

Strand: Government and Governance

Substrand: Electoral Commission

Objective: function of electoral commission

Why political parties were formed

Identify the role of opposition and government

- ◆ Is an independent constitutional authority.
- ◆ The Commissioner is appointed by the President – the President also appoints through the advice of the PM.
- ◆ The Commissioner cannot be holding any public post upon appointment.
- ◆ The Electoral Commission is given the responsibility to supervise the election process.

(Read 4.8-4.16 to further understand the *Electoral System in Fiji & its Mechanics*; the processes undertaken in an *Election Campaign*; the *1977 Election Campaign & Political Representation*)

Content Learning Outcome: - Appreciate the important roles played by government. Scope & Content : - Development of Political Parties.

(Read Introduction pg. 5.4-5.5 on background information of the *History of Political Parties*)

National Federation Party



Established from a farmers Union.



Represented the interests of sugar cane farmers in the western of Fiji



Majority of Indo-Fijians supported NFP.

Alliance Party



Headed by Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara.



Mara became the first PM after independence.



Alliance Party was formed with the idea of multiculturalism.

Activity

1. state the year at which the first election was held
2. name the party that was formed in 1981

- ◆ Political Parties are usually associated with a specific list of ideas – these ideas are often expressed as policies.
- ◆ Political parties distinguish itself from one another through their ideologies.
- ◆ These ideologies change over time and it is through these ideologies that political parties preach to voters what they believe in, why they are different and what they would do if they are elected.
- ◆ Political Parties usually have a manifesto – through this manifesto they have their vision about the future of the nation (e.g. the Fiji First Government in Fiji for all Fijians – regardless of ethnicity or race).
- ◆ Ideology has **two characteristics**: -
 1. A set of beliefs that guides the party.
 2. Mechanics of governing – how decisions are made for the nation.
- ◆ These two characteristics above also in turn guide a voter and a member of parliament on two guiding principles: -
 1. The basic ideas behind the foundation of the party
 2. Methods and means they would like to use to govern the nation