

THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

REPUBLIC OF FIJI

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Tuesday 06 October 2026

Mr Nilesh Lal
Executive Director
Dialogue Fiji
P O Box 404
Suva
Fiji

Dear Mr Lal,

RE: REFERENDUM AND GENERAL ELECTION

Bula Vinaka from the Electoral Commission of Fiji.

The Electoral Commission ("**Commission**") has received your letters dated 5 and 6 October 2026 respectively, and your covering emails. We have considered your correspondence and thank you for the issues raised.

We wish to assure you from the outset that we will not exercise the discretion set out in section 15(2) of the National Referendum Act 2026 without giving the matter serious consideration, including taking into account the matters you have raised. Our deliberations on the matter will include:

1. The extent of the discretion set out in section 15(2);
2. When the discretion is activated; and
3. Whether the Commission ought to exercise its discretion, including the reasons for and against exercising the discretion and the potential impacts of either approach.

Thank you for your example of referenda and elections being conducted together. We recognise that the two are not mutually exclusive and can, with favourable conditions, be conducted simultaneously without significant detriment to either event. These are some of the factors we will be taking into account.

We also assure you that we recognise the request from the Honourable Prime Minister as being just that: a request. We receive many requests and urgings from a variety of people. We take very seriously our Constitutional and statutory duties to conduct free and fair elections, impartially, and devoid of any direction or control of any person or authority.

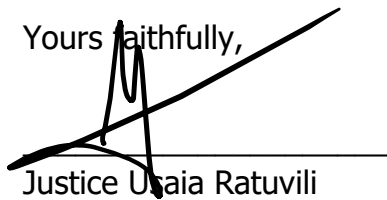
We are considering all our functions, duties and powers set out in the National Referendum Act, including the discretion in section 15(2). Once we make our decision

regarding the exercise of that discretion, it will be announced via a media release as indicated in our media release on 5 October 2026.

As outlined in that 5 October 2026 media release, our preparations for the general election continue alongside the preparations for the potential national referendum.

Thank you for your correspondence and I remain,

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Justice Usaia Ratuveli', written over a horizontal line.

Justice Usaia Ratuveli
Chairperson, Electoral Commission of Republic of Fiji