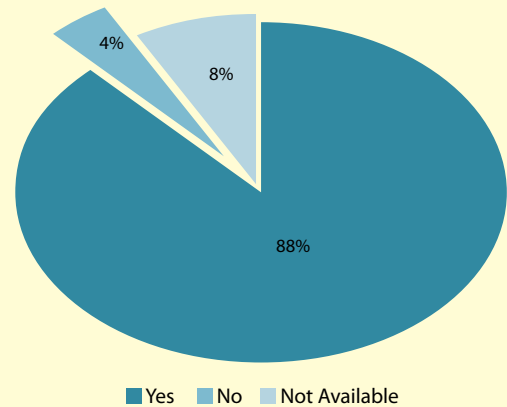
Family voting in this instance refers to a family of 4 arriving to cast their votes, a parent would request for all four ballot papers and cast all votes for the family. Proxy voting likely to occur in a communal village setting occurs when a member of the family is busy in the plantation or fishing and requests a family member to vote on their behalf. In a village setting it may prove difficult for elections officials to refuse this request because they would be closely related. 96% of the researchers indicated that they did not witness any case of family or proxy voting. 4% of the researchers did not attempt this question.

21. Did you observe ballot stuffing



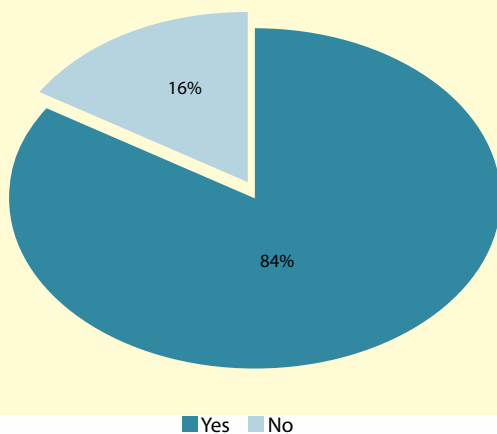
The statistics above provide a clear indication that there was no ballot stuffing. Only 2% did not attempt this question.

23. Were the ballot boxes in sight of party agents and observers?



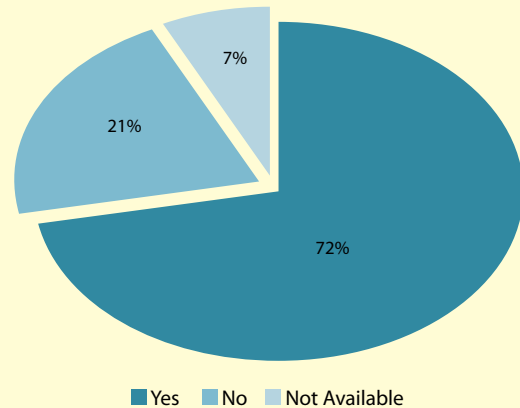
Only in 4% of the visited polling stations the ballot boxes were not in sight of the party agents. This means that tampering with the ballot box or ballot stuffing was difficult in the presence of party agents.

22. Was the privacy and secrecy of the voting respected?



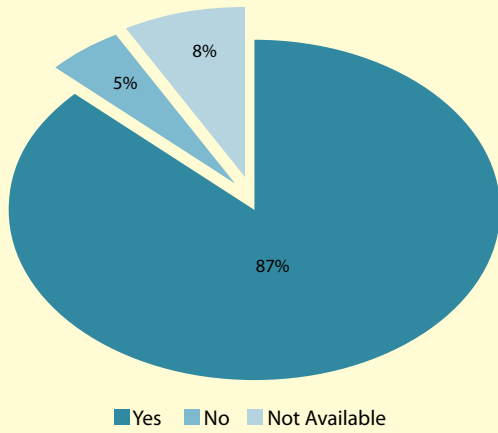
A disturbing 16% of the visited polling stations polling staff opened and checked the marked ballot and handed it back to the voter for casting. Although the intention of the FEO staff might have been good (to make sure that the voter marked the ballot in a valid way) this is a clear breach of the secrecy of the vote and an obvious violation of the Electoral Decree. It demonstrates a lack of training and understanding of the concerned FEO staff.

24. Did the actions of the polling staff appear impartial?



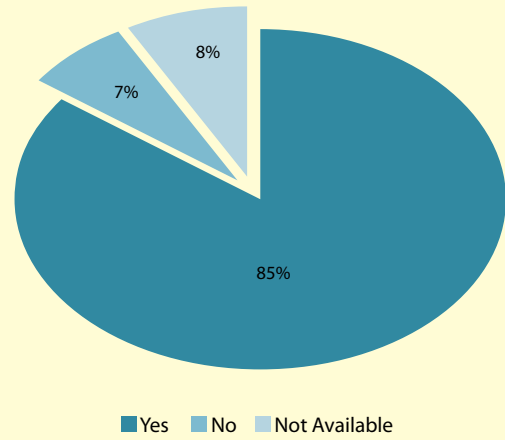
A possible explanation for the 21% indicating no could be that polling staff pointed at certain candidates numbers on that ballot paper, since this was a given example during the CCCE training. However, we do not have sufficient information on how researchers reached the conclusion that polling staff's actions appeared impartial or not.

25. Were any unauthorised persons present inside the polling station?



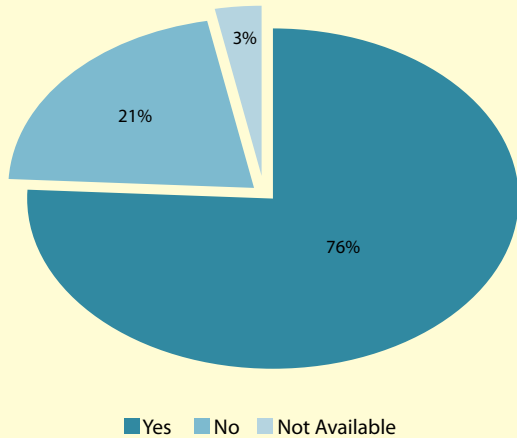
In 8% of the visited polling stations unauthorised persons were present. This was mostly security staff (police). According to the Electoral Decree security is only allowed inside the polling station on request by the Presiding Officer in order to solve a specific problem (i.e. violence). Authorised persons are the FEO staff, accredited party agents and accredited media, accredited MOG observers and voters about to cast their vote.

27. Was the procedure for assisting voters properly followed?



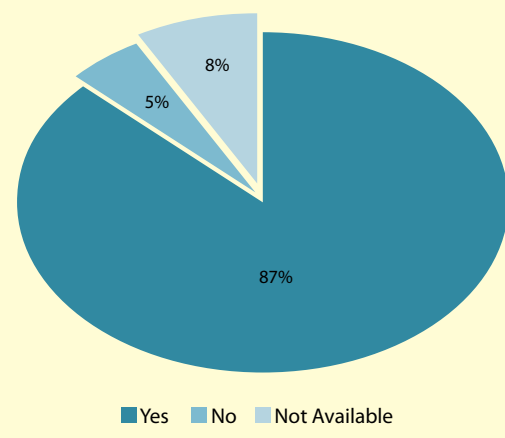
According to the Electoral Decree the Presiding Officer on request of the voter assisted in marking the ballot paper following the instructions of the voter. This had to be witnessed by another FEO staff. In 7% of the visited polling stations this procedure was not followed. There were party agents witnessing the process or the Presiding Officer assisted without an FEO witness.

26. Did you see voters who requested assistance?



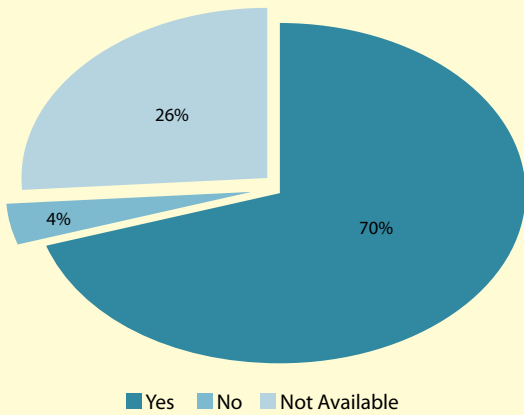
A large percentage of voters required in assistance marking the ballot papers. This could be persons with disabilities or illiterate or elderly voters.

28. Did you see party agents assisting voters?



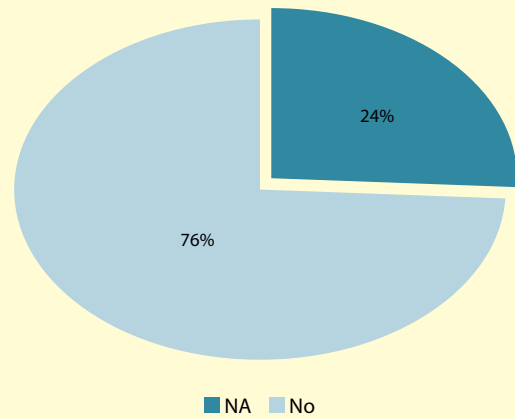
In 8% of the visited polling stations our researchers saw party agents assisting voters. This was a clear violation of the Electoral Decree. In order to prevent political influence on the voters on polling day party agents should not be allowed to assist or influence voters.

29. Were representatives of the media present?



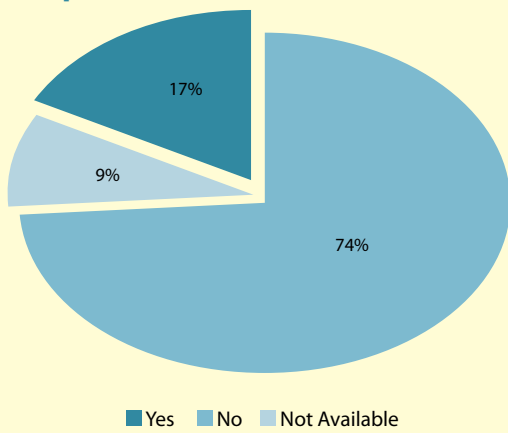
In over a quarter (26%) of the visited polling stations media were present. That is a remarkable number and shows that accredited media were keen on deploying their staff in the field.

31. Did you see tampering with the ballot boxes?



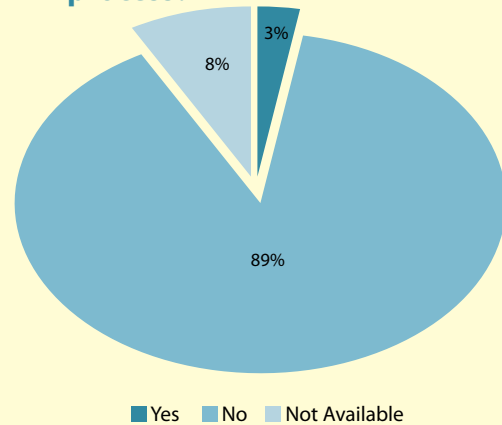
A clear majority indicated that there was no tampering of boxes. 26% for one reason or another possibly did not understand definition of tampering did not attempt this question.

30. Were international observers present?



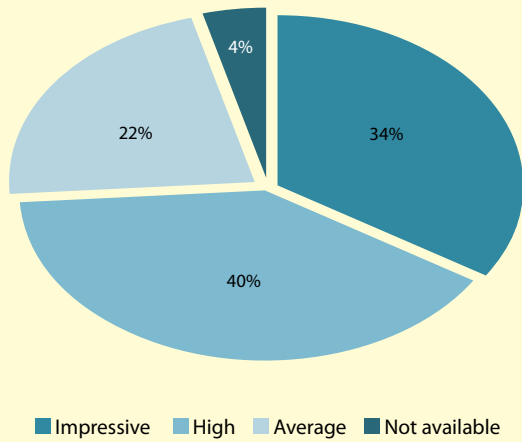
MOG observers were only present in 17% of the visited polling stations. There were only 92 MOG observers in teams of 2. Therefore they were not able to cover a high number of polling stations. However, they were mobile, going from one polling venue to another. In most of the places they were only able to spend limited time.

32. Did you see evidence of intimidation, bribery or interference in the voting process?



In 3% of the polling stations visited there were minor cases of intimidation or incidents during the casting of their votes. Majority stated there was no intimidation and voters were free to cast their votes according to their personal preference. 8% did not attempt this question.

33. How was the turn out of females?



Researchers were asked of the female vote turnout at their respective polling venues. The response rated from being impressive to average.

40% indicated female turnout was high;

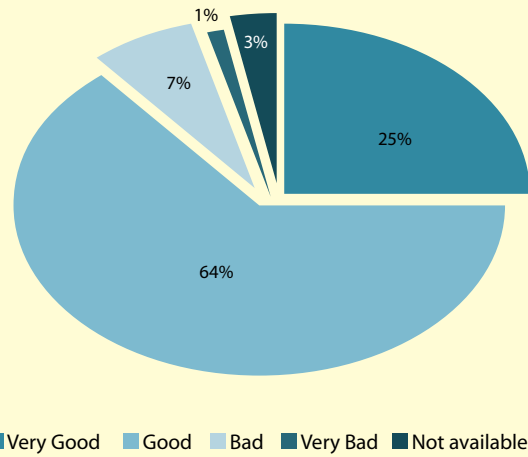
34% indicated female voter turnout was impressive;

22% indicated female voter turnout was average and

4% were unable to provide their response.

This means that female voters turned out in high numbers to cast their votes. This is an encouraging sign for democratic participation of women.

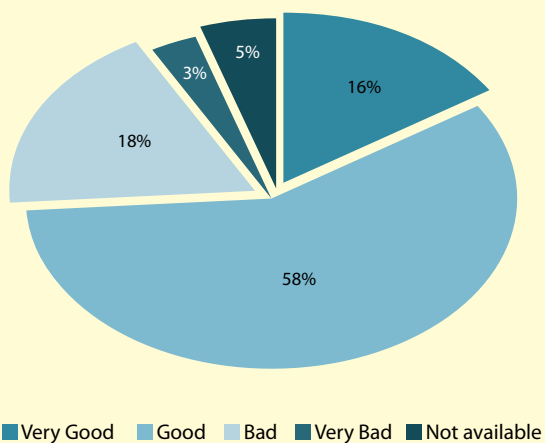
Overall Assessment of voting processes



Researchers response to the overall voting assessment range from very bad to very good.

64% indicated process was good while 25% indicated that the process was very good. This shows that almost 90% of the researchers were satisfied with the perceived voting process. Only a small percentage of 7% and 1% indicated the process was bad and very bad with the remaining 3% not attempting this question.

Overall Assessment of the Setting-Up



The 21% bad and very bad reflected the commotion in the morning sessions when voters were not aware of where to queue. There was no awareness on the alphabetical order by surname.

Fiji Elections 2014 Media Monitoring and Analysis

PURPOSE: DID ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO MEDIA COVERAGE AND REPRESENTATION

Media Monitoring was held from the 1st to 14th of September 2014. Due to the lack of manpower and resources; monitoring was narrowed down to:

Print: Fiji Times, Fiji Sun,

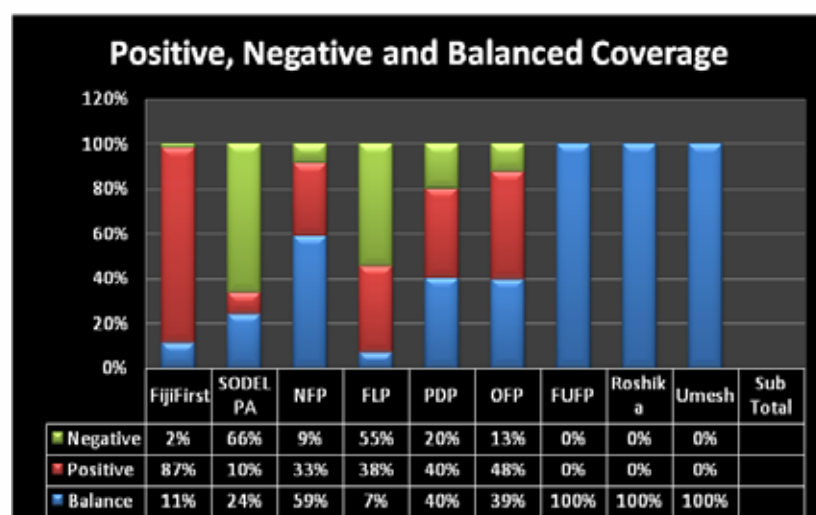
Television: FBCL news, FIJI TV

Fiji Sun Analysis (1st to 14th September 2014)

The Fiji Sun is a daily newspaper published in Fiji since September 1999 and is owned by Sun (Fiji) News Limited.

1) Positive, Negative and Balance Coverage

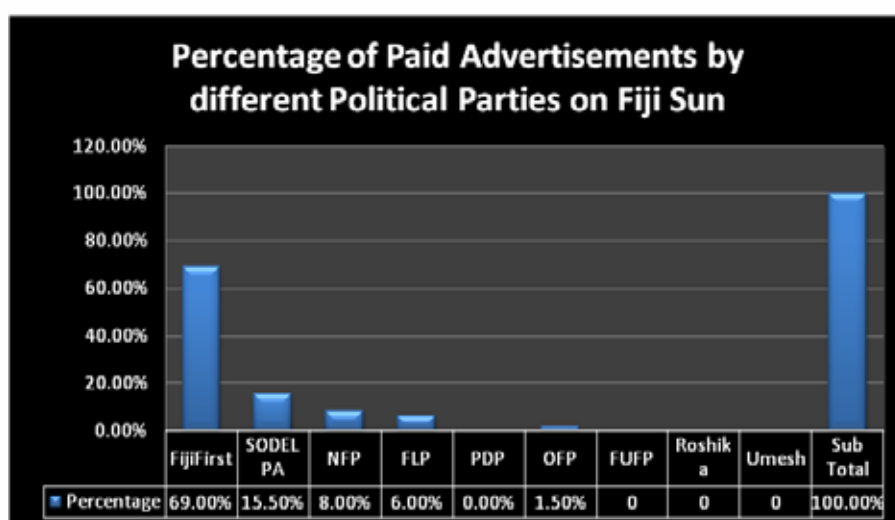
Party/Candidate	Balance	Positive	Negative
FijiFirst	11%	87%	2%
SODELPA	24%	10%	66%
NFP	59%	33%	9%
FLP	7%	38%	55%
PDP	40%	40%	20%
OFPP	39%	48%	13%
FUFP	100%	0%	0%
Roshika Deo	100%	0%	0%
Umesh Chand	100%	0%	0%



This graph clearly shows that FijiFirst had the highest positive coverage. This indicates a positive bias towards the ruling party. Only 2% were negative coverage. The main opposition party SODELPA received huge negative coverage while the NFP coverage was mainly balanced. The FLP, too, received widely negative coverage while PDP and OFPP had a significant amount of positive or balanced coverage. The two independent candidates and the small FUFP enjoyed most balanced coverage.

2) Paid Advertisements

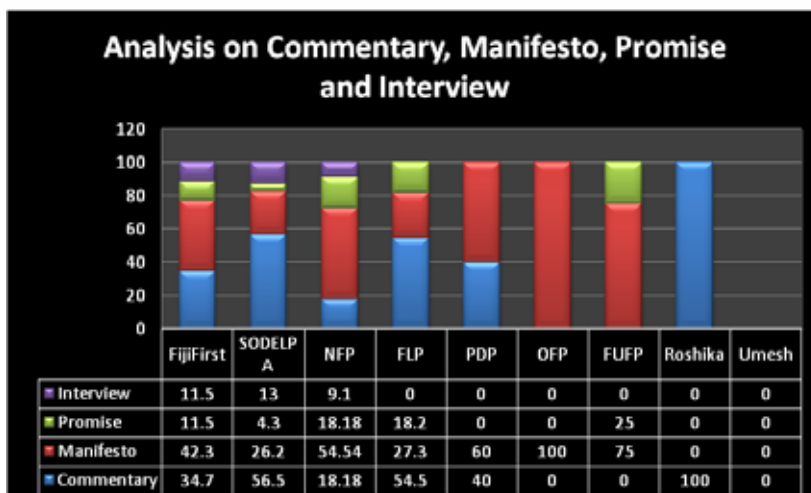
Party/Candidate	Percentage
FijiFirst	69.00%
SODELPA	15.50%
NFP	8.00%
FLP	6.00%
PDP	0.00%
OFP	1.50%
FUFP	0
Roshika	0
Umesh	0



This graph clearly shows Fiji First with the majority of paid advertisement in the Fiji Sun, followed by SODELPA and NFP.

3) Analysis: Commentary, Manifesto, Promise & Interview

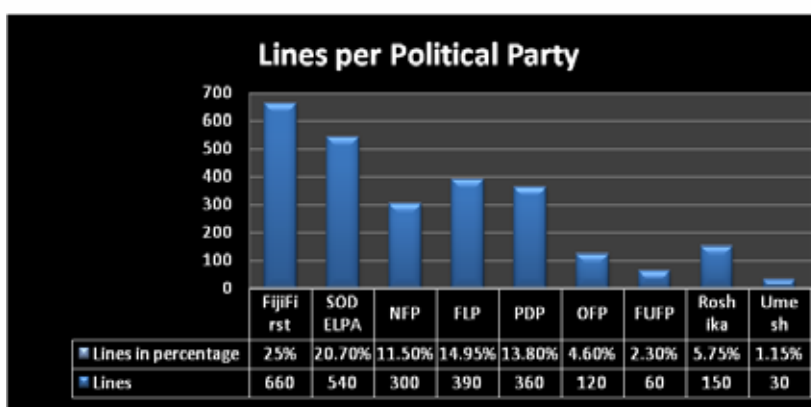
	Commentary	Manifesto	Promise	Interview
FijiFirst	34.7	42.3	11.5	11.5
SODELPA	56.5	26.2	4.3	13
NFP	18.18	54.54	18.18	9.1
FLP	54.5	27.3	18.2	0
PDP	40	60	0	0
OFP	0	100	0	0
FUFP	0	75	25	0
Roshika	100	0	0	0
Umesh	0	0	0	0



This graph clearly shows that SODELPA has the majority commentaries closely followed by FLP and FijiFirst. OFP had only manifestos and independent candidate Umesh Chand had no coverage at all. However, a significant amount of commentaries on SODELPA were negative. (See graph 1)

4) Lines per Political Party

Party/Candidate	Lines	Lines in percentage
FijiFirst	660	25%
SODELPA	540	20.70%
NFP	300	11.50%
FLP	390	14.95%
PDP	360	13.80%
OFP	120	4.60%
FUIFP	60	2.30%
Roshika	150	5.75%
Umesh	30	1.15%



This graph shows FijiFirst had the majority of coverage in the Fiji Sun from the 1st to 14th September 2014 followed by SODELPA, FLP, PDP and NFP. The graph demonstrates that all political parties and independent candidates had coverage but in different quantities.

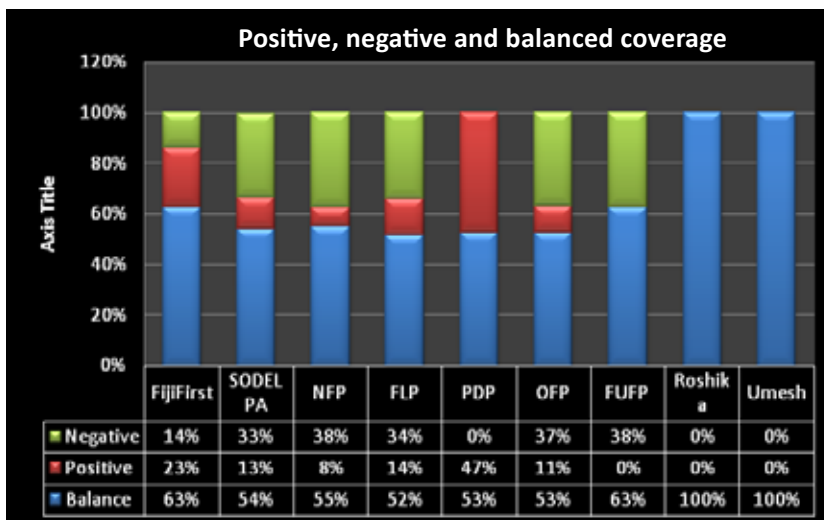
Especially the two major parties and with a distinction the three parties which followed had a relatively wide coverage. Of course there were considerable amounts of negative coverage (see graph 1).

Fiji Times Analysis (1st to 14th September 2014)

The **Fiji Times** is a daily English-language newspaper published in Suva, Fiji and established in Levuka on 4th September 1869.

1) Positive, Negative and Balance Coverage

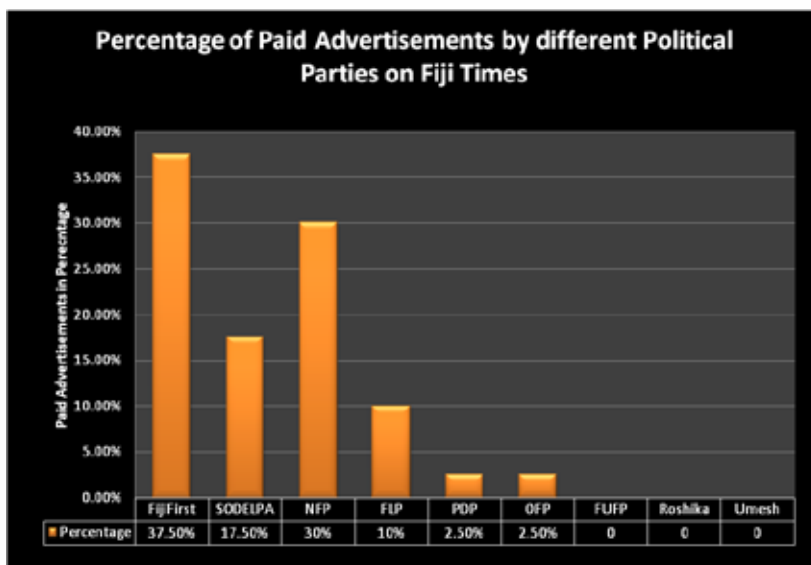
Party/Candidate	Balance	Positive	Negative
FijiFirst	63%	23%	14%
SODELPA	54%	13%	33%
NFP	55%	8%	38%
FLP	52%	14%	34%
PDP	53%	47%	0%
OFF	53%	11%	37%
FUFP	63%	0%	38%
Roshika	100%	0%	0%
Umesh	100%	0%	0%



This graph shows that the Fiji Times published mostly balanced reports on political parties and candidates. Positive coverage is above average about PDP (47%) and FijiFirst (23%). NFP and FUFP and SODELPA had significant negative coverage while the two independent candidates were covered in a fully balanced way. These statistics show that the Fiji Times did not favour any political party or candidate. The coverage of the major parties (FijiFirst, SODELPA, NFP) was mostly balanced.

2) Paid Advertisements

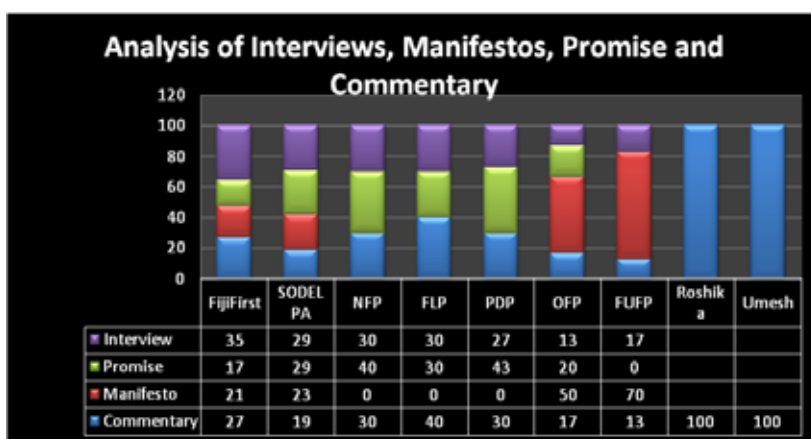
Party/Candidate	Percentage
FijiFirst	37.50%
SODELPA	17.50%
NFP	30%
FLP	10%
PDP	2.50%
OFF	2.50%
FUFP	0
Roshika	0
Umesh	0



The graph clearly shows FijiFirst had the majority advertisements during 1st to 14th September 2014 followed by NFP, SODELPA and FLP. Whilst the Fiji Times allowed equal opportunities for parties to place paid adverts, the political parties apparently had varying levels of budgetary allocations for this.

3) Analysis: Commentary, Manifesto, Promise & Interview

	Commentary	Manifesto	Promise	Interview
FijiFirst	27	21	17	35
SODELPA	19	23	29	29
NFP	30	0	40	30
FLP	40	0	30	30
PDP	30	0	43	27
OFP	17	50	20	13
FUIFP	13	70	0	17
Roshika	100	0	0	0
Umesh	100	0	0	0

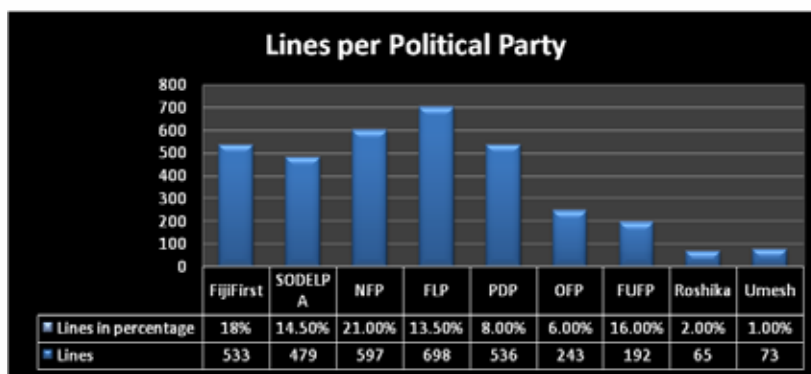


This graph shows that FijiFirst, SODELPA and One Fiji Party covered all the topics, whereas NFP, FLP and PDP only on commentary, interviews and promises during the campaign period.

FijiFirst had the highest percentage on interviews followed by NFP and SODELPA.

4) Lines per Political Party

Party/Candidate	Lines	Lines in percentage
FijiFirst	533	18%
SODELPA	479	14.50%
NFP	597	21.00%
FLP	698	13.50%
PDP	536	8.00%
OPF	243	6.00%
FUFP	192	16.00%
Roshika	65	2.00%
Umesh	73	1.00%



This graph clearly shows that FLP, NFP and PDP lead in the lines covered, followed by FijiFirst and SODELPA. This is surprising because two parties were widely covered which did not make it into parliament (FLP, PDP). However, coverage only shows that those parties were not ignored. The more interesting question is whether they were covered in a balanced, positive or negative way. SODELPA, FLP, NFP, OPF and FUFP received more than one-third of the

negative coverage (see graph 1) while PDP was not covered negatively at all. Unsurprising the smaller parties (OPF, FUFP) and the independent candidates attracted less coverage.

In conclusion the Fiji Times covered all political parties and independent candidates. A significant amount of the coverage was balanced. Some political parties advertised in the paper.

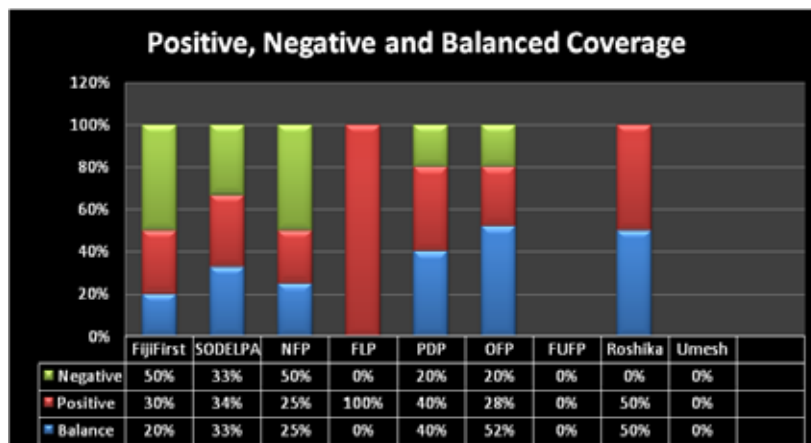
Fiji One News Analysis (1st to 14th September 2014)

Fiji Television Limited (SPSE: FTV) is Fiji's main television network. It was founded on 15 June 1994 as the first permanent commercial television broadcasting network in the country.

Fiji TV's main shareholders are Yasana Holdings Limited, a Fijian investment company owned by the provinces of Fiji, and Hari Punja & Sons Limited, a privately owned investment company.

1) Positive, Negative & Balance Coverage

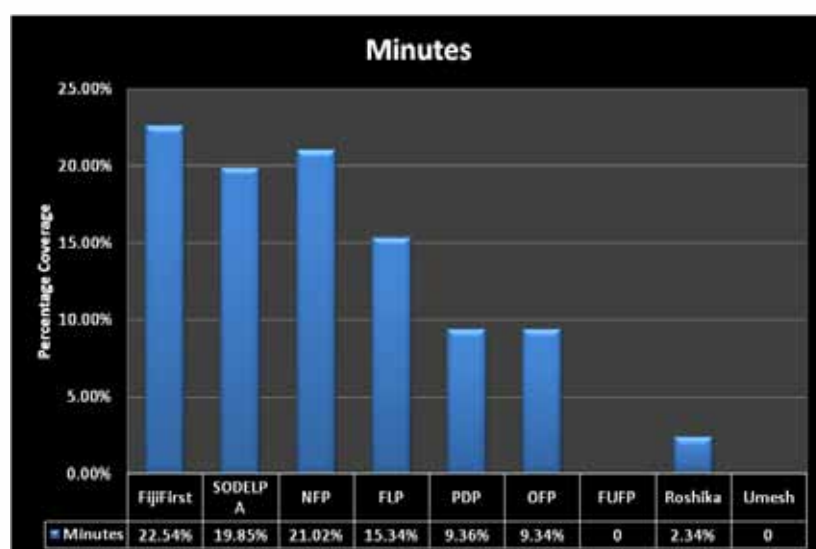
Party/Candidate	Balance	Positive	Negative
FijiFirst	20%	30%	50%
SODELPA	33%	34%	33%
NFP	25%	25%	50%
FLP	0%	100%	0%
PDP	40%	40%	20%
OFP	52%	28%	20%
FUFP	0%	0%	0%
Roshika	50%	50%	0%
Umesh	0%	0%	0%



This graph shows that the three major political parties FijiFirst, SODELPA and NFP all received significant amounts of negative coverage. Interestingly FijiFirst and NFP had 50% negative coverage. FLP had 100% positive coverage. The other smaller parties and independent candidate Roshika Deo had a more balanced or positive coverage. FUFP and independent candidate Umesh Chand were ignored.

2) Political Parties Length of Time Coverage

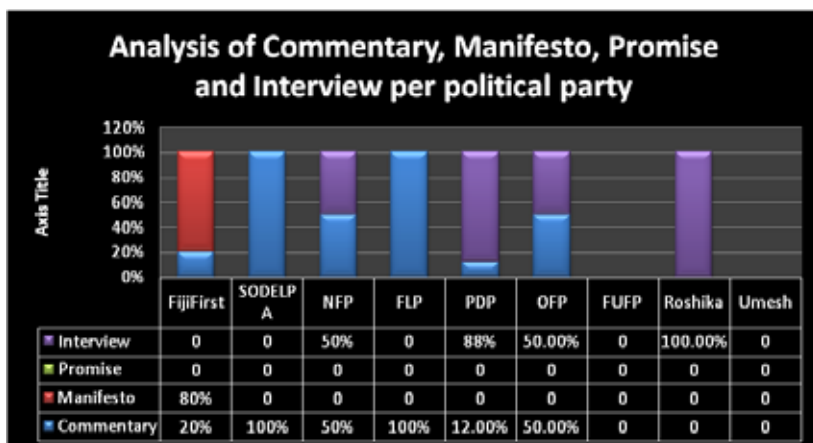
Party/Candidate	Minutes
FijiFirst	22.54%
SODELPA	19.85%
NFP	21.02%
FLP	15.34%
PDP	9.36%
OFP	9.34%
FUFP	0
Roshika	2.34%
Umesh	0



This graph shows that the coverage of the three major parties FijiFirst, SODELPA and NFP was almost balanced. FLP was given significant coverage (15%) and all positive. PDP and OFP received less but still considerable coverage (10%) while Roshika Deo only got 2%. Of interest is the relatively high and positive coverage of FLP. This could indicate that the programme was biased towards this party.

3) Analysis: Commentary, Manifesto, Promise & Interview

Party/Candidate	Commentary	Manifesto	Promise	Interview
FijiFirst	20%	80%	0	0
SODELPA	100%	0	0	0
NFP	50%	0	0	50%
FLP	100%	0	0	0
PDP	12%	0	0	88%
OFP	50%	0	0	50%
FUFP	0	0	0	0
Roshika	0	0	0	100%
Umesh	0	0	0	0



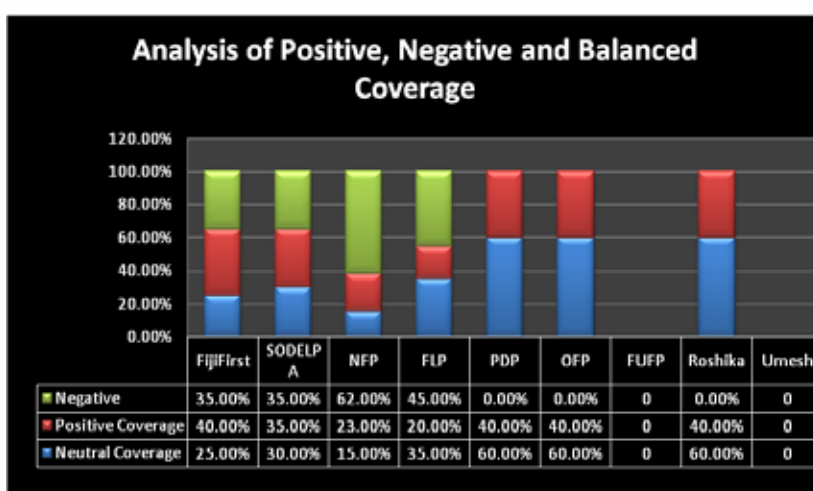
This graph clearly shows SODELPA and FLP had 100% commentary. FijiFirst had highest coverage on their manifesto. Since all commentary on FLP were positive there is reason to believe that the programme was biased in favour of that party.

FBC Analysis (1st to 14th September 2014)

The Fiji Broadcasting Corporation runs one of the two TV stations. FBC is wholly government-owned with a two-member board of directors appointed by its shareholders. It has an almost nationwide coverage. The FBC TV News programme is watched by a large number of Fijians.

1) Positive, Negative & Balance Coverage

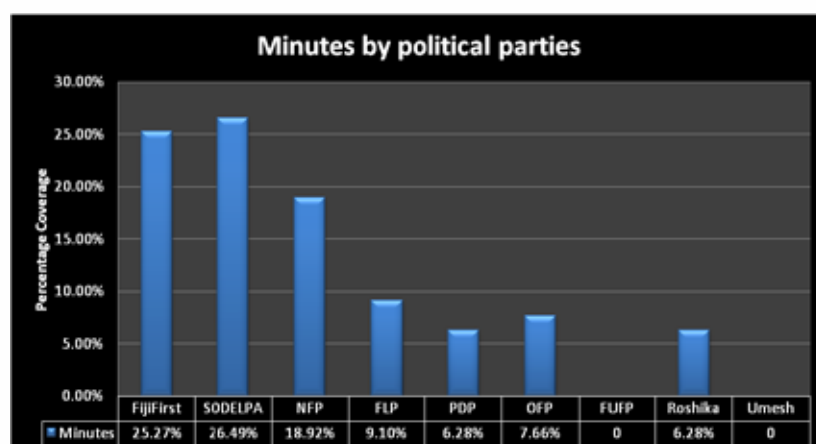
Party/Candidate	Neutral Coverage	Positive Coverage	Negative
FijiFirst	25%	40%	35%
SODELPA	30%	35%	35%
NFP	15%	23%	62%
FLP	35%	20%	45%
PDP	60%	40%	0%
OFP	60%	40%	0%
FUIFP	0	0	0
Roshika	60%	40%	0%
Umesh	0	0	0



This graph shows that both FijiFirst and SODELPA had the same amount of negative coverage (35%) while NFP and FLP had the highest negative coverage (62% and 45% respectively). The smaller parties PDP and OFP and the independent candidate Roshika Deo enjoyed balanced and positive coverage while FUIFP and independent candidate Umesh Chand were not covered at all. Interestingly the two major opponents, FijiFirst and SODELPA received a similar mixture of positive, negative and balanced coverage while coverage of NFP was clearly negative.

2) Coverage per Minutes by Different Political Parties

Party/Candidate	Minutes
FijiFirst	25.27%
SODELPA	26.49%
NFP	18.92%
FLP	9.10%
PDP	6.28%
OFP	7.66%
FUFP	0
Roshika	6.28%
Umesh	0

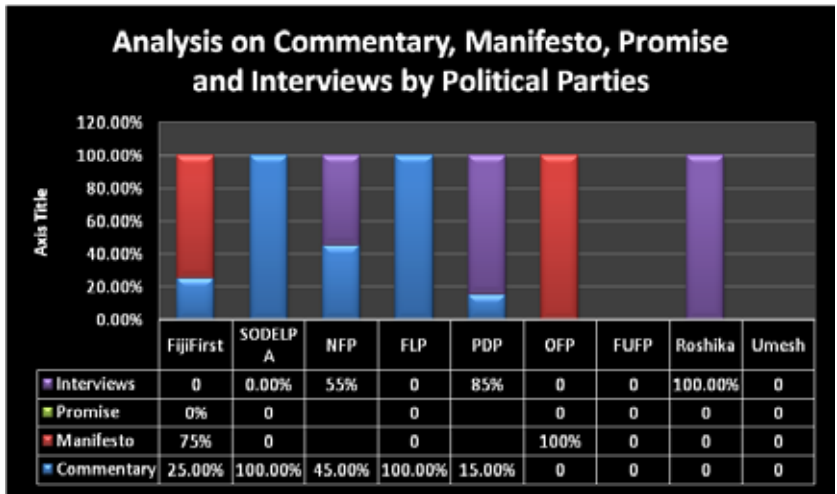


This graph shows that SODELPA had more coverage followed closely by FijiFirst. FUFP and independent candidate Umesh Chand had no coverage at all during this period.

Taking into account the similar mixture of positive, negative and balanced coverage of FijiFirst and SODELPA, both parties were covered in a qualitative and quantitative manner. The remaining parties received significantly less coverage.

3) Analysis: Commentary, Manifesto, Promise & Interviews

Party/Candidate	Commentary	Manifesto	Promise	Interviews
FijiFirst	25%	75%	0%	0
SODELPA	100%	0	0	0%
NFP	45%			55%
FLP	100%	0	0	0
PDP	15%			85%
OFP	0	100%	0	0
FUFP	0	0	0	0
Roshika	0	0	0	100%
Umesh	0	0	0	0



This graph shows that the structure of coverage by FijiFirst and SODELPA is quite different. While FF's coverage was mainly on its manifesto (75%), SODELPA's coverage was restricted to commentaries. However, 35% of the commentaries were positive, 30% balanced and only 35% negative (see graph 1). Only NFP, PDP and independent candidate Roshika Deo were interviewed.

In conclusion FijiFirst had a slightly more favourable qualitative coverage in the FBC News programme than the major opposition party SODELPA. The

quantitative coverage was almost balanced. The smaller parties had less coverage but were still significantly represented. Only FUIFP and independent candidate Umesh Chand were ignored in the pre-polling monitoring period. The reasons are not clear. It seems unlikely that they were deliberately and in bad face sidelined.

Form A: Perceptions of Voters on Polling Day

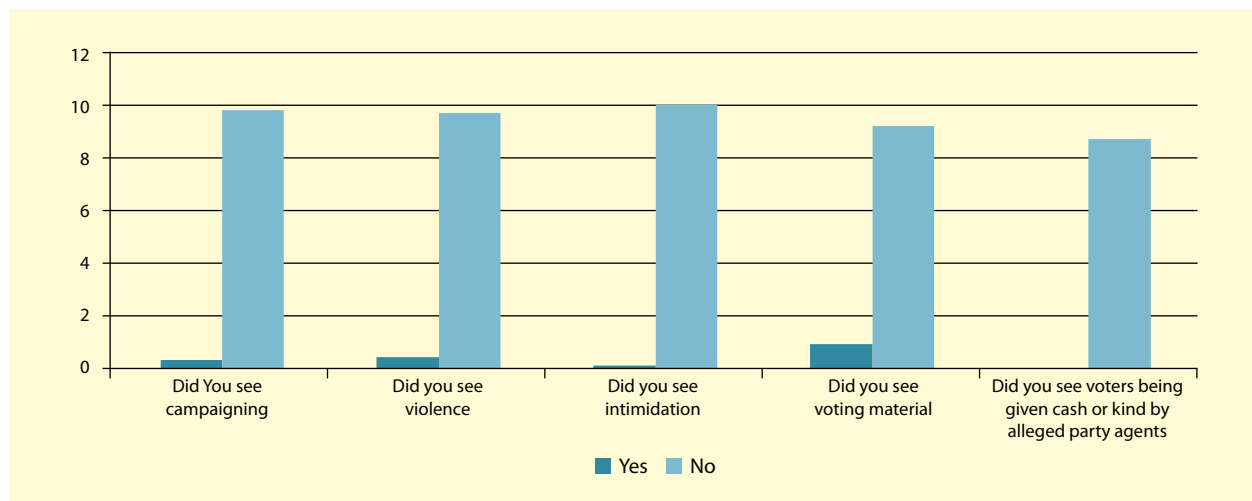
Introduction:

Researchers were requested to return to the area of their polling venue where they casted their votes any time on polling day. Since they were not allowed to re-enter the polling venue the researchers were asked to passively survey specific areas led by five straight forward questions. Since the Electoral Decree prevented 'communication of political messages' and any meetings having direct or indirect reference to the poll in public on polling day,⁶ researchers were requested not to talk to voters but just to observe what was going on in their area of responsibility. They were trained by an expert elections Consultant and informed on how to access passive observations with the forms they were provided with. (Please refer Annex vii)

These findings are based on perceptions of the deployed CCCE researchers on polling day. Out of the 100 researchers deployed 86 forms were returned. The findings are as follows:

Form A

Graph 1:



The main purpose was to find out whether there were hints or even evidence for illegal activities such as campaigning, election related violence, intimidation, vote buying or misuse of voting materials.

This graph defines researchers' perception on polling day and what they observed. There were cases perceived where Fiji first and SODELPA supporters openly discussed and supported candidates of choice. A few voters were engaged in verbal conflict with presiding officers in regards to the late opening of the polling venues. All these incidents were insignificant.

The question whether the researcher saw voting materials outside the polling venue was misunderstood. In a few cases campaign materials were seen but no voting materials such as ballot papers, voter list, seals, ballot boxes etc. If sensitive voting materials were seen outside the polling venue this would have been an indicator for possible rigging. Since this was not the case the outcome of this question should be ignored.

⁶ Sections 146 and 63

Form B: Perceptions of Voters after Polling Day

Introduction:

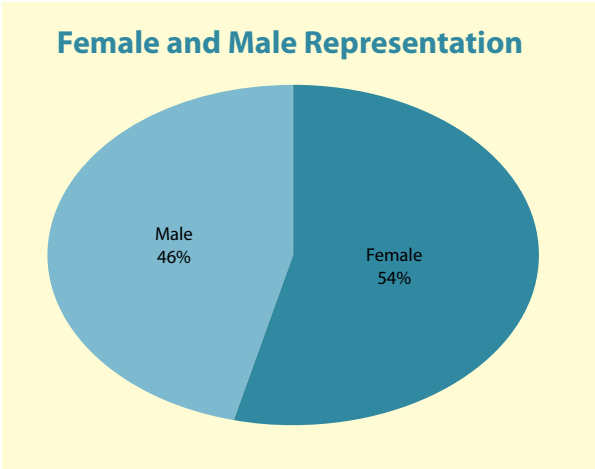
The trained researchers interviewed people on the day after elections. They were asked simple questions to describe how they felt on the day and the process in whole. For this purpose the researchers approached friends, family members, neighbours or work mates and asked them six straight forward questions. In order to receive frank and honest answers, strict anonymity was observed. The interviews were conducted without filling the form in presence of the interviewed person. The answers of the person were put down into the template after the interview was over and the interviewed voter had left.

The rationale for this approach was that we wanted to cross-check the perceptions made by CCCE researchers with the perceptions of a wide range of voters. Interestingly the perceptions of the 563 interviewed voters were in line with the perceptions of CCCE researchers. This demonstrates the validity of the findings.

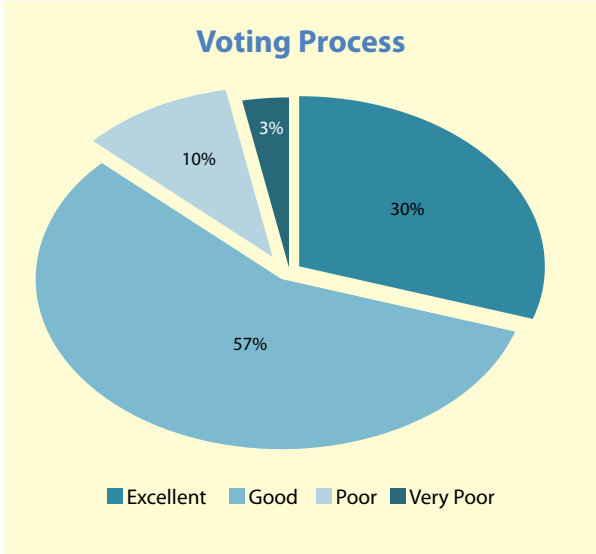
Voters were encouraged to state their best and worst experiences on polling day and also to give recommendations for improving future elections. A number of very useful recommendations have come up. However, some experiences or recommendations were less relevant because they were based on wrong assumptions or lack of procedural understanding.

It transpired that some definitions such as “credible elections” were not always well understood by the interviewed voters. In future CCCE will give a clear definition and will offer the questionnaires also in vernacular in order to minimise the risk for misunderstandings. (Please refer Annex viii)

A total of 563 people were interviewed by the CCCE staff on the day after elections and results are shown below:



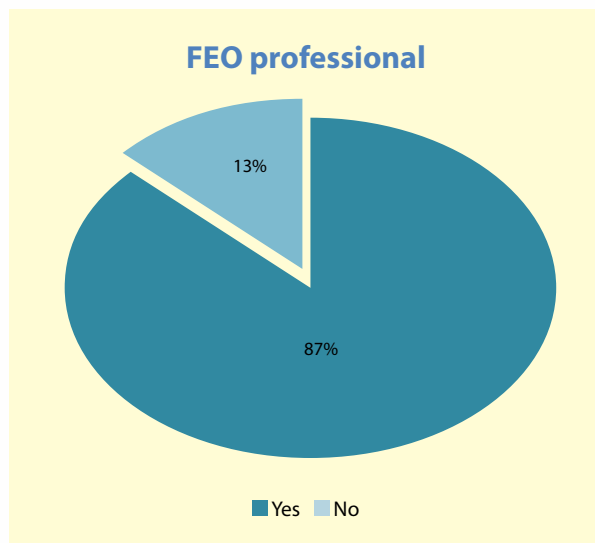
This graph shows the representation of female and male interviewed by the CCCE Staff. A total of 304 female and 259 male took part in the survey.



This graph shows the rating of the whole voting process. 30% assessed the voting process on polling day as excellent and 57% as good. Only 10% rated it poor and 3% very poor. Some reasons for being very poor included: confusion over the correct polling stations within the polling venue, delays in the opening, long waiting time, no observers present. A few also added as they registered at another polling station and had to go vote elsewhere. All these stated reasons would not really justify a poor or very poor rating according to international standards because those are – though annoying for affected voters - minor administrative hiccups.

Did the polling staff appear professional and impartial?

Graph



This graph shows the professionalism of the Fiji Elections Office. 87% of the interviewed voters rated the FEO staff as professional and just 13% found them to be unprofessional. The reasons for this are that a few people found them to be unfriendly and not properly trained for assisting people with disabilities.

Did the polling staff appear professional and impartial? Reasons given for NO response

- Staff unfriendly
- Language/translation problems
- Flaws in the process of assisting voters
- Flaws in the electoral process
- Voters with disabilities were not informed by staff that they were given priority
- Staff not trained for handling impaired voters
- Staff appeared to be biased

The reasons stated above have mostly to do with the question of professionalism. It shows that there is need for more and improved training for FEO staff including polling day workers. However, the reasons seem to be of minor importance for the overall assessment of the elections. In very few cases it was stated that staff appeared biased. Specific reasons were not given.

What was your best experience on elections day?

This section is on the personal experiences of people on elections day. It was divided into 2 categories: Best and Worst Experience.

Best experience on polling day

- First time voting
- Taking part in elections again
- Taking part in the future of the country
- Voting was done quickly, no (long) waiting time
- Being helped by FEO staff because I am disabled
- Professional services by FEO
- Voting for FijiFirst
- Choosing government of the day

Worst experience on polling day

- Long queues, long waiting time
- Restless and noisy voters in the queue
- Looking for candidate's number
- Unsatisfactory assistance by FEO staff
- Confusion over alphabetical order process at polling venue
- Misdirected to the wrong polling venue
- Insufficient voter education
- Tense environment
- Choice amongst different parties
- Almost forgetting the number of my candidate
- Only one voting screen was in use out of 4
- Ballot paper not accessible for visually impaired voters
- Voter collapsed because of heat and long waiting time with a heart attack
- Our fingers were not marked with indelible ink after voting
- No grog allowed during voting
- Standing next to a SODELPA voter

The best experience category shows that voters were eager to exercise their democratic right to cast their votes after a long time or for the first time ever. This is very much in line with the impressive national voter turnout of 84.6%.

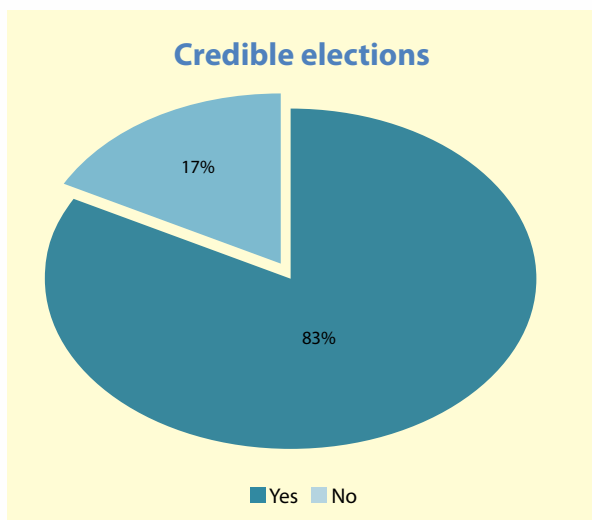
Contrary to the 2006 elections waiting time was shorter especially when voters avoided the morning hours for casting their votes. FEO staff was perceived as helpful and competent.

On the worst experience category the logistical and administrative shortcomings dominated. There were long queues in the morning, voters were misdirected within the polling venue, there was confusion over where to queue. Some voters were even misdirected to a wrong polling venue and had to go relatively long distances to the right venue where they were registered. All those errors caused a considerable amount of frustration.

Contrary to previous elections grog was not allowed inside the polling station as one voter stated as his worst experience. More serious is the observation that some voters voted and left the polling station without being inked with indelible ink. This was a clear violation of the Electoral Decree. The provision is made to minimise the risk for multiple voting.

Was the election in your eyes credible

Yes: 467 No: 96



This graph shows the credibility of the elections. 83% of the interviewed voters said it was credible. The remaining 17% differed due to the lack of impartial domestic observers, and that the Minister responsible for elections doubles the Secretary General of a political party. Most of the other reasons given by the interviewed voters were either not valid or only had a low impact. There is relevance in the perception that campaign period was too short. Candidates should be allotted their numbers at least 2-3 months prior to elections in order to enable them to campaign with their numbers (including printing of posters).

In some polling stations interviewed voters noticed that candidates received zero votes while they had voted for that specific candidate. If there was evidence for that it could

affect the credibility of the elections even if the numbers might not be relevant. The perception that party agents witnessed the assistance of voters is a minor irregularity as long as it is not done in many cases.

More tricky is the question of lack of serial numbers on the ballot papers. Since the booklets contain 50 ballot papers each have serial numbers, reconciliation of printed, used and unused ballot papers is possible. This would ensure accountability and transparency. Serial numbers on each ballot paper could bear the risk that voters could be tracked and identified especially in small rural polling stations. The risk of ballot stuffing is still small because for that not only ballot papers are needed but also forged signatures in the voter list. Ballot stuffing is not easily implemented. According to international standards ballot papers do not necessarily need to have serial numbers as long as the booklets are serial numbered. In other countries stakeholders opted to remove serial numbers from ballot papers in order to ensure the secrecy of the vote.

Reasons stated for lack of credibility

- Voter education not sufficient
- Translation/vernacular language problems
- Lack of impartial domestic observers
- Electoral laws and electoral system not fully democratic
- Concerns of perceived rigging
- No level playing field in the campaign
- Pre-polling and postal votes insecure
- Lack of transparency in tendering and printing of ballot papers
- Minister for Elections doubles as Secretary General of a political party
- People with disabilities not handled properly by FEO staff
- Ballot papers had no serial numbers
- Security concerns for transfer of results to tallying centre
- Lack of experience of FEO staff and Supervisor
- Campaign period too short
- Decrees not favourable for credible elections
- Party agents witnessed the assistance of voters
- Results in particular polling stations seemed not to reflect the correct number of votes

Valid reason?

- No
- Low impact
- Yes
- Partly yes
- No
- Low impact
- No
- No
- Yes
- Low impact?
- No
- No
- ?
- Low impact
- ?
- Yes

Recommendations

The interviewed voters were asked to give recommendations on how to improve elections and electoral procedures for future elections. We have assembled and structured those recommendations into 9 categories. Those recommendations were presented and thoroughly discussed at the first workshop in Sigatoka.

It is clear that recommendations on the electoral system are irrelevant for CCCE. Those are political and the prerogative of the parliament.

The recommendations of the other eight categories were scrutinised and some of them which we considered to be relevant and practicable have been included in our recommendations. In order to maintain the authenticity of the answers given by the voters, the points are quoted below.

Some of the recommendations are too vague and unspecific to be helpful but we tried to make them more specific where relevant.

Electoral System

- Introduction of 50 one-person constituencies
- Candidates' names instead of numbers
- Introduce Interim Government prior to elections
- Revert to the old voting system where a voter could vote anywhere

Electoral Procedures

- Results should have been displayed in a public place in polling venue/stations
- Come up with a different way to indicate that a vote has been cast, ink on finger is too messy
- Elections officers to check properly to the VL for the voters to have names in the right places
- Inform people how ballot paper would be laid out in advance
- There should not be a black out period because voters can get confused with candidates numbers
- Introduction of electronic voting to shorten counting process
- More polling venues
- Inform people not to rush to the polling in the morning
- More FEO staff to check and verify names in order to utilise all polling booths in order to speed up the process
- Counting done publicly so everybody can observe the process
- Ballot papers with photos and party logos
- Civil servants should work as FEO staff on election day

Polling Station Directory System

- Proper recordings and verification of polling centers convenient to the voter
- Make clear directions for voters entering polling venue on systems in place and standing in allocated surname lines using loudspeaker or allocated FEO staff to walk around and direct voters
- Polling officer outside with list to confirm names with voters and reconfirmed in the room before taking ballot paper. Voters then join the correct lines

Pre-Polling and Postal Voting Systems

- Public to be made aware of pre-polling system and not to proclaim it as a one day affair
- A lot of people missed pre-polling because there were no clear instructions and enough time given for people to understand and move to their villages to vote
- Exact date for pre polling should be advised well in advance
- FEO to get correct dates for voting
- FEO staff to vote in pre-polling
- Procedures on postal voting need to be improved
- Postal Voting: Voters overseas should have been better informed

Campaign

- Candidates numbers to be distributed earlier
- Campaign period to be extended

Election Observers and Party Agents

- Have domestic observers present at every polling station as only polling officers and party agents were seen
- Multi National Observer Group need to be present a little longer than they did during their visits. Be more sincere in their observation and ensure credibility of elections
- Party Agents should be present in all polling stations

Improvement of the polling venue

- Have medical team available
- Seats should be made available in shaded areas

Improvements for voters with disabilities

- There should be a day set aside for old age and people living with disabilities
- Inform people to bring reading glasses. Numbers are too small on ballot paper
- The provisional results should be visible to all deaf citizens for information accessibility
- Assistance to impaired voters and people living with disabilities
- All elderly and people living with disabilities could alternatively do postal voting

Political Environment

- Free Media
- Total independence of FEO and Fiji Electoral Commission

Conclusions

- Despite the number of inaccuracies discovered, the CCCE research project did not find evidence for any major irregularities or systematic rigging. The inaccuracies did not seem to be systematic or intentional but based on human errors. Therefore – based on the perceptions of its researchers - the CCCE has no reason to doubt the credibility of the September 2014 Elections.
- Assumptions: All proofed irregularities together would not have significantly changed the outcome of the elections because one parliamentary seat required about 25,000 votes. This includes the unclear whereabouts of the postal votes.
- This statement is based only on the limited findings of the researchers. It does not mean that there was no rigging at other times and places. Since researchers were not allowed to observe elections and to be present inside the polling stations, their perceptions are quite limited.
- Provided that CCCE had been granted accreditation status, a much more comprehensive observation survey with more detailed information could have been realised.
- Despite the fact that the elections were in our eyes credible there is need for improvement in specific – mostly technical – areas in order to make future elections even better. CCCE has come up with a number of well-considered recommendations for the attention of the FEO.

Recommendations to CCCE for Accredited Observer Mission

Following CCCE Information Sharing on Research/Analysis of 2014 Elections

26th November 2014

Recommendations for future observation

1. Media monitoring – media monitoring and analysis can begin 6 months prior to Election. This should include analysis of ownership of media houses. It has been agreed by the CCCE that media monitoring will be shared amongst the members.
2. Return of forms/checklist – a strict screening process should be put in place when identifying potential observers. Focal points can be tasked to identify suitable people. Allowance to be disbursed in phases to ensure work is carried out according to expectations.
3. Domestic observers should be present in as many polling stations as possible.
4. Addressing the needs of Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) – include (in the checklist) if the needs of PWDs are being met (physical, mental, visual) i.e. ramps, wide doorways. Forms should be produced in Braille to cater to the needs of PWDs.
5. Forms to be translated into the vernaculars. Fiji Disabled Peoples Federation are responsible for taking care of the materials for their observers. Training should start well in advance, where possible three months prior to elections. Form B should be translated into translated into the vernaculars.

Recommendations to the Electoral Commission and FEO

1. The criteria for accreditation for Domestic and International Observer as well as the TOR should be included into the Electoral Decree. Accreditation should be given by the Electoral Commission.
2. All responsibility should rest on the independent electoral commission. Consequently there would be no need for a Minister.
3. CSO's are empowered to engage with communities regarding civic and voter education. Government to recognise and acknowledge the immense valuable contribution CSO's can provide. Propose a review or removal of s.115 especially with regard to the provision that states that organisations that receive overseas funding cannot engage and carry out voter education. Consequently CSO's can assist FEO in training party agents and observers in compliance with standard TOR in addressing the needs for professional agents.
4. Professionalism of FEO staff and polling day workers should be increased in order to ensure all provisions of the electoral decree are implemented and should include training by facilitators from organisations focussed on PWD's.
5. Posting of results outside the polling venue should be done without exception and should be accessible to the public.
6. The independence of Fiji Elections Office and Electoral Commission should be upheld at all times.
7. Postal voting – The process in which the postal votes are transported and stored should be transparent as well as effective and should ensure that all postal votes are received before polling day. For this purpose, the Fiji High Commission and Consulates abroad may be engaged in order to prevent delays. Explanation of postal voting eligibility should be given in advance.
8. Voters List (VL) should be verified by election officers so that voters are listed under the correct venue; VL should be made available to all political parties and candidates.
9. PWD's organisations should be closely involved with the Fiji Elections Office on how to cater for the special needs of persons with disabilities to ensure that they are able to cast their votes without problems.
10. National Candidates List – Each candidate should have their party photo next to their name. Candidate number on National Candidates List to be listed according to political party affiliation. ; Review of 2-week timeframe between allocation of candidate numbers and election. A sample of the ballot paper should be made public well in advance.
11. Campaign - Identify clear date for political parties to begin campaigning and media advertising. Candidates numbers to be allocated earlier (at least 4 weeks in advance) and extend campaign period.
12. Pre-polling - Public and political parties to be made aware of pre-polling system including eligibility. FEO should inform pre-poll voters the exact day on which they are required to vote well in advance. FEO staff should be required to vote during pre-polling so as not to inconvenience them during polling day.
13. Black out period - All political actors and stakeholders to observe black out period.
14. Polling venues - Need for better organisation at some venues; more FEO staff to check and verify names in order to utilise all polling booths to hasten process; ensure verification process is done properly to avoid inconvenience to the voter. Ensure voters receive correct information on their particular polling venue. Clear directions for voters within polling venues i.e where to queue according to surname. Full address of polling venue to be made available to public including location, street name and map.
15. Counting should be done publicly so all interested parties and public can observe the process.

16. Provision of rest areas and medical support - Make seats available and shade from sun and rain; ensure medical team available at all polling venues.
17. Assisted voting - Voters who need assistance should be allowed to bring a person of their choice (family, friend, neighbour) to assist them by marking their ballots. The assisting person is only allowed to assist once.
18. Regulations to support the electoral act must be outlined. Regulations should be created to regulate the Electoral Decrees. Party agents to read regulations and follow them. Regulations need to be properly documented and authorised by the FEO and EC.
19. Management of ballot papers – from preparation, printing and reconciliation, should be fully transparent. Use of serial numbers on ballot papers maybe considered but the secrecy of the vote is also to be respected.
20. Protocol of results - Provisional results to be counted and publicly announced (posted/televised) as soon as counting is complete. Later, results can be tallied.
21. Training of media personnel to properly cover elections issues (most reporters/journalists covered elections for the first time)
22. EVR should be considered (with advent of technology) to fit in 1-day election and count to be carried out on that day. No need for pre-polling.
23. Re MOG – Those from MOG come with their own agenda, strongly recommend a Domestic Elections Observer Group.
24. Disability – By 2018, everyone should cast their own vote, by themselves. (Instead of assisted voting). Every PWD is given the right to cast their own vote.
25. Party agents and observers must be allowed to carry their own checklists and pen into the polling station in order to note relevant information such as serial numbers and counting results.

References

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Annex I

NGO Coalition on Human Rights

Towards a Fiji that respects and protects human rights
P.O Box 12882 Suva, Fiji Ph: 679-3313 300

18 June 2014

Mr. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum
Attorney-General and Minister for Elections, Justice, Anti-Corruption,
Public Enterprises, Communications, Civil Aviation, Tourism, Industry and Trade.
Attorney General's Chambers
Level 7, Suvavou House,
400 Victoria Parade
Suva.

Dear Attorney-General,

Re: Independent Technical Domestic Election Observation Mission
Subject: Conversation with Ms. Shamima Ali on 16th June 2014

We would like to thank you for granting us this opportunity to introduce our proposal to set up an independent domestic observer mission for the upcoming September 2014 elections.

We commend the Government and the Electoral Commission for the progressive work which has been done so far. Despite some shortcomings, the Electoral Decree 2014 (No. 11 of 2014) appears to be a good basis to conduct credible elections. We are pleased to note that some major shortcomings of the 2006 elections have been addressed under this Decree. In particular we are pleased to note the provisions that a vote is valid as long as the intention of the voter is clear, and that spelling mistakes in the voter roll will not necessarily disenfranchise voters.

We were able to attend the launch of the voter education program by the Elections Office on 16 June, and were impressed with the professional and straightforward way the process has been designed. It is our hope that the process will enable voters to cast their votes easily and accurately.

We propose to support the electoral process by setting up an impartial and professional technical domestic election observer mission. This requires us to recruit and train 300 domestic observers through the networks of a coalition of NGOs. We aim to have a gender balanced observer group comprised of people from all over Fiji, including young people and university students. Domestic observers will be recruited from all over the country and would preferably observe in the polling venue where they are registered.

A strict criterion for selection of observers is currently being finalised. The criterion includes that observers cannot be office bearers in any political party or directly linked to an independent candidate and will not be allowed to campaign for a political party or a candidate. All observers will be obliged to sign a code of conduct to abide by the criteria, and will be released from their duties if they violate the code.

Observers will be trained in close cooperation with the Elections Office. The Chair of the Electoral Commission and the Supervisor of Elections have provided their support by offering the services of the Elections Office in facilitating mock election sessions with observers. Observers will be provided with observation forms and samples of these forms will be submitted to the Elections Office.

We will also be able to submit the finalised code of conduct and list of 300 identified observers to your office or the Elections Office for consideration.

The NGO Coalition on Human Rights is a coalition of civil society organisations that works towards a Fiji that respects and protects human rights and fundamental freedoms within the framework of the rule of law.

The election observation will be based on the laws of Fiji and the technical procedures published by the Election Office. Observers will not interfere with or disturb the process. They will also comply with all terms of reference and codes of conduct issued by the Minister and the Electoral Commission.

A comprehensive technical report on the elections will be submitted within three weeks after declaration of official final results. The report will contain a number of recommendations which will be useful for future elections. During the last two weeks we have been in touch with the Electoral Commission, the Supervisor of Elections, academics, other NGO's and most representatives of the international community. All have welcomed the idea of an independent domestic election observer mission and we have received widespread support from both domestic and international stakeholders.

The independent domestic observer mission will add credibility to the election process and results. It can be expected that those that do not get a favorable election result may attempt to refute the outcome. This mission will contribute to the legitimacy of the election result by its professional technical assessment.

Furthermore, unlike the international observer mission, a local observer mission will build sustainable national structures of professional impartial election observers. This is certainly needed for a bright democratic future for Fiji and will be an asset for further elections.

The domestic mission would add not only to the national credibility of the elections but also to international credibility as civil society is considered to play an important role in the democratic transition process.

As of today, the following organisations have expressed their initial interest to field domestic observers:

- Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC)
- Fiji Disabled People's Forum (FDPF) and its affiliates
- Transparency International Fiji (TI Fiji)
- Pacific Dialogue (PD)
- Social and Economic Empowerment Programme (SEEP)
- Manumalo Tuinanumea, President of Fiji Council of Churches (FCC)
- Drodrolagi Movement
- National Council of Women (NCW)
- Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy (ECCREA)
- Academics, School of Social Science, Fiji National University (FNU)
- Academics from School of Government, Development and International Affairs, USP
- Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF)
- Citizens Constitutional Forum (CCF)
- Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM)
- Aspire Network

We thank you for this unique opportunity to add credibility and transparency to the electoral process and election results and welcome your feedback. We look forward to a favourable response by 27th June to enable preparations to commence. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Shamima Ali on 331 3300.


Shamima Ali
ED FWCC


Makereta Mua
Lecturer FNU


Kajaal Kumar
ED Aspire Network

The NGO Coalition on Human Rights is a coalition of civil society organisations that works towards a Fiji that respects and protects human rights and fundamental freedoms within the framework of the rule of law.

Annex II

# 26 Anomalies	# 144 Polling station	Polling Venue Name	Polling Station Number	Anomalies found
	1	Ahmadhya Muslim Collge	21801	
	2	AOG Primary Schol	219709	
	3	Arts Village Culture Centre	217703	
	4	Bainivalu Primary School	229102	
	5	Batibalavu District School	406601	
	6	Batinikama Bhartya School	411703	
	7	Buiduna Gran. Sanatan Indian School	229401	
	8	Cargill Ground Shed	229502	
1	9	Cargill Ground Shed	229503	263 received 1 vote FEO recorded 0, Total votes cast was 389 FEO recorded total vote cast 388
2	10	Caubati Housing Shed	220205	Total votes accounted for 372, FEO total votes 371
	11	Chauhan Memorial School	213501	
	12	Chauhan Memorial School	213503	
3	13	Colo-i-suva Forestry Station	220401	158 received 1 vote FEO recorded 0 vote
	14	Colo-i-suva Training School	220501	
	15	Cooperate Tamavua Centre	213602	
	16	Dr Ram Lakhani Primary School	221302	
	17	Dr Ram Lakhani Primary School	221303	
	18	Draiba Primary School	221401	
	19	Draiba Primary School	221402	
	20	Draiba Primary School	221403	
	21	Drasa Avenue Shed	225303	
	22	Dravo Community Hall	230301	
	23	Fiji School of Nursing	221802	
	24	FNU Headquarters	221901	
	25	Ghandi Bhawan Primary School	510702	
4	26	Ghandi Bhawan Primary School	510702	380 received 1 vote FEO recorded 0.
	27	Ghandi Bhawan Primary School	510703	
5	28	Gospel Primary School	222202	305 received 1 vote FEO recorded 0
	29	International Secondary School	222502	
	30	International Secondary School	222506	
6	31	International Secondary School	222507	360 received 0 vote FEO recorded 2 votes, 363 received 2 votes FEO recorded 0
	32	John Wesley Primary School	225407	

	33	John Wesley	225403	
	34	John Wesley Primary School	225404	
7	35	John Wesley Primary School	225405	222 received 2 votes FEO recorded 1 vote
8	36	Khemendra Central Primary School Savusavu	407203	
	37	Khemendra Central Primary School Savusavu	4072202	
	38	Kinoya Village Community Hall	223001	
9	39	Korociriciri Primary School	230901	Total votes cast listed in FEO official site 579
	40	Krishna Jarnardhan School	200501	
	41	Krishna Jarnardhan School	200501	
	42	Krishna Vedic	231201	
	43	Krishna Vedic	231202	
	44	Lagilagi Church Hall	223101	
	45	Lagilagi Church Hall	223102	
	46	Latter Day Saints College	223401	
	47	Lautoka Arya Samaj Primary School	511701	
	48	Lautoka Arya Samaj Primary School	511702	
	49	Lodoni Primary School	200701	
	50	Logani Community Hall	231501	
	51	Makoi Methodist Hall	223702	
	52	Marcellin Primary School	224001	
	53	Meteorological Office	224201	
10	54	Nabalebale Community Hall	407401	216 received 1 vote FEO recorded 0
	55	Nabua Primary School	224401	
	56	Nabua Primary School	224403	
11	57	Nabua Primary School	224405	188 received 5 votes FEO recorded 0
	58	Naburenivalu Primary School	201001	
	59	Nadali Community Hall	232001	
	60	Nadali Community Hall	232002	
	61	Nadi Muslim Primary School	522603	
	62	Nadi Muslim Primary School	522606	
	63	Nadi Sangam	522702	
	64	Nadi Sangam	522703	
	65	Naila Community Hall	232301	
	66	Nakasi Hart Hall	232901	
	67	Nakasi High School	233001	
	68	Nakasi High School	233003	
	69	Nakasi High School	233004	
	70	Nakasi High School	233005	
	71	Nakini Village School	2332201	
	72	Namalata District School	202601	

12	73	Nasoso Mandir	523402	165=1, not 11 FEO ERROR. More then 10 votes
	74	Natovi Catholic School	202301	
	75	Nausori Primary School	234301	
	76	Nausori Primary School	234302	
	77	Nausori Primary School	234303	
	78	Navesi Primary School	215201	
	79	Navesi Primary School	215202	
	80	Navesi Primary School	215203	
	81	Navuloa Methodist Church Hall	234401	
	82	Navuloa Methodist Church Hall	234402	
13	83	Nawanawa Methodist Hall	225101	262 received 1 vote not on list-
	84	Nawanawa Methodist Hall (st 2)	225102	
14	85	Qalitu Primary	409201	148 received 1 vote, FEO recorded 0
15	86	Ragg Avenue Shed	225302	304 received 5 votes FEO recorded 1
	87	Rampur Primary School	219004	
	88	Ratu Filimoni Loco Memorial School	203001	
	89	Ratu Ravuama Memorial School	234801	
	90	Ratu Sir Lala Sukuna Memorial School	225504	
16	91	Rishikul Nadera Primary School	225602	369 received 2 votes FEO recorded 0.
	92	Saioni Methodist Church Hall	226003	
	93	School Of Intellectual Handicapped		
	94	SDA Tamavua Hall	226401	
	95	SDA Tamavua Hall	226402	
	96	Seventh Day Adventist College	213201	
	97	Sila Central High School Nausori	235101	
	98	Sila Central High School Nausori	235102	
	99	Sila Central High School Nausori	235103	
17	100	Siberia Anglican Kindergarten	417401	199 received 6 votes FEO recorded 2, 297 received 4 votes FEO recorded 0, 343 received 2 votes FEO recorded 1 vote.
18	101	Siberia Anglican Kindergarten	417402	234 received 4 votes FEO recorded 0 votes, 235 received 4 votes FEO received 2 votes, 254 received 0 votes FEO recorded 4, 264 received 4 votes FEO recorded 0, 274 received 0 votes, FEO recorded 1 vote, 296 received 0 votes FEO recorded 4 votes, 299 received 1 vote, 356 received 0 vote, FEO recorded 1 vote, 358 received 0 votes FEO recorded 1 vote, 361 received 0 vote, FEO recorded 1 vote, 366 received 0 votes FEO recorded 1 vote.

19	102	Siberia Mandi Hall	417501	212 received 1 vote FEO recorded 0 vote, 213 received 0 vote FEO 1, 323 received 0 vote FEO received 2 vote, 322 received 0 votes FEO recorded 0 vote, 324 received 1 vote FEO recorded 0 vote, 338 received 0 votes FEO recorded 1 vote, 347 received 1 vote FEO recorded 2 votes, 356 received 4 votes FEO recorded 1 vote.
	103	St Christopher Hall	235203	
	104	St Christopher Hall	2352202	
20	105	Savusavu Secondary School	409502	317 received 5 votes FEO 317 received 25
	106	Suva Grammar School	227001	
	107	Suva Muslim College	227201	
	108	Suva Muslim College	227203	
	109	Suva Muslim College	227302	
21	110	Suva Sangam School	227301	175 recorded twice on list receiving 1 vote on both entries, 179 is missing
	111	Tacirua Primary School	227502	
22	112	Tacirua Primary School	227503	360 votes valid FEO recorded 696, 183 received 1 vote FEO recorded 2, 158 received 73 votes FEO recorded 146, 279 received 108 votes FEO recorded 216, 317 received 46 votes FEO recorded 92 votes.
23	113	Tai District School	205801	226 received 1 vote FEO recorded 0, 327 received 0 vote FEO recorded 1
	114	Tailevu North High School	203801	
	115	Tamavua Primary School	227401	
	116	Tamavua Primary School	227403	
	117	Tamavua Primary School	227404	
	118	Tamavua Primary School	227404	
	119	Tamavua Primary School	227405	
	120	Tamavua Primary School	227406	
	121	Tamavua Primary School	227408	
	122	Tamavua Primary School	227603	
	123	Tamavua Village Hall	227602	
24	124	Tamavua Village Hall	227603	303 received 2 votes FEO recorded 1 vote
	125	Tamavua-i-wai Methodist Church Hall	227701	
	126	Tuirara Police Shed	227201	
	127	Vakatora PRB Community Hall	517501	
	128	Vashist Muni Primary School	219304	
	129	Vatuwaqa Methodist Church Hall	228201	
	130	Vatuwaqa Primary School	228303	
	131	Verata Community Hall	235901	
	132	Verata Community Hall	235901	
	133	Verata Community Hall	235902	
	134	Vesari Ground Shed	217001	
	135	Viria East End	228401	

	136	Viria East Shed	228401	
	137	Vishnu Deo Primary School	223501	
25	138	Vishnu Deo Primary School	228503	237 scored 7 votes but was only given one vote by FEO. 6 Votes deleted. Total should be 362 FEO recorded 365.
	139	Vishnu Deo Primary School	228565	
	140	Vugalei District Hall School	236401	
	141	Vunivau Methodist Church Hall	228702	
	142	Vunivau Methodist Church Hall	228703	
	143	Waila Housing Community Hall	236801	
	144	Waila Housing Community Hall	236803	
26	145	Waila Housing Community Hall	236802	336 received 2 votes FEO recorded 0, 352 received 1 vote FEO recorded 1, 353 received 0 votes FEO recorded 1 vote. But total votes cast remains the same.
	146	Wailea SDA Church Hall	228803	
	147	Wailea SDA Church Hall	228802	

Annex III

Concerned Citizens for Credible Elections (CCCE)

CODE OF CONDUCT

- CCCE-Staff will maintain strict impartiality in the conduct of their duties throughout the process, and will not show any bias or political affiliation. They shall at no time indicate or express bias or preference for any political party or candidate contesting the elections in their capacity as CCCE-Staff.
- CCCE-Staff shall not accept bribes or gifts of any kind from stakeholders involved in the electoral process.
- CCCE-Staff will at no time interfere in the electoral process. They will leave the polling venue after voting and will keep away from the polling venues.
- CCCE-Staff will gather information by passive observation outside the 300 metre-radius of the polling venue in an individual and private manner.
- CCCE-Staff will not talk to voters or election stakeholders (including party agents, polling staff, police) on polling day.
- CCCE-Staff will not discuss polling or any issue related to the polls in public on polling day or any day that polling is adjourned to.
- CCCE-Staff shall not carry, wear or display on his or her person any electioneering material or article of clothing or any insignia denoting support for or opposition to any party or candidate contesting the elections.
- CCCE-Staff will not carry, wear or display any civil society organisation material or article of clothing or any insignia when present at polling venues or political events including party campaigns.
- CCCE-Staff will not communicate political messages or messages related to elections on polling day.
- CCCE-Staff will base all conclusions and perceptions on their personal observations on evidence, not on hear-say or speculation.
- CCCE-Staff will always maintain a proper conduct. They will not lose their tempers, get over-excited or engage in physical or verbal disputes.
- CCCE-Staff will not disclose any information on their observations to any person but to their assigned Senior Staff or to the CCCE Secretariat.
- CCCE-Staff will not take undue risks. **Staff's safety is first priority.**
- CCCE-Staff are NOT entitled to make any comments to the media on the electoral process or on their observations.
- CCCE-Staff will sign a confidentiality agreement.
- CCCE-Staff will comply with all laws and regulations of the Republic of Fiji.

Always Remember: Being chosen to serve as a CCCE-Staff is an honour and not just a mere job. You are serving not only CCCE but Society in general. Your contribution is essential for the future of a peaceful and democratic Fiji!

Thank you!

I accept the above Code of Conduct and also declare that I am not an office holder of any political party or election candidate.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Signature:** _____

Annex IV

Concerned Citizens for Credible Elections (CCCE) **NON-DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

I, _____ understand and agree that any information gained in the course of my duties as a CCCE staff member is to be kept in confidence, subject to the following terms and conditions:

Definition of Confidential Information

1. The Confidential Information referred to can be described as, and includes, any information gained in the capacity as a staff member or agent of the CCCE Secretariat. This includes, but is not limited to, any activities of the CCCE and any information that may arise from these activities whether it concerns the elections or otherwise.

Disclosure of Confidential Information to external parties

2. The recipient agrees not to disclose the confidential information obtained in the course of this role to any external parties, including the media, polling officials, party agents or representatives, security forces or any other organisations or individuals, unless required to do so by law.
3. The recipient may disclose confidential information to CCCE directors, officers, employees, agents or representatives who have a need to know such information in connection with CCCE activities.

Use of Confidential Information

4. The recipient agrees to use confidential information solely in connection with CCCE activities, and with CCCE parties, and not for any purpose other than as authorised by this agreement or as otherwise agreed in writing from an authorised representative of the CCCE Secretariat.

Term

5. The parties duty of non-disclosure in relation to this confidential information shall remain in effect indefinitely.

I am aware that the safety and security of the CCCE and its staff depends on the principle of strict and comprehensive confidentiality. I am aware that in case of violation of this confidentiality agreement the CCCE Secretariat must remove me as a staff member.

I accept the above Agreement on Confidentiality

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

Annex V

CCCE

Campaign Perception Form

Date: _____

Party/Candidate: _____

Location: _____

Name of Staff: _____

Cell phone number of Staff: _____

Time of arrival: _____ Time of departure: _____

1. How many people attended (rough estimate, please tick):

<10 11-50 50-100 100-200 200-500 500-1000 1000-2000 2000-5000 >5000

1a Estimated share of women among attendance? _____ %

2. Was the set-up of the campaign orderly?

3. How was the general atmosphere (pls. tick)? Relaxed Good Tense Violent

4. How many security were in attendance? Police: _____ Party security: _____

5. Did they conduct themselves professionally? _____

6. Did you see distribution of money to supporters?

7. Did you see distribution of campaign materials to supporters?

8. Did you see supporters being ferried by bus or truck to the campaign?

9. Did you see any of the following:

A	Violence	B	Intimidation
C	Harassment	D	Interference of state security (Police)
E	Arrests by Police	F	Clashes with supporters of other parties

9a If yes, please elaborate by whom against whom:

10. How was the language used by the speakers (tick)? Moderate Demagogic Aggressive

11. Did you hear calls for violence against political or social opponents? Yes No

12. Did you hear calls for violence against state institutions? Yes No

13. Did you hear calls for intolerance and hatred? Yes No

14. Was the voting process correctly explained? Yes No

15. Was the party manifesto explained? Yes No

16. Were media present? Which? _____

16a Did anyone interfere with their work? Who? _____

17 Were other observers present? Yes No (organisations: _____)

18. Was the campaign meeting dissolved by police or security forces? Yes No

Reasons given: _____

19. Was the Code of Conduct for political parties observed? Yes No

20. Was there free access to the campaign venue? Yes No

Overall Assessment (please tick): Very good good bad very bad

In case of bad or very bad give reasons: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO SECRETARIAT within 2 hours after the function! Thanks!

ANNEXE VI

Checklist CCCE

Instructions and Report Forms

Please follow the instructions below and fill in the attached forms.

After you have votes please fill in the forms below and begin answering the questions in the checklists.

Staff's full name _____ Cell phone number: _____

Nº of electoral area: _____ Nº of the polling venue: _____ Number of the polling station: _____

Name of the polling centre: _____

Time of your arrival _____:_____ Time of your departure _____:_____

Is the Presiding Officer female or male? _____

Number of polling staff present during your visit _____

1. SET-UP AND OPENING OF THE POLLING STATION

Please check the following before the beginning of the voting process: Yes/No

- | | | | |
|---|--|-----|----|
| 1 | Was the observing place assigned to party agents satisfactory? | Yes | No |
| 2 | Were the polling venue and polling station correctly identified with its number? | Yes | No |
| 3 | Was all FEO staff present? Yes No How many? _____ | | |
| 4 | Were all sensitive materials (VL, ballot papers, stamp, indelible ink) available? | Yes | No |
| | If no, what was missing? _____ | | |
| 5 | Did the voting screens ensure the secrecy of the ballots? | Yes | No |
| 6 | Were more than one party agent by party present at a time? | Yes | No |
| 7 | How many party agents were present? _____ which parties did they represent? _____ | | |
| 8 | How many observers were present? _____ Which organisations did they represent? _____ | | |
| 9 | Was the Presiding Officer of the voting station present? | Yes | No |

- 10 Was there any campaign material displayed inside or outside the polling venue? Yes No
- 11 Was the polling station accessible for disabled voters? Yes No
- 12 Did voting start on time (7.30am)? Yes No, it started at _____ (state time)

A) Assessment of the setting-up: very good good bad very bad

If bad or very bad, please give reasons: _____

2. VOTING

Please check the following during the voting process: Yes/No

- 13 Was there an orderly queue in front of polling station premises? Yes No
- 14 Was there any kind of violence or campaigning near or inside the polling station? Yes No
- 15 Was the voting procedure well organised and orderly? Yes No
 If no, did this seriously affect the voting procedures? Yes No
- 16 Were the fingers of voters properly checked for indelible ink? Yes No
- 17 Did you see voters entering the station with how to vote instructions? Yes No
- 18 Were voters properly identified? Yes No
- 19 Were voters requested to sign or mark against their names in the VL? Yes No
- 20 Were voter's fingers marked with indelible ink after casting the vote? Yes No
- 21 Did you observe attempted or completed cases of multiple voting? Yes No
 If yes, please specify: _____
- 22 Did you observe family or proxy voting? Yes No
 If yes, please specify: _____
- 23 Did you observe ballot stuffing? Yes No
- 24 Was the privacy and secrecy of the voting respected? Yes No
 If no, specify: _____
- 25 Were the ballot boxes in sight of party agents and observers? Yes No
- 26 Did the actions of the polling staff appear impartial? Yes No
 If no, please specify: _____
- 27** How many security staff was present? _____ Were their conduct professional? Yes No
 If no, please specify: _____

28 Were any unauthorised persons present inside the polling station? Yes No

If yes, did they interfere with the elections? No Yes

29 Did you see voters who requested assistance? Yes No

30 Was the procedure for assisting voters properly followed? Yes No

If no, please specify: _____

31 Did you see party agents assisting voters? Yes No

32 Were representatives of the media present? Yes No

Specify: _____

33 Were international observers present? Yes No

Specify: _____

34 Did you see evidence of any tampering with the ballot boxes?

Were the boxes duly sealed? Yes No

35 Did you see evidence of intimidation, bribery or interference in the voting process? Yes No

36 Has voting been suspended by the Presiding Officer? Yes No

For how long? _____ Reasons: _____

37 How was the turnout of female voters? Impressive high average low very low

B) Assessment of the voting process: very good good bad very bad

If bad or very bad, please give reasons: _____

Observer's Protocol

Reconciliation of ballot papers

Number	Description	Total
D	Number of ballot papers received from FEO	
E	Number of voter signatures on Voter List	
F	Number of unused ballot papers	
G	Number of spoiled ballot papers	
H	Number of tendered ballot papers	
I	Total (E+F+G+H)	
J	Difference (should be 0)	

Reconciliation of Total Number of Ballots in Ballot Box

Number	Details	Figures
K	Grand total of all ballots counted (including invalid)	
L	Discarded ballot papers	
M	Total (should equal number of voter signatures on Voter List (E))	
N	Difference (should be 0)	

Total count of valid votes for each candidate 1

Candidate Number	Total Votes	Candidate Number	Total Votes	Candidate Number	Total Votes	Candidate Number	Total Votes	Candidate Number	Total Votes
Subtotal		Subtotal		Subtotal		Subtotal		Subtotal	

Total count of valid votes for each candidate 2

Candidate Number	Total Votes	Candidate Number	Total Votes	Candidate Number	Total Votes	Candidate Number	Total Votes	Candidate Number	Total Votes
Subtotal		Subtotal		Subtotal		Subtotal		Subtotal	

Total number of valid votes	
Total number of invalid vote	_____
Total vote cast	

Name and signature of the observer _____

Date: _____

Departure Time: _____

After you complete your report, deliver it immediately to the agreed upon place. Thank you very much!

Annex VII

CCCE

Perceptions Survey Form A

Date: _____

Location: _____

Name of Staff: _____

Cell phone number of Staff: _____

Time of arrival: _____ Time of departure: _____

A Polling Day Perceptions

A1. Did you see campaigning? Yes No

If yes, which party/candidate? _____

A2. Did you see violence? Yes No

If yes, please specify (where, when, who was involved, which action was taken?)

A3. Did you see intimidation/harassment of voters? Yes No

If yes, please specify (where, when, who was involved, which action was taken?)

A4. Did you see voting materials outside the polling venue? Yes No

If yes, specify (which materials, where, when, who was in possession? _____

A5. Did you see voters being given cash or kind by alleged party agents? Yes No

If yes, specify (when, where, who was involved, number of cases) _____

Additional space for specification:

Annex VIII

CCCE

Perceptions Survey Form B

Date: _____

Location: _____

Name of Staff: _____

Cell phone number of Staff: _____

Time of arrival: _____ Time of departure: _____

B After Polling Day Perceptions

Questions to be answered by voters (please interview between 5-10 voters)

Male / Female Age First time voter? Yes No

B1. How did you see the voting process? Please rate:

Excellent Good Poor Very Poor

If poor or very poor please give reasons: _____

B2. Did you feel informed about the voting procedures? Yes No

If no, give reasons: _____

B3. Did the polling staff appear professional and impartial? Yes No

If no, give reasons: _____

B4. What was your best, what was your worst experience on Polling Day?

Best: _____

Worst: _____

B5. What should be improved in future elections?

B 6. Was the election in your eyes credible? Yes No

If no, give reasons: _____

Annex IX

CCCE Senior Staff Assessment Sheet

Area: _____

Name of Senior Staff: _____

Cell phone number: _____

Q. No.	Yes	No
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Assessment

Assessment	Very good.....	Good.....	Bad.....	Very bad
A				
B				

Date and Signature of Coordinator: _____

