



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FCCC INVESTIGATES DISCRIMINATION PERTAINING TO RESIDENTIAL TENANCY**

TUESDAY 03 JULY 2018

The Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) regulates unfair trade practices including provisions of services in Fiji and proactively monitors the Fijian markets for any unfair conduct/ behaviour. This applies to traders and extends to landlords.

In September 2017, FCCC was made aware of issues whereby landlords were noted to be practising discrimination when giving houses/flats out for rent. Becoming aware of such issues, FCCC CEO, Mr. Joel Abraham had said “Racial prejudices and discrimination has no place in Fiji”. The FCCC is against such practices that seek to discriminate, based on racial lines... “Absolutely no one should engage in promoting racism or xenophobia...”

Recently, while conducting inspections, the FCCC noted an incident in a prominent Suva suburb, where a property caretaker on the instruction of a landlord had put out flats on rent and had displayed a notice seeking tenants of only a particular ethnic group.

FCCC has sought assistance from the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission (FHRADC) and is jointly working with the FHRADC in curbing residential tenancy discrimination based on gender, ethnicity and racial background.

The FCCC reiterates that such practice is illegal and in contravention of Part 7 of the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission Act 2010 (FCCC Act 2010).

FCCC CEO Mr. Joel Abraham said “every society, race, religion, gender has good people and bad people as such it is unfair to generalise the conduct of some mischievous tenants on the entire ethnic group and deprive them of their right to access to housing”.

Further, Fijians should not be discriminated and denied access to any goods or services including rental premises simply because they belong to a particular ethnic origin, gender, racial

background, or birth place. Under Section 26(3) (a) of the Constitution, unfairly discriminating a person on the grounds of his or her race, colour, culture or ethnicity is a punishable offence.

Director FHRADC Mr. Ashwin Raj in sharing similar sentiments said that they will continue to work closely with FCCC in ensuring that we uphold principles of non-discrimination on any prohibited grounds prescribed under section 26 (3) (a) of the Fijian Constitution. Monitoring compliance is integral in ensuring that we remove vestiges of discrimination so that everyone regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity amongst other prohibited grounds of discrimination enjoy the right to housing.

FCCC will continue to work with relevant stakeholders in order to ensure all Fijians are offered goods and services in a fair and just manner.

For more information, please contact FCCC, Communications Officer, Ms. Khusboo Singh on 8921991 ext. 335 or email: [khusboo.singh@fccc.gov.fj](mailto:khusboo.singh@fccc.gov.fj)