

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI

**PROSPECTUS FOR ISSUES OF FIJI GOVERNMENT COVID-19 RESPONSE
BONDS**

(Authorised by Parliament via COVID-19 Response Act 2020 on 27 March 2020 the raising of domestic loans totalling \$908,456,638 for approved expenditure by the Fijian Government (**‘Government’**) from August 2019 to July 2020).

1. Purpose

The proceeds of the bonds will finance the approved Government expenditures from August 2019 to July 2020 which include, but are not limited to:

- Purchase of new machines and equipment for the Health system to strengthen response against COVID-19;
- Purchase of equipment to strengthen border protection measures ;
- Purchase of equipment and resources to strengthen prevention and containment activities;
- Purchase of supplies and measures to ensure food security; and
- Support disadvantaged communities most affected by COVID-19.

For more details and a breakdown of Government expenditures, refer to the COVID-19 Response Budget Estimate 2019-2020.

2. Auction Calendar

The Fiji Government COVID-19 Response Bonds (**‘Bond’** or **‘Bonds’**) will share the same issuance calendar as the Fiji Government Infrastructure Bonds (**‘FIB Bond’**) and the Government at its discretion will issue a Bond in place of the FIB Bond.

3. Issuance Method

The Bonds will be made available to the market by means of auction or any other method as determined by Government.

The issuing of Bonds by auction will be on a yield basis and bids must be expressed to a maximum of two decimal places (e.g.9.01%). Decimal points beyond two places will be disregarded.

The Government will be at liberty from time to time to issue Bonds fungible and respectively, with any outstanding series of Bonds. Any such new issuances, which include the reopening of existing Bonds, will have the same Maturity Date, Coupon Rate and Security Identification Code but a different issue date and usually a different settlement price.

4. Competitive and Non-Competitive Tenders

Tenders will be received on a competitive or non-competitive basis as follows:-

Competitive Tenders will be accepted for a minimum nominal amount of \$10,000 and for multiples of \$1,000. Each tender must be made on the form attached to the Prospectus.

Non-Competitive Tenders will be accepted for a minimum nominal amount of \$1,000 and for multiples of \$1,000 up to a maximum amount of \$100,000 limited to one tender only per maturity. These tenders will be accepted at the weighted average yield of accepted competitive tenders only.

5. Lodgement of Tenders

All tenders must be emailed to Tender-Markets@rbf.gov.fj or lodged at the Reserve Bank of Fiji (**‘the Bank’**), Pratt Street, Suva in the special tender box at the “Enquiries” counter at Podium level 3 of the Bank. Details on the opening hours for lodgement of tenders will be published in the Notices of Issuance.

6. Payment of Tenders

Direct payment for the full Face Value of the tendered amount must be made through FIJICLEAR or via a bank cheque payable to the Bank, and must accompany all tender forms lodged.

Successful bidders are required to settle their bids on the issue date. If the settlement amount for an accepted tender exceeds the Face Value, the successful bidder is to settle the difference through FIJICLEAR by 12.00pm on the issue date. If, however, the settlement amount is lower than the Face Value, then any excess payment will be refunded on the issue date.

For reopened Bond issues, the settlement amount will include the face value and accrued interest on the existing Bond, either from the original date of issuance of the Bond if no interest has been paid yet or from the last date of coupon payment to the issuance date. Note that the settlement for the successful tenders will be on ‘dirty price’ basis. Payment by the successful bidders on reopened Bonds will be the sum of the clean price plus accrued interest on the existing Bonds:

Settlement Price = Clean Price + Accrued Interest

Transfer details for FIJICLEAR are provided below:

SWIFT: RBFJFJFA

Beneficiary Name: Fiji Government Bond Proceeds & Refunds

Beneficiary Account No.: 36019

Narration: Purchase of Government COVID-19 Response Bonds

7. Allotment

Competitive Tenders: Allotments will be made in ascending order of percentage yield tendered. The Government reserves the right to accept tenders less than or in excess of the amount in the invitation to tender.

In the event of under subscription of tenders, the Bank may accept for its own account the balance of Bonds not allotted by tender at the weighted average yield for accepted and allotted competitive tenders. However, if no competitive bids are allotted, the Bank may use the yield for the relevant maturities as per the latest yield curve published by the Bank.

Letters of allotment will be despatched on **the issue date** together with:-

- a) any refund amounts settled through FIJICLEAR; and
- b) cheques for unsuccessful tenders.

Non-Competitive Tenders: Will be allotted in full.

Registered Bond certificates will be issued within seven working days from the issue date.

8. Interest Payments

Interest is calculated on the Face Value of the Bonds and payable by the Bank every six months over the duration of the Bond. Interest due will be paid by the Bank directly into the Bondholder's nominated commercial bank account through FIJICLEAR. In the case of joint Bondholders, interest will be paid to the person first named on the tender form. Bondholders may liaise directly with their commercial banks to confirm receipt of funds.

The first Interest payment will be for a full semi interest annual period. If the Interest date is not a working day, payment will be made on the next business day without payment of additional interest.

Interest will cease to accrue on the Bonds from the Maturity Date.

The Registered Bond Certificate must be presented to the Bank for payment at maturity. Bondholders are also required to notify the Bank of any changes in address or contact details without delay to assist with the above.

9. Registration and Transfer of Ordinary Bonds

Bonds can be registered in the name of one, two or three individuals, or of corporate bodies, but not in the name of unincorporated trusts, clubs, societies etc.

No notice of any trust, expressed, implied or constructive, in respect of any Bond shall be entered on the Register, or be received by the registering authority.

Transfer of Bonds must be in multiples of \$1,000. Forms of transfer are obtainable from the Bank. The Bank shall not be required to make transfer during a period of 14 days preceding any interest payment date.

10. Trustee Investment

A Bond is an authorised investment for Trustees in Fiji.

11. Security

The Bond and interest payable on the Bond are a charge on and payable out of the Consolidated Fund of Government.

12. Public Debt

Government domestic debt amounted to \$4,278,488,500 on 31 July 2019. By 31 July 2020, domestic debt is forecasted to amount to \$4,992,867,725 with total Government debt to reach \$6,988,914,417.

13. Tender Form

A tender form is attached to this Prospectus.

14. Income Tax

Interest income on Government Bonds are exempt from income tax with an exception for Financial Institutions.

15. Stamp Duty

Issues and Transfers of Bonds will be free of stamp duty imposed by Government.

16. Tender Cancellation or Postponed

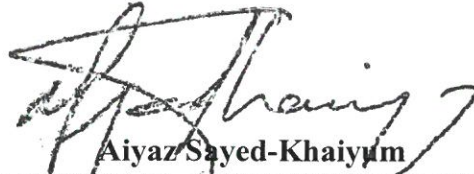
The Government reserves the right to cancel or postpone a tender by reason of any circumstance.

17. Over Subscriptions

The Government reserves the right to accept tenders in excess of the amount specified in this invitation to tender, within the limits for loan raising laid down by the Parliament.

18. Registry

The Registry of the Bonds will be at the office of the Reserve Bank of Fiji in Suva, Fiji. All the amounts in this Prospectus are expressed in Fijian Currency.



Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum
ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR ECONOMY

Date: 3rd April 2020