

BILL NO. 31 OF 2026

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE POLITICAL PARTIES (REGISTRATION,
CONDUCT, FUNDING AND DISCLOSURES) ACT 2013

ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji—

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) (Amendment) Act 2026.

(2) This Act comes into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

(3) In this Act, the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) Act 2013 is referred to as the “Principal Act”.

Section 2 amended

2. Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting the following new definitions—

““corrupt electoral practice” has the meaning given to it under section 2 of the Electoral Act 2014;” and

““illegal electoral practice” has the meaning given to it under section 2 of the Electoral Act 2014;”.

Section 3 amended

3. Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended by—

- (a) in subsection (2), deleting “and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or to both” and substituting “which is a corrupt electoral practice”; and
- (b) in subsection (2A), deleting “, and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years or to both” and substituting “which is an illegal electoral practice”.

Section 5 amended

4. Section 5 of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “and sentenced to imprisonment for a period of not less than 6 months” wherever it appears and substituting “which is a corrupt electoral practice”.

Section 14 amended

5. Section 14 of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years, or to both” wherever it appears and substituting “which is an illegal electoral practice”.

Section 17 amended

6. Section 17 of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both” wherever it appears and substituting “which is an illegal electoral practice”.

Section 18 amended

7. Section 18(4) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both” and substituting “which is an illegal electoral practice”.

Section 22 amended

8. Section 22 of the Principal Act is amended by—

- (a) deleting subsections (2), ~~(4), (5) and (6)~~; and substituting the following—

“(2) Any person who is a Fijian citizen or a former Fijian citizen shall not make any political donation to a political party or to a candidate for election to Parliament (or to any person on behalf of the political party who is involved in the administration of the affairs of the political party including any office holder of the political party, or to any person on behalf of the candidate) of an amount exceeding \$20,000 in any one year (whether to one or more registered political parties or candidates).”; and

- ~~(b) in subsection (3)—~~

~~(i) deleting “shall not” and substituting “may”; and~~

~~(ii) after “Parliament”, by inserting “provided the person makes a declaration of the donation to the Registrar within 60 days after polling day, and the Registrar must publish the declaration of the donation on the Registrar’s website”.~~

~~(b) deleting subsections (4), (5), and (6).~~

Section 24 amended

9. The Principal Act is amended by deleting section 24 and substituting the following —

“Campaign expenditure limits

24.—(1) During the period commencing on the first day of the campaign period as prescribed under the Electoral Act 2014 until the sixtieth day after the polling day —

- (a) a candidate (whether an independent candidate or a political party candidate) must not spend more than \$3100,000 on his or her election campaign; and
- (b) a political party must not spend more than \$34,000,000 on its election campaign.

(2) The expenditure limits set out in subsection (1) include—

- (a) any income pledged, or expenditure incurred outside the prescribed period for use within the prescribed period; and
- (b) any gift given by a candidate (whether an independent candidate or a political party candidate) or political party during the campaign period to a village or community group as a protocol (or similar) solely to obtain permission to enter the territory of a village or community group, and such gift must be included in the declarations made under section 25.

(3) Any gift that is given to a village or community group and declared in accordance with section 25 is not bribery within the meaning of section 140 of the Electoral Act 2014.

(4) Notwithstanding any provision in this Act, a political party or candidate (whether an independent candidate or a political party candidate) that breaches the expenditure limits set out in subsection (1), commits an offence which is a corrupt electoral practice.”.

Section 25 amended

10. Section 25 of the Principal Act is amended by—

(a) after subsection (1A), inserting the following new subsection—

“(1B) A candidate (whether elected to Parliament or not) must, not later than the sixtieth day after the polling day, provide to the Registrar the following information in writing—

- (a) the amount of money received by him or her from the commencement of the campaign period until the sixtieth day after the polling day;
 - (b) the amount and source of donation received by him or her from the commencement of the campaign period until the sixtieth day after the polling day; and
 - (c) the campaign expenditure from the commencement of the campaign period until the sixtieth day after the polling day.”;
- and

(b) after subsection (3), inserting the following new subsection—

“(4) Any person who contravenes subsection (1B) commits an offence which is a corrupt electoral practice.”.

Section 26 amended

11. Section 26(5) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or to both” and substituting “which is a corrupt electoral practice”.

Section 26A amended

12. Section 26A(3) of the Principal Act is amended by—

- (a) in the chapeau, deleting “and shall be liable upon conviction—” and substituting “which is a corrupt electoral practice.”; and
- (b) deleting paragraphs (a) and (b).

Section 27 amended

13. Section 27(1) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “and shall be liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or to both” and substituting “which is an illegal electoral practice”.

Office of the Attorney-General
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Suva

August 2026

POLITICAL PARTIES (REGISTRATION, CONDUCT, FUNDING AND DISCLOSURES) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Bill and is intended only to indicate its general effect)

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) (Amendment) Bill 2026 (**‘Bill’**) seeks to amend the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) Act 2013 (**‘Act’**) to incorporate certain recommendations from Multi-national Observer Group (MOG) reports that are specific to the Act and are in line with international best practice.
- 1.2 The Bill categorises electoral offences which are introduced in the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2026. The Bill also removes disclosure requirements for office holders and candidates, sets campaign expenditure limits for political parties and candidates and removes the limit to donations made to any political party or candidate.

2.0 CLAUSES

- 2.1 Clause 1 of the Bill provides for the short title and commencement. If passed by Parliament, the amending legislation will come into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.
- 2.2 Clause 2 of the Bill amends section 2 of the Act by introducing the definition of new key terms as a result of proposed amendments made to the Electoral Act 2014 through the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2026.
- 2.3 Clause 3 of the Bill amends section 3 of the Act to categorise the offences under section 3(2) and (2A) as a corrupt electoral practice and an illegal electoral practice, respectively.
- 2.4 Clause 4 amends section 5(2) and (3) of the Act to categorise the offence referred to therein as a corrupt electoral practice.

- 2.5 Clause 5 of the Bill amends section 14 of the Act to categorise the offence under section 14 as an illegal electoral practice.
- 2.6 Clause 6 of the Bill amends section 17 of the Act to categorise the offence under section 17 as an illegal electoral practice.
- 2.7 Clause 7 of the Bill amends section 18 of the Act to categorise the offence under section 18(4) as an illegal electoral practice.
- 2.8 Clause 8 of the Bill amends section 22 of the Act by removing the limit of donations that a political party or a candidate may receive. Clause 8 of the Bill also removes the prohibition of non-Fiji citizens and former Fiji citizens making donations to any political party or candidate, provided however that the donors declare the donations made to the Registrar within 60 days after polling day. The declared donations must then be published on the Registrar's website.
- 2.9 Clause 9 of the Bill inserts a new section 24 to the Act to provide for campaign expenditure limits to create a level playing field for all political parties and candidates.
- 2.10 Clause 10 of the Bill amends section 25 of the Act to require any candidate who is the recipient of any donation to disclose the details of the donation to the Registrar, not later than 60 days after the polling day.
- 2.11 Clause 11 of the Bill amends section 26 of the Act to categorise the offence under section 26(5) as a corrupt electoral practice.
- 2.12 Clause 12 of the Bill amends section 26A of the Act to categorise the offence under section 26A(3) as a corrupt electoral practice.
- 2.13 Clause 13 of the Bill amends section 27 of the Act to categorise the offence under section 27(1) as an illegal electoral practice.

3.0 MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- 3.1 The Act comes under the responsibility of the Minister responsible for justice.

S. D. TURAGA
Acting Attorney-General