



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Report on the Review of the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) Amendment Bill (Bill No. 31 of 2026)



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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD



The Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) Amendment Bill 2026 was referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights to scrutinise and return a report of its findings to Parliament.

The Bill seeks to amend the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) Act 2013 to incorporate recommendations arising from international election observation reports, align political party regulations with proposed amendments to electoral laws, and strengthen the legal framework governing political party financing, donations, disclosures and campaign expenditure.

In undertaking its scrutiny of the Bill, the Committee conducted a detailed clause-by-clause examination and carefully considered submissions and views received from relevant stakeholders. The Committee noted that the proposed amendments introduce new classifications for electoral offences, revise requirements relating to political donations and candidate disclosures, establish campaign expenditure limits for political parties and candidates, and amend provisions relating to foreign and domestic political donations.

The Committee recognised that several provisions of the Bill generated diverse perspectives, particularly those concerning the removal of donation limits, donations from non-citizens and former citizens, and the revised framework for transparency and disclosure. Members thoroughly deliberated on the implications of these amendments for electoral integrity, public confidence, accountability and democratic participation. While differing views were expressed during the Committee's consideration, all discussions were guided by the overarching objective of strengthening Fiji's democratic institutions and ensuring a fair and transparent electoral environment.

I would like to thank the Honourable Members of the Justice, Law and Human Rights Committee for their deliberations and input; Hon. Faiyaz Koya (Deputy Chairperson), Hon. Jone Usamate, Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu, Hon. Sachida Nand and Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu.

I, on behalf of the Committee, commend the *Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) Amendment Bill (Bill No. 31 of 2026)* to the Parliament and seek support of all the members of this August house for the Bill.



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HON. RATU RAKUITA VAKALALABURE
CHAIRPERSON

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights ('Committee') is established under Section 70 of the *Constitution of the Republic of Fiji* and Standing Order 109 of the *Standing Orders of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji*. The Committee consists of the following Members:



Hon. Ratu Rakuita
Vakalalabure
(Chairperson)



Hon. Faiyaz Koya
(Deputy Chairperson)



Hon. Jone Usamate
(Member)



Hon. Sachida Nand
(Member)



Hon. Ratu Isikeli
Tuiwailevu
(Member)



Hon. Ratu Josaia
Niudamu
(Member)

COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

Supporting the Committee in its work is a group of dedicated Parliament Officers who make-up the Committee Secretariat and are appointed and delegated by the Secretary-General to Parliament pursuant to Standing Order 15 (3)(i). The Secretariat team is made of the following Parliament officers:

- Mr. Jackson Cakacaka – Senior Committee Clerk
- Ms. Alumita Cabealawa – Deputy Committee Clerk
- Mr. Jeke Rokotuiloma – Assistant Committee Clerk

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights, referred to as the (“Committee”), was assigned the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) Amendment Bill 2026 for review on 21 August 2026. The Bill was referred to the Committee in accordance with SO 51, which tasked the Committee with the examination of the Bill and the responsibility to report on its findings in a subsequent Parliament Sitting.

1.2 Procedure and Program

The Committee has conducted a thorough review of the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) Bill (Bill No. 31 of 2026). This report outlines the findings, observations, and recommendations of the Committee regarding the Bill.

The Committee examined the Bill in detail, reviewing each clause and engaging in deliberations. Following this, the Committee invited the responsible Ministry to provide a briefing on the objectives and intentions behind the proposed legislations. To ensure transparency and inclusivity, the Committee then opened the process to public participation by calling for submissions from citizens and other stakeholders, which was advertised through Parliament’s official social media platforms.

The Committee was mindful of the provisions on Standing Order 111(1)(a) and ensured that its meetings were open to the public and the media, except during such deliberations and discussions to develop and finalise the Committee’s observations and this Report.

1.3 Committee Remit

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law, and Human Rights, in accordance with Standing Order 109 of Parliament's Standing Orders, is tasked with several duties. As outlined in Standing Order 110, these include scrutinizing each Bill referred to it by Parliament and review any subordinate legislation presented in Parliament that falls under its purview.

2.0 POLITICAL PARTIES (REGISTRATION, CONDUCT, FUNDING AND DISCLOSURES BILL (BILL NO. 31 of 2026))

2.1 Introduction

The Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) (Amendment) Bill 2026 seeks to update the existing law governing political parties, election candidates, donations, and campaign activities in Fiji. The Bill aims to align the law with recommendations from international election observers and proposed changes to electoral legislation. Key changes include introducing new categories for electoral offences, removing limits on political donations, allowing donations from non-citizens and former citizens subject to disclosure requirements, setting campaign spending limits for political parties and candidates, and strengthening transparency through mandatory reporting of donations and campaign expenses.

3.0 COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE BILL

3.1 Initial Reading of the Bill and Deliberation by the Committee

During its clause-by-clause review, the Committee noted that Clause 8 of the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) (Amendment) Bill 2026 proposes significant changes to the regulation of political donations by removing existing donation limits and allowing donations from non-Fiji citizens and former Fiji citizens, provided that such donations are declared and published after polling day. During deliberations, concerns were raised regarding the potential influence of wealthy donors and foreign contributors on Fiji's political processes. Members also considered whether the proposed disclosure requirements alone would be sufficient to safeguard transparency, public confidence, and the independence of political parties and candidates.

The Committee also closely examined Clause 9, which introduces campaign expenditure limits of \$300,000 for individual candidates and \$3 million for political parties. In its discussions, the Committee considered whether the proposed limits would create a fair and level playing field for all participants in an election. Attention was also given to the requirement that traditional gifts or contributions made to villages and community groups be declared as campaign expenditure. The Committee noted the importance of ensuring that such provisions are practical to monitor and enforce while maintaining transparency in campaign financing.

With respect to Clause 10, the Committee acknowledged the Bill's intention to strengthen accountability by requiring all candidates, regardless of whether they are elected, to disclose donations received, sources of funding and campaign expenditure within 60 days after

polling day. The Committee viewed this provision as an important transparency measure but discussed the administrative obligations it may place on candidates and the mechanisms necessary to ensure compliance and effective enforcement.

The Committee further considered Clauses 3 to 7 and Clauses 11 to 13, which reclassify various offences under the Act as either corrupt electoral practices or illegal electoral practices. The Committee noted that these amendments seek to align the Act with corresponding amendments to electoral legislation and provide greater clarity regarding electoral offences. Members discussed the importance of consistency across electoral laws and the implications that the new classifications may have for enforcement and accountability within Fiji's electoral framework.

3.2 Bill Summary

By way of consensus, the Committee agreed that it would be prudent to include the necessary issues that the proposed law intends to address. This would readily give the reader of this Report with the aforementioned information regarding the Bill, which is summarized below;

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.

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.

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.

Clause 4 amends section 5(2) and (3) of the Act to categorise the offence referred to therein as a corrupt electoral practice.

Clause 5 of the Bill amends section 14 of the Act to categorise the offence under section 14 as an illegal electoral practice.

Clause 6 of the Bill amends section 17 of the Act to categorise the offence under section 17 as an illegal electoral practice.

Clause 7 of the Bill amends section 18 of the Act to categorise the offence under section 18(4) as an illegal electoral practice.

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.

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.

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.

Clause 11 of the Bill amends section 26 of the Act to categorise the offence under section 26(5) as a corrupt electoral practice.

Clause 12 of the Bill amends section 26A of the Act to categorise the offence under section 26A(3) as a corrupt electoral practice.

Clause 13 of the Bill amends section 27 of the Act to categorise the offence under section 27(1) as an illegal electoral practice.

3.3 In-depth Analysis of the Clause(s) of the Bill

During its clause-by-clause analysis of the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2026, the Committee identified several provisions requiring clarification or further consideration. A particular provision that, under **Clause 9** of the Bill, a political party is permitted to spend up to **\$3,000,000** on its election campaign, while an individual candidate is limited to **\$300,000**. The Committee observed that the introduction of expenditure caps seeks to create a more level playing field among political parties and candidates and promote fairness in electoral competition. However, Members also discussed whether the proposed spending threshold of \$3 million may still provide a significant advantage to larger and better-resourced political parties, particularly when considered alongside the Bill's removal of donation limits. The Committee therefore carefully considered the potential implications of allowing substantial campaign financing while maintaining sufficient safeguards to ensure transparency, accountability and public confidence in the electoral process.

Comparison Table: Act vs Bill

Act	Bill
[PPR 2] Interpretation 2 In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires— applicant or applicants means those members of a proposed political party who apply to be registered as a political party in accordance with the provisions of this Act; branch means any devolved unit of a political party; Division or Divisions means the Central Division, Western Division, Northern Division and Eastern Division of Fiji as described in Schedule 3; election has the meaning given in section 2 of the Electoral Act 2014; [def subst Act 11 of 2021 s 2, opn 7 June 2021] existing political party means any political party existing or registered prior to the commencement of this Act; financial year means the period from 1 January to 31 December, both days inclusive; independent candidate means any person who stands as an independent candidate and who is not nominated or supported by a political party registered under this Act; member means a natural person; merger means where 2 or more political parties consolidate their operations and combine all officers, structure and other functions of the political parties; Minister means the Minister responsible for elections; office holder in relation to a political party means any person who is elected or appointed by the members of the political party to hold office in that political party, and shall include the president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary and the registered officer of the political party; political party means an association of persons or an organisation, the object or activity, or one of the objects or activities of which, is the promotion of the election to Parliament of a candidate or candidates endorsed by it; polling day has the meaning given in section 2 of the Electoral Act 2014; [def insrt Act 11 of 2021 s 2, opn 7 June 2021] proposed political party means the association of persons or an organisation that applies for or has applied for registration as a political party under this Act; Register means the Register of Political Parties established under this Act; and	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;”

[PPR 3] Registration of political parties 3 (1) An association of persons or an organisation shall not operate, function, represent or hold itself out to be a political party unless it has been registered as a political party in accordance with the provisions of this Act. (2) If any association of persons or an organisation operate, function, represent or hold itself out to be a political party without being registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act, then any person who is a member of or holds office in any such association or organisation commits an offence 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. (2A) If any media organisation reports, represents or holds out an association of persons or an organisation as a political party when that association of persons or an organisation is not registered as a political party under this Act or when its application for registration has not been determined by the Registrar, then the directors of that media organisation and the editor and publisher or the chief executive officer of that media organisation, as the case may be, commit an offence, 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. [subs (2A) insrt Decree 11 of 2013 s 2, opn 21 Feb 2013] (3) The Registrar shall not register an association of persons or an organisation as a political party if such association or organisation does not comply with the provisions of this Act. (4) The Registrar shall establish and maintain a Register, to be known as the Register of Political Parties, containing a list of political parties that are registered under this Act including the names, terms of office and contact details of the office holders and the bank account details of each political party, the names and contact details of the auditor and legal advisor of each political party, and such other particulars of such political parties as are required to be contained under this Act. [subs (4) am Act 11 of 2021 s 3, opn 7 June 2021] (5) The Registrar must update the Register annually. [subs (5) insrt Act 11 of 2021 s 3, opn 7 June 2021]	Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended by— (a) in subsection (2), deleting “<i>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</i>” and substituting “<i>which is a corrupt electoral practice</i>”; and (b) in subsection (2A), deleting “<i>, 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</i>” and substituting “<i>which is an illegal electoral practice</i>”.
[PPR 5] Registered voters to be members and office holders etc 5 (1) Only those persons who are registered as a voter under the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012 may— (a) contest for an elective position in a proposed political party or in any political party registered under this Act; (b) be an applicant for registration of a proposed political party; (c) be a member of a proposed political party or of any political party registered under this Act; or (d) be an office holder in a proposed political party or in any political party registered under this Act. (2) A person is disqualified from being an applicant or a member of a proposed political party if that person has, in the 5 years preceding the date of the application for registration— (a) been declared an undischarged bankrupt; or (b) been convicted of an offence and sentenced to imprisonment for a period of not less than 6 months. (3) A person is disqualified from being an office holder of a political party that is registered under this Act if that person has, in the 5 years preceding the date when he or she applies to become an office holder of the political party— (a) been declared an undischarged bankrupt; or (b) been convicted of an offence and sentenced to imprisonment for a period of not less than 6 months.	Section 5 of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “<i>and sentenced to imprisonment for a period of not less than 6 months</i>” wherever it appears and substituting “<i>which is a corrupt electoral practice</i>”.

[PPR 14] Restrictions on public officers

14 (1) A public officer shall not—

- (a) be eligible to be an applicant or a member of a proposed political party or a political party registered under this Act;
- (b) be eligible to hold office in a proposed political party or a political party registered under this Act;
- (c) engage in political activity that may compromise or be seen to compromise the political neutrality of that person's office in an election; or
- (d) publicly indicate support for or opposition to any proposed political party or a political party registered under this Act or candidate in an election.

[subs (1) am Act 11 of 2021 s 6, opn 7 June 2021]

(2) For the purposes of this section, "public officer" means any person—

- (a) holding any office in, or as a member of, a statutory authority, a commission, or a board established by or continued in existence by any written law;
- (b) holding an office of a Judge, a Magistrate or an office of any court or tribunal established by written law;
- (c) holding any office in the civil service, the Fiji Police Force, Fiji Corrections Services or the Republic of Fiji Military Forces; or
- (d) who is holding any office in—
 - (i) any trade union registered under the Employment Relations Act 2007 (whether elected or appointed to that office, and including any position or arrangement under which a person receives remuneration, salary, allowances or fees from a trade union);
 - (ii) any federation, congress, council or affiliation of trade unions (whether elected or appointed to that office, and including any position or arrangement under which a person receives remuneration, salary, allowances or fees from any federation, congress, council or affiliation of trade unions); or
 - (iii) any federation, congress, council or affiliation of employers (whether elected or appointed to that office, and including any position or arrangement under which a person receives remuneration, salary, allowances or fees from any federation, congress, council or affiliation of employers).

[subs (2) am Decree 11 of 2013 s 5, opn 21 Feb 2013; Act 2 of 2016 s 20, opn 16 Feb 2016]

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in subsection (2), for the purposes of this section, "public officer" does not include the President, the Prime Minister, a Minister, the Leader of the Opposition or a member of Parliament.

(4) Any public officer who intends to be an applicant or a member of, or hold office in, a proposed political party or a political party registered under this Act, must resign from the respective public office prior to applying to become an applicant or a member of, or hold office in, a proposed political party or a political party registered under this Act.

(5) A public officer is deemed to have vacated his or her office mentioned in subsection (2) immediately before the time at which he or she applies to become an applicant or a member of, or hold office in, a proposed political party or a political party registered under this Act.

(6) A person disqualified from holding public office under any written law is not eligible to be an applicant, a member or an office holder of a proposed political party or a political party registered under this Act.

(7) Any public officer who contravenes subsections (1)(c) and (d) commits an offence 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.

[subs (7) insrt Decree 10 of 2014 s 4, opn 28 Mar 2014]

(8) Any public officer who has resigned from public office under subsection (4) or has been deemed to have resigned from public office under subsection (5) and continues to hold that public office or is reappointed to any public office after he or she has become a member of, or holds office in a proposed political party or a political party registered under this Act commits an offence 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.

[subs (8) insrt Decree 10 of 2014 s 4, opn 28 Mar 2014]

[s 14 am Act 11 of 2021 s 6, opn 7 June 2021]

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".

[PPR 17] Records of political party 17 (1) A political party shall maintain at its head office and at each of its district or divisional office in the approved form, an accurate and authentic record of— (a) a register of its members in a form prescribed in Schedule 2; (b) a copy of the constitution of the political party; (c) a copy of the policies and plans of the political party; (d) particulars of any contribution, donation or pledge of a contribution or donation, whether in cash or in kind, made by the founding members of the political party; (e) estimates of the expenditure of the political party in accordance with the laws relating to public finance management; (f) particulars of any property that belongs to the political party and the time and mode of acquisition of the property; (g) the latest audited books of accounts of the political party which shall be in accordance with the principles of accounting having regard to the purpose of this Act, showing— (i) the sources of the funds of the political party and names, addresses and such other contact details as the Registrar may require of any persons who have contributed thereto; (ii) membership dues paid; (iii) donations in cash or in kind; (iv) indirect contributions to the party and all receipts and disbursements, including income and expenditure transactions of the political party; (v) all the financial transactions and records of assets and liabilities of the political party; and (h) such other relevant particulars as the Registrar may direct. (2) A person, who interferes with, damages or destroys the records of a registered political party commits an offence 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. (3) Any person may, during working hours and on payment of the prescribed fee, inspect and obtain copies of the records of a political party maintained at its head office or district or divisional office. (4) If a political party registered under this Act fails to comply with subsection (1), then the office holders of that political party commit an offence 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.	Section 17 of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “<i>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</i>” wherever it appears and substituting “which is an illegal electoral practice”.
[PPR 18] Duty of political party to inform Registrar 18 (1) The Registrar may issue a written notice to the registered officer of a political party to furnish for inspection by the Registrar, the records required to be maintained under section 17, or such other information as is reasonably required by the Registrar to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Act. (2) The Registrar may make copies of or take extracts from any records or other information furnished to the Registrar under this section. (3) The registered officer of a political party shall comply with a notice issued by the Registrar under subsection (1). (4) If the registered officer of a political party fails to comply with this section, he or she commits an offence 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.	Section 18(4) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “<i>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</i>” and substituting “which is an illegal electoral practice”.

[PPR 22] Offences related to sources of funds 22 (1) A political party or a candidate for election to Parliament (or 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 any person on behalf of the candidate) who receives any political donation from a foreign government, intergovernmental or non-governmental organisation, or multilateral agency, commits an offence 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. (2) Subject to subsection (6), 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 \$10,000 in any one year (whether to one or more registered political parties or candidates). (3) Any person who is not a Fijian citizen or a former Fijian citizen, shall not make a political donation to any political party or candidate for election to Parliament. (4) A person who contravenes subsections (2) or (3) commits an offence 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. (5) A political party or a candidate for election to Parliament (or 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 any person on behalf of the candidate) who receives a political donation from any person who is not a Fijian citizen or former Fijian citizen, or receives a political donation exceeding \$10,000 from a Fijian citizen or a former Fijian citizen, commits an offence 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 in addition to the penalty imposed by this Act, forfeit that amount to the State. (6) Subsection (2) shall not apply to any political donation made by any founding member of the political party as political donation to the initial assets of the party within the first year of its existence.	Section 22 of the Principal Act is amended by— (a) deleting subsections (2), (4), (5) and (6); 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”.
[PPR 24] Applicants, office holders of political parties and independent candidates to Parliament to declare assets and liabilities 24 (1) Any person who— (a) is an applicant for the registration of a proposed political party, in the event that the proposed political party is registered under this Act; and (b) is an office holder in, and the registered officer of, a political party registered under this Act, shall, within 30 days of the date of the registration of the political party and thereafter, on or before 31 December of each year, provide to the Registrar a statement containing the following information in respect of that person and his or her spouse and any children—	The Principal Act is amended by deleting section 24 and substituting the following—

- (i) the total assets whether in Fiji or abroad (including money and other property in the possession or under the control of each of them);
- (ii) the total income whether in Fiji or abroad, and the source of such income, received by each of them during the period to which the statement relates;
- (iii) any business connections whether in Fiji or abroad of each of them;
- (iv) any directorships or other office in a corporation or other organisation whether in Fiji or abroad held by each of them;
- (v) any business transaction entered into by each of them during the period to which the statement relates whether in Fiji or abroad;
- (vi) any gift received by each of them whether in Fiji or abroad (other than a gift received in the normal course of events from close relatives or a gift received in accordance with custom, in the course of traditional exchange of gifts or in the case of a gift given on behalf of the nation, if the gift is transferred to the Government as soon as it is possible to do so without giving offence to the giver) during the period to which the statement relates, and the value of those gifts;
- (vii) any assets acquired by each of them whether in Fiji or abroad during the period to which the statement relates; and
- (viii) the liabilities incurred, or discharged, by each of them whether in Fiji or abroad during the period to which the statement relates, and the amount of each such liability.

[subs (1) am Decree 11 of 2013 s 6, opn 21 Feb 2013]

(1A) Any person who is appointed after 30 June 2014 as an office holder or a registered officer of a political party registered under this Act, shall, within 30 days of the date of his or her appointment and thereafter, on or before 31 December of each year, provide to the Registrar a statement containing the following information in respect of that person and his or her spouse and any children—

- (a) total assets whether in Fiji or abroad (including money and other property in the possession or under the control of each of them);
- (b) the total income whether in Fiji or abroad, and the source of such income, received by each of them during the period to which the statement relates;
- (c) any business connections whether in Fiji or abroad of each of them;
- (d) any directorships or other office in a corporation or other organisation whether in Fiji or abroad held by each of them;
- (e) any business transaction entered into by each of them during the period to which the statement relates whether in Fiji or abroad;
- (f) any gift received by each of them whether in Fiji or abroad (other than a gift received in the normal course of events from close relatives or a gift received in accordance with custom, in the course of traditional exchange of gifts or in the case of a gift given on behalf of the nation, if the gift is transferred to the Government as soon as it is possible to do so without giving offence to the giver) during the period to which the statement relates, and the value of those gifts;
- (g) any assets acquired by each of them whether in Fiji or abroad during the period to which the statement relates; and
- (h) the liabilities incurred, or discharged, by each of them whether in Fiji or abroad during the period to which the statement relates, and the amount of each such liability.

(1B) Any person who, on or before 30 June 2014, was appointed as an office holder or a registered officer of a political party registered under this Act and is still holding such

office and who has not provided the Registrar with a statement containing the required information under subsection (1), shall, within 30 days from 30 June 2014 and thereafter, on or before 31 December of each year, provide to the Registrar a statement containing the following information in respect of that person and his or her spouse and any children—

- (a) total assets whether in Fiji or abroad (including money and other property in the possession or under the control of each of them);
- (b) the total income whether in Fiji or abroad, and the source of such income, received by each of them during the period to which the statement relates;
- (c) any business connections whether in Fiji or abroad of each of them;
- (d) any directorships or other office in a corporation or other organisation whether in Fiji or abroad held by each of them;
- (e) any business transaction entered into by each of them during the period to which the statement relates whether in Fiji or abroad;
- (f) any gift received by each of them whether in Fiji or abroad (other than a gift received in the normal course of events from close relatives or a gift received in accordance with custom, in the course of traditional exchange of gifts or in the case of a gift given on behalf of the nation, if the gift is transferred to the Government as soon as it is possible to do so without giving offence to the giver) during the period to which the statement relates, and the value of those gifts;
- (g) any assets acquired by each of them whether in Fiji or abroad during the period to which the statement relates; and
- (h) the liabilities incurred, or discharged, by each of them whether in Fiji or abroad during the period to which the statement relates, and the amount of each such liability.

[subs (1B) insrt Decree 24 of 2014 s 2, opn 30 June 2014]

(2) Any person who—

- (a) is nominated by a political party as a candidate for election to Parliament; or
 - (b) is nominated as an independent candidate for election to Parliament,
- shall, within 7 days of such nomination, provide to the Registrar a statement containing the following information in respect of that person and his or her spouse and any children as at the date of nomination of the candidate—
- (i) the total assets whether in Fiji or abroad (including money and other property in the possession or under the control of each of them); and
 - (ii) the total income whether in Fiji or abroad, and the source of such income.
 - (iii) [Repealed]
 - (iv) [Repealed]
 - (v) [Repealed]
 - (vi) [Repealed]
 - (vii) [Repealed]
 - (viii) [Repealed]

[subs (2) am Decree 24 of 2014 s 2, opn 30 June 2014; Act 11 of 2021 s 10, opn 7 June 2021]

(2A) Any person who is nominated—

- (a) by a political party as a candidate for election to Parliament; or
- (b) as an independent candidate for election to Parliament,

must, no later than the sixtieth day after polling day, provide to the Registrar a statement containing the following information in respect of that person and his or her spouse and any children—

- (i) the total assets whether in Fiji or abroad as at the thirtieth day after polling day (including money and other property in the possession or under the control of each of them);
- (ii) the total income whether in Fiji or abroad as at the date of nomination of the candidate until the thirtieth day after polling day and the source of such income received by each of them during the period to which the statement relates;
- (iii) any directorships or other office in a corporation or other organisation whether in Fiji or abroad as at the date of nomination of the candidate until the thirtieth day after polling day held by each of them; and
- (iv) any assets acquired by each of them whether in Fiji or abroad as at the date of nomination of the candidate until the thirtieth day after polling day.

[subs (2A) insrt Act 11 of 2021 s 10, opn 7 June 2021]

(2B) Any candidate (whether elected to Parliament or not) must, no later than the sixtieth day after polling day, provide to the Registrar the following information in writing—

- (a) the amount of any money received by him or her as at the thirtieth day after polling day;
- (b) the amount and source of any donation received by him or her as at the thirtieth day after polling day; and
- (c) the income and expenditure as at the thirtieth day after polling day.

[subs (2B) insrt Act 11 of 2021 s 10, opn 7 June 2021]

(3) The information provided by a person under subsections (1), (1A), (1B), (2), (2A) and (2B) shall be accompanied by a statutory declaration that the information provided is correct.

[subs (3) am Decree 24 of 2014 s 2, opn 30 June 2014; Act 11 of 2021 s 10, opn 7 June 2021]

(4) The information provided by a person under subsections (1), (1A), (1B), (2), (2A) and (2B) must be made available at the office of the Registrar in Suva for inspection by members of the public upon payment of an approved fee.

[subs (4) subst Act 11 of 2021 s 10, opn 7 June 2021]

(5) Any person who fails to comply with the requirements of subsection (1), (1A), (1B), (2), (2A) or (2B), or provides any information that is false, commits an offence 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.

[subs (5) am Decree 24 of 2014 s 2, opn 30 June 2014; Act 11 of 2021 s 10, opn 7 June 2021]

(6) For the purposes of this section, “children” means any child, stepchild or adopted child who is—

- (a) under the age of 18 years; or
- (b) over the age of 18 years and is dependent on his or her parents for support.

[subs (6) insrt Decree 27 of 2013 s 2, opn 21 Oct 2013]

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 \$300,000 on his or her election campaign; and
- (b) a political party must not spend more than \$3,000,000 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.”.	
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3.4 Submission received via public consultation

All the submissions received during the public consultation were considered and deliberated on extensively. The main points and issues noted from the submissions are summarised below.

Fiji Labour Party

The Fiji Labour Party opposed the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) (Amendment) Bill 2026 in its current form, arguing that while campaign expenditure controls and financial reporting reforms were necessary, the Bill would weaken important safeguards against excessive political influence by removing the existing \$10,000 annual donation cap and abolishing personal financial disclosure requirements for political candidates and office holders. The Party maintained that expenditure limits should complement, rather than replace, transparency and accountability mechanisms.

The submission strongly recommended retaining the existing \$10,000 annual donation limit and preserving restrictions on donations by companies and other entities. It also opposed the proposal to allow donations from individuals who were neither Fijian citizens nor former Fijian citizens, arguing that unlimited contributions could increase financial dependence on wealthy donors and create opportunities for undue influence over public policy, government contracts and public expenditure.

The Party further expressed concern over the repeal of personal asset and financial interest declarations. It argued that campaign finance disclosures alone would not adequately identify conflicts of interest and recommended maintaining a regime requiring candidates and party officials to declare assets, liabilities, directorships, business interests and beneficial ownership arrangements. The submission emphasized that public disclosure of financial interests remained a critical safeguard for integrity and accountability in public office.

The submission also highlighted concerns regarding campaign expenditure limits, noting that separate party and candidate spending caps could potentially allow very high combined spending levels. It recommended clearer rules on shared expenses, coordinated campaigning and expenditure through intermediaries, together with stronger anti-avoidance measures to prevent circumvention of spending limits. It also called for tighter regulation of customary gifts during campaigns to ensure such practices did not become a means of influencing voters.

In relation to disclosure requirements, the Party advocated for more frequent and timely reporting of donations and campaign finances, particularly during election periods. It recommended public disclosure of significant donations before polling day, stronger

verification measures, and a centralised reporting system maintained by the Registrar to improve transparency and allow voters access to relevant information while it remained useful to their electoral choices.

The submission also urged the Committee to review provisions relating to electoral offences, penalties and disqualifications. It argued that the legislation should distinguish deliberate misconduct from administrative errors, provide opportunities to correct reporting mistakes, and ensure proportionate penalties accompanied by due process safeguards and independent review mechanisms. It further sought amendments to restrictions affecting office holders of trade unions and employer organisations, arguing that these provisions unnecessarily limited lawful political participation.

The Fiji Labour Party concluded that democratic accountability required a combination of donation limits, meaningful financial disclosure, effective enforcement and fair political participation. It urged the Committee to substantially amend the Bill before passage to preserve safeguards against concentrated private influence while maintaining transparency, integrity and public confidence in Fiji's political finance framework.

University of Fiji

The University expressed particular concern about political-finance reforms proposed under Bill No. 31. While supporting the introduction of campaign expenditure limits and additional reporting requirements, it opposed the removal of donation caps, the allowance of donations from non-citizens, and the requirement for disclosure only after polling day. The submission argued that these changes could increase the risk of disproportionate donor influence, foreign financial influence, and reduced transparency. It also raised concerns regarding the replacement of the current asset and liability disclosure regime with campaign expenditure provisions, warning that important financial-integrity safeguards may be lost. The University recommended retaining reasonable donation limits, requiring real-time disclosure of significant donations before polling day, restricting foreign donations, preserving financial disclosure requirements, and establishing clearer rules governing campaign expenditure and customary protocol gifts.

People's Star Network (PSN)

The People's Star Network (PSN), represented by Eliko R. Dakuitoga, generally supported the objectives of the 2026 Electoral Reform Bills but argued that several provisions required amendment to prevent unintended consequences. The submission supported measures aimed at improving electoral administration, accessibility, campaign expenditure controls and proportionate penalties, but stressed that electoral reforms

should strengthen the power of ordinary voters rather than increase the influence of wealthy individuals or established political organisations.

PSN strongly opposed the removal of the existing political donation cap. It argued that spending limits and donation limits served different purposes and that removing donor caps could increase financial dependence on wealthy individuals. The submission recommended retaining a reasonable donation ceiling, introducing stronger anti-avoidance provisions for connected donors, and requiring greater transparency and verification of donations. It also raised concerns about permitting foreign donations and recommended mandatory pre-acceptance verification, source-of-funds checks and public disclosure before polling day.

PSN further opposed the repeal of financial-interest disclosure requirements, arguing that campaign finance reporting could not replace declarations of personal assets, liabilities and interests. The submission recommended retaining a simplified and privacy-sensitive disclosure regime. While supporting the introduction of campaign expenditure limits, it called for clearer rules on aggregation, shared expenditure, pre-campaign assets, digital infrastructure and coordinated spending to ensure expenditure caps could not be circumvented.

Finally, PSN recommended the creation of a comprehensive foreign interference framework extending beyond political donations. It proposed broader regulation of foreign principals, non-cash electoral benefits, third-party campaigners, digital advertising, coordinated online activity and foreign-funded electoral influence. At the same time, it emphasised that legitimate diplomatic engagement, election observation, academic cooperation and international assistance should remain protected.

National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD)

NCPD supported measures relating to electoral integrity and the regulation of political donations. However, it observed that disability inclusion was largely absent from the Bill. The Council recommended that political parties provide accessible campaign information, sign language interpretation, captioning, Braille materials, accessible websites, and accessible campaign venues. It also recommended support for candidates with disabilities through reasonable accommodations and consideration of disability-related campaign costs.

Fiji Women's Rights Movement

FWRM opposed the removal of the \$10,000 annual donation limit, arguing that unlimited political donations could increase the influence of wealthy individuals and create barriers for women candidates. The organisation also supported greater transparency in political financing, recommending the retention of candidate financial disclosures, stronger regulation of campaign expenditure, enhanced auditing and verification mechanisms, and accessible public reporting of campaign finances. FWRM further advocated for adequate time for candidates to submit financial returns and for transparent publication of campaign finance information.

Paul Waqa

The submitter supported the objectives of the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) (Amendment) Bill 2026 in principle, particularly the introduction of campaign expenditure controls and improved regulation of political finance. However, the submission argued that the Bill should not be enacted in its current form because the proposed expenditure limits of FJ\$300,000 for candidates and FJ\$3 million for political parties were excessively high and lacked a clear economic justification.

The submission proposed significantly lower expenditure limits of approximately FJ\$50,000 for candidates and FJ\$500,000 for political parties. It argued that campaign spending limits should reflect the economic realities faced by ordinary Fijians and should be measured against objective benchmarks such as minimum wage earnings and FNPF contributions. The submission contended that lower limits would promote a fairer electoral environment and reduce the advantage held by wealthy candidates or parties with access to substantial financial resources.

The submission also opposed the Bill's removal of the existing FJ\$10,000 donation cap and raised concerns about allowing unlimited donations from non-Fijian individuals. It recommended retaining the domestic donation ceiling and limiting foreign donations to a nominal amount of FJ\$50 per donor during an election year. Additionally, it called for enhanced transparency through stricter disclosure requirements, including declarations of donor interests and prohibitions on donations linked to private benefits or political favours.

Further, the submission recommended maintaining financial disclosure requirements for candidates and senior political party officials. It argued that declarations of assets, liabilities and business interests remained important transparency measures that should be reformed rather than removed. It also proposed stronger reporting requirements,

publication of campaign finance returns, certification of financial disclosures, and improved oversight of in-kind donations and campaign expenditure.

A notable recommendation was the introduction of a “Campaign Expenditure and Public Value Statement”, requiring parties and candidates to explain the intended public benefits of their campaign policies, including impacts on employment, cost of living, housing, public services, rural livelihoods and retirement security. The submission also supported recognition of genuine customary protocol during campaigning but recommended safeguards to ensure such practices were not used as a form of electoral inducement.

The submission concluded that while campaign finance regulation was necessary, the Bill required substantial amendments to strengthen transparency, maintain donation controls, limit foreign influence, preserve financial disclosures, and ensure that campaign spending remained proportionate to Fiji’s economic circumstances and democratic objectives.

Mosmi Bhim

Remove Protocol Gift Exemption

The submission opposed proposed amendments allowing political parties and candidates to provide gifts to villages and community groups as protocol for access to communities. It was argued that such provisions could facilitate corruption, vote-buying and abuse of public resources. It was recommended removing the exemption and strengthening anti-bribery provisions to prevent misuse similar to past electoral corruption scandals

A copy of the oral and written submission can be obtained from the online “Appendices” of the Report, which can be accessed via the Parliament website: www.parliament.gov.fj

3.6 Sustainable Development Goals Impact Analysis

The Committee noted that the Bill contributes directly to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), particularly Targets 16.5, 16.6 and 16.7, through measures aimed at enhancing transparency, accountability and integrity in political party financing and electoral processes.

The introduction of campaign expenditure limits, disclosure requirements and electoral offence classifications strengthens democratic institutions and promotes public confidence in Fiji's electoral system. The Bill also supports SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by providing a more equitable electoral environment through the regulation of campaign spending.

In this regard, the Committee following its review of the Bill, fulfilled its obligation as prescribed under Section 110(2) of the Standing Orders of Parliament.

3.7 Outcome of Review

The outcomes of the review are reflected in the revisions to the Electoral Amendment Bill proposed by the Committee to Parliament.

We are firmly of the view that the revisions made maintain the spirit of the intent of the original bill, whilst making improvements in key areas that have been highlighted in this report.

3.7.1 Proposed Amendments to the Bill

No.	Bill and Act	Recommendation by the Committee
1.	Bill: 8. Section 22 of the Principal Act is amended by— (a) deleting subsections (2), (4), (5) and (6); 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”. Act: 22(2).—Subject to subsection (6), 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 a political party 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) in an amount exceeding \$10,000 in any one year (whether to one or more registered political parties or candidates).	Committee agrees to 8(a) deleting subsections (2), (4), (5) and (6). However insert following new clauses; 1. New Clause 8(c) To reflect section 22(2) in the Act. “Delete “<i>Subject to subsection (6)</i>”. Substitute \$10,000” with “\$20,000”. Rationale: Committee recommended that the donation cap be increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000 per annum. The Committee was of the view that the existing threshold may be overly restrictive and that a higher cap would provide greater opportunity for legitimate political participation and financial support to political parties and candidates, while remaining subject to the regulatory framework governing political donations and disclosure requirements. 2. Deletion of Clause 8(b)

2.	9. The Principal Act is amended by deleting section 24 and substituting the following— <i>“Campaign expenditure limits</i> 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 \$300,000 on his or her election campaign; and (b) a political party must not spend more than \$3,000,000 on its election campaign.	3. Clause 9 (a) Delete “\$300,000” and substitute with “\$100,000”. 4. Clause 9 (b) Delete “\$3,000,000” and substitute with “\$4,000,000”. Rationale: The Committee recommended lowering the campaign spending limit for a candidate from \$300,000 to \$100,000 to promote fairness and reduce the influence of money in elections. The Committee also recommended increasing the spending limit for political parties from \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000 to reflect the higher costs associated with running nationwide election campaigns and engaging with voters across the country.
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4.0 CONCLUSION

As highlighted above in its deliberations, the Committee has conducted extensive public consultations and consulted independent legal experts in the Solicitor-General’s Office for the purpose of improving the current draft Bill.

At the conclusion of the review, the Committee believes that the proposed amendments are adequate for achieving the objectives of the *Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) (Amendment) Bill 2026*.

The Committee through this report commends the *Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding and Disclosures) (Amendment) Bill (Bill No. 31 of 2026)* to the Parliament.

MEMBER'S SIGNATURES



.....
Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure
(Chairperson)



.....
Hon. Jone Usamate
(Member)



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Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu
(Member)



.....
Hon. Sachida Nand
(Member)



.....
Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu
(Member)

DATE: 29/09/2026