

PENANG SANGAM HIGH SCHOOL
YEAR 11 HISTORY 2021
WORKSHEET 16

Strand Government and Governance

Substrand: History of Political Parties in Fiji

Objectives: *discuss the history of politics in fiji*

Process of election

Why election campaign is important

State the importance of party ideology

- In April 1970, a constitutional conference in London finally agreed that Fiji should become a fully sovereign and independent nation within the Commonwealth. Fiji became independent on October 10, 1970. Political parties had already begun to emerge in the ten years before independence.
- The first political party was the Federation Party (which later became the National Federation Party), established from the Farmers' Union (Kissan Sangh). The Alliance Party was the second party. It was headed by Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, who became the first Prime Minister after independence.
- The world's first political parties were formed in ancient Greece. Political Parties were formed to promote and represent the interests of groups and communities. These interests became the ideas and driving force of the political parties. For example the Federation Party represented the interests of the sugar cane farmers in the western Fiji. The Alliance Party was formed with the idea of promoting multiculturalism. Other parties appeared during elections and then disappeared after elections and often reappeared at the next election. There are various reasons for the formation of political parties such as religious beliefs and special interests like the workers' union and environment.
- Some Political Parties often split and form new parties because of differences among members over opinions and ideas, and styles of leadership
- Campaigns are important features in the lead up to an election. An election campaign promotes the political party's ideas, beliefs and values, as well as persuading the voters to vote for its candidates.

Ideology

- Political parties are always associated with a specific list of ideas. These ideas are often expressed as policies. These ideas stand behind the Party and determine how it will advertise itself. These ideas or ideologies are not always well known or spoken about but they are what distinguish one political party from another. Ideologies also can change over time

Ideology has two characteristics;

- A set of beliefs that guide the party (and the actions of the party in parliament).
- It can also mean the mechanics of governing – how decisions are made for the nation. Therefore, a voter for a political party in an election, as well as a member of parliament from a particular political party, has two guiding principles;
- the basic ideas behind the foundation of the party
- the methods and means they would like to use to govern the nation

Representation

- A political party, based on a specific ideology, declares it will *represent* you – as a voter – in the parliament. In some nations, members of parliament are called “Representatives”, and some parliaments are called a “House of Representatives”. These members of parliament *represent* you because they speak up in your interests.
- . To be represented means that an individual voter is happy that a political party will act in their interests.
- These two words – ideology and representation – are at the centre of all political debates and arguments. Later in this unit you will study these two words again – ideology and representation – in the context of political party leadership, membership, campaigns and elections.

Campaigns

- A **political campaign** is an organized effort by a political party which seeks to influence the decision making process within a nation. In a *democracy*, political campaigns often refer to electoral campaigns, or when representatives for a government are chosen or **referendums** are decided.
- Campaigns start from several months to several years before Election Day. The first part of any campaign is when a political party chooses the candidate to run in the election. Prospective candidates will often speak with family, friends, professional associates, elected officials, community leaders, and the leaders of political parties before deciding to contest.
- Candidates travel around the area (constituencies) they are contesting in and meet with voters; speaking to them in large crowds, small groups, or even one-on-one. This allows voters to get a better picture of who a candidate is.