



**Fiji National Identity Programme**  
**Concept Paper for Public Consultation**  
**24 March 2026**

# National Identity Programme (NID) – Public Consultation

## 1.1. Background

The Government of Fiji is in the process of establishing a National Identity (NID) system to provide all citizens and residents with a secure and unified form of identification. Currently, Fijians rely on multiple IDs (e.g. voter card, joint ID card, passport, etc.) that are not integrated, resulting in fragmented access to public and private services. In June 2024 Cabinet gave approval to proceed with the National ID programme. This paper outlines the NID project's objectives, benefits and key design elements of the proposed legislation, including privacy and data protection, which will be incorporated in the proposed Fiji National ID Legislation.

Cabinet recognised the development of a National ID Programme as a crucial enabler of digital government, inclusive financial services and enhanced public service delivery. The decision acknowledged the transformative potential of a national identity system to address longstanding inefficiencies, promote inclusion, and support the national digital development agenda under the National Digital Strategy (NDS).

Following the Cabinet's approval, the Reserve Bank of Fiji (RBF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Policing and Communications (MPC), was tasked with co-leading the National ID Programme. With technical support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) a comprehensive Project Diagnostic and Implementation Strategy was prepared in February 2025. The report outlined a federated architecture model, a phased rollout plan, and an implementation roadmap spanning from 2025 to 2030.

To ensure robust governance and effective inter-ministerial coordination, a four-tier governance framework was established. At the top, a Steering Committee composed of cabinet-level Ministers was created to provide strategic guidance. This is supported by a Project Committee chaired by the RBF Governor, an RBF Project and Policy Management Committee for technical oversight, and four inter-agency working groups focused on National ID Registration, Legislation, Procurement, and Use Cases. These structures were operationalised in early 2025.

Each working group has contributed to developing essential implementation components, including a Registration Policy Framework, a legislative roadmap, procurement guidelines, and initial digital use cases. The Legal Working Group is finalising the draft of National ID legislation and the legislative framework. Meanwhile, the Registration Working Group has been developing biometric and demographic registration strategy to ensure universal inclusion.

These coordinated efforts have laid the groundwork for the NID Programme. The distribution of the public consultation paper represents the next crucial step in formalising the programme by gathering citizens' feedback on the elements of the National ID law and beginning the necessary legislative and institutional actions to meet the mandate.

The Cabinet has endorsed the RBF as the implementing agency for Phase 1 of the National ID Programme, with particular emphasis on strengthening e-KYC processes and advancing financial inclusion objectives. The RBF is inviting the public to provide feedback on the proposed element of the National ID framework.

The consultation seeks to ensure that the proposed National ID law and the wider identity framework accurately represent the needs and concerns of Fiji's citizens.

## **1.2. Context of National Identity Programme**

As Fiji expands digital service delivery across government and the private sector, the need for a secure and dependable identity verification mechanism has become increasingly clear. Currently, individuals rely on multiple identity documents and fragmented verification processes to access services such as banking, social welfare programmes and other public services. This leads to duplication of records, administrative inefficiencies and potential barriers to access for some parts of the population. The proposed National ID framework is therefore being considered to provide a secure and standardised method of identity verification.

In many countries, government offices possess their own identity credentials. People often present different forms of ID for various reasons, which results in the same personal information being stored multiple times across systems. This process can complicate matters for individuals and service providers trying to perform their duties efficiently. In such a system, identity theft and the maintenance of multiple records can raise costs for both government programmes and private businesses when delivering services.

The Government of Fiji is considering the development of a National Identity system to enable secure and reliable identity verification across public and private services.

## **1.3. Objectives of the National Identity Programme**

The National ID Programme's primary objective are:

- a. The programme aims to make access to both public and private services easier by enabling secure electronic identity verification (e-KYC).
- b. To promote accessibility and inclusion by ensuring that eligible individuals, including those in remote areas or facing documentation challenges, are not excluded from identity-linked services.
- c. The programme also advances broader economic goals by decreasing identity fraud, enhancing transaction security, and promoting participation in the formal economy.
- d. To enhance resilience and security by improving the reliability of identity verification during public service delivery, including in emergency situations.

Overall, the National Identity system is envisaged as a core digital public infrastructure that enables secure cross-sector interactions and supports Fiji's long-term vision of an inclusive, digitally enabled economy.

#### 1.4. Benefits of the National Identity Programme.

Implementing a National ID system for Fiji can bring significant benefits in governance, economic growth, and social inclusion. Below are some key reasons why a National ID would be advantageous for Fiji. Developing a National ID system fosters transformation across government, making it an essential tool for creating a modern society. It helps establish a strong digital economy, making it vital for countries looking to advance in an interconnected world.

ID can deliver wide-ranging benefits to citizens, institutions, and the overall economy.

- **Greater Convenience and Efficiency:** A National ID changes the way people access services and interact with government and private institutions. It simplifies daily transactions and reduces unnecessary paperwork and delays.
- **One Identity for Multiple Services:** A unique identity number can act as a single authentication method across various services. Instead of carrying multiple documents, individuals can use one trusted identity to access multiple services.
- **Improved E-Government Services:** National ID facilitates the development of integrated online platforms that allow citizens to access multiple government services through a single portal. This minimises the need for physical visits to offices.
- **24/7 Access to Services:** With National ID, services can be accessed online at any time, without being restricted to office hours. This is particularly beneficial in regions where people live far from service centres.
- **Paperless Transactions:** National ID reduces the need for physical documents, as information can be securely stored and shared electronically with proper authentication and consent.
- **Time Savings and Faster Processes:** Identity verification is quick and secure. Faster identity verification also simplifies Know Your Customer (KYC/eKYC) processes for banks, financial institutions, and telecom providers.
- **Faster and Secure Digital Payments:** National ID supports safe and efficient digital payments, including bill payments, money transfers, e-commerce transactions, and mobile banking, strengthening the digital economy.
- **Economic Value of Digital ID:** National ID can help countries grow and improve their economies. Many studies suggest that a widely adopted, advanced ID system could contribute significantly to a country's economic growth over time. Even a basic digital ID that enables secure identification and authentication can unlock many economic benefits.

#### 1.5. Elements of the Proposed National ID Framework

This section summarises the key elements usually present in National Identity systems and outlines how a similar framework could operate in Fiji. It highlights key sections, safeguards, and governance arrangements relevant to citizens. A National Identity system aims to provide individuals with a secure and reliable way to verify their identity for both online and offline transactions.

1. **Voluntary Nature of the System:** The National Identity system is intended to be voluntary. Individuals will have the choice to register and use the system based on their needs. The purpose of the system is to make access to services easier and more secure, and not to impose mandatory participation or replace existing legal identity documents.
2. **Registration and Eligibility:** The system will be available to eligible individuals, including citizens and lawful residents, in accordance with national policy. Registration processes will be designed to be simple and accessible. In many cases, identity registration may begin early in life and be updated over time, ensuring continuity and accuracy of identity records. Special arrangements may be considered for children and individuals requiring assisted registration.
3. **Registration of Minors and Children (From Birth Onwards):** The framework is expected to support the registration of children from an early stage, including at birth, based on available civil registration records. This approach helps establish identity continuity over time, with information updated as the child grows. Appropriate safeguards will be in place to ensure that the rights and interests of children are protected, including provisions for parental or guardian involvement and appropriate control over identity use as individuals mature.
4. **Role of Verifiers in Identity Confirmation:** In cases where standard documentation may not be available or sufficient, the framework may allow the use of authorised verifiers to assist in confirming an individual's identity. Verifiers may include designated officials or recognised persons who can validate identity in accordance with prescribed procedures. This helps ensure inclusion while maintaining the integrity and reliability of the system.
5. **Integration with Civil Registration Systems:** The national Identity framework is expected to work alongside existing civil registration systems, including birth and related records. This integration helps ensure that identity information is accurate, consistent, and maintained over time, while avoiding duplication across government systems.
6. **Use of Biometrics (Limited Purpose):** Biometric information, such as fingerprints, iris and facial images, may be used to ensure that each individual has a unique identity and to prevent duplication and frauds. The use of biometrics will be limited to identity verification and authentication purposes and is not intended for tracking or monitoring individuals.
7. **Consent and Individual Control:** The system will be designed to ensure that individuals are aware of when and how their identities are used. Appropriate consent mechanisms will be incorporated so that individuals have visibility and a degree of control over the use of their identity information for verification purposes.
8. **Governance and Oversight (Designated Authority):** The national identity system will be managed by a designated authority responsible for its administration, operation, and oversight. This authority will operate under defined rules and accountability mechanisms to ensure the system operates transparently and responsibly.
9. **Authorised Use by Service Providers:** The system may be used by authorised public and private entities for identity verification. Access to the system will be controlled and limited

to approved purposes, reducing the need for repeated document submissions while maintaining safeguards for the use of personal information.

10. **Data Protection and Safeguards:** Strong safeguards will be built into the system to protect personal data. Identity information will be collected and used only for defined and lawful purposes, with appropriate technical, legal, and organisational measures to prevent misuse or unauthorised access.
11. **Rights and Grievance Mechanisms: Individuals** will have defined rights within the system, including the ability to access their information, request corrections, and raise complaints where necessary. Grievance mechanisms will be established to ensure that concerns can be addressed in a timely and transparent manner.
12. **Physical Identity Card:** In addition to the national identity, a physical identity card or smart card may be provided to support individuals who lack access to digital services. The card is intended to complement the digital system and is not expected to be mandatory.
13. **Verification Process:** The registration process is intended to confirm identity against official records to ensure uniqueness and accuracy. Verification establishes identity only and does not determine eligibility for services or benefits.
14. **Individual Rights and Safeguards:** Modern national identity systems recognise rights such as access to personal data, the correction of inaccuracies, and the redress of grievances.

## 1.6. Core Areas of Feedback

Members of the public, institutions, and stakeholders are invited to share their views on the proposed National Identity elements described above. Feedback is particularly encouraged on whether the overall approach is clear, practical, appropriate for Fiji and whether it reflects the needs and expectations of individuals, communities and service providers.

Views are welcome on key aspects of the framework, including the voluntary nature of participation, the accessibility and inclusiveness of registration processes, and the system's integration with existing civil registration records. Comments are also invited on the proposed use of biometric information for identity verification, the role of consent and individual control over identity information, and the safeguards in place to protect personal data.

Individuals and stakeholders are further encouraged to provide input on governance and oversight arrangements, the use of the system by authorised public and private entities, and the effectiveness of proposed rights and grievance mechanisms. Feedback on the role of physical identity cards, particularly in supporting inclusion and access, is also welcome.

More broadly, individuals and organisations are invited to share any concerns, suggestions, or practical recommendations that may help improve the design, implementation, and acceptability of the National Identity system. All feedback will help refine the framework and ensure it is inclusive, secure, and aligned with Fiji's long-term development priorities.

## **1.7. How to Participate**

Public consultation on the proposed National ID framework will be conducted over a defined period, commencing from 27 March 2026 and continuing until 07 April 2026. During this period, individuals and stakeholders will have the opportunity to review the proposed framework and share their views as per the consultation programme available on the RBF website (<https://www.rbf.gov.fj>).

The consultation is intended to ensure that the system reflects the needs, concerns, and expectations of the people of Fiji, and that it is designed to be inclusive, secure and practical.

Public consultation will be conducted primarily through structured consultation meetings. Members of the public, statutory bodies, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders will be requested to participate in group consultation sessions, during which the proposed National ID framework will be presented and discussed in detail. These meetings will offer citizens an opportunity to raise questions, offer comments, and provide preliminary feedback in person.

In addition to verbal inputs provided during these meetings, citizens may submit written comments or additional observations following the discussions. Written feedback may be provided via email or a formal letter addressed to the designated contact provided in the public consultation program published on RBF website.

## **1.8. Development of the Legal Framework**

Based on the key elements outlined above, the Government through the Ministry of Policing and Communications and in collaboration with the RBF has initiated the process of developing an appropriate legal framework for the National Identity system.

The proposed law will establish the structure, safeguards, governance arrangements, and rights necessary to support the system's operation. Input received through the consultation process will play an important role in shaping this legal framework before it is finalised.

## **1.9 How to Share Your Views**

This concept paper will be made available on the RBF's website (<https://www.rbf.gov.fj>). Members of the public are invited to review the information and share their views, suggestions, or concerns.

Feedback may be submitted through the designated communication channels provided on the RBF website. All input received during the consultation period will be reviewed and considered to refine the framework and develop the National Identity system. The National Identity Programme represents an important step towards strengthening Fiji's digital infrastructure and improving access to services. The success of the system will depend on careful design, strong safeguards, and public trust.

The Fiji Government encourages all members of the public to participate in this consultation and help shape Fiji National Identity Programme.