



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FCCC: Be Aware of fake online Sellers**  
**Wednesday 15 April 2020**

The Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) urges Fijian consumers to be cautious, when online, of those seeking to take advantage of the current coronavirus health crisis.

“While Fijian consumers have more choices and options than ever, thanks to the internet, it is very important that there is accurate and reliable information available to help them make the right choices,” said FCCC CEO Joel Abraham.

“I strongly advise consumers to be careful and expect unethical people looking to make quick money on social media platforms. So, please do not believe everything you read on social media.”

Abraham said they will be investigating a complaint by a member of the Fiji Red Cross Society about an individual online who was engaged in such unethical practices.

“We found out that an advertisement run by a page called YourInvited on Instagram claimed to be giving \$10 from their product sale towards the Red Cross relief fund - however, according to the Fiji Red Cross Society, there was no such relief fund campaign organized by them.”

“Hoaxes, misinformation, the vilification of COVID-19 positive cases and sharing of leaked personal data on contact tracing are other things that Fijians need to be careful about,” said Abraham.

“Please get all your information from verified sources. You can follow the FCCC social media pages for regular updates and information on all consumer-related matters and the Fijian Government and Fijian Ministry of Health are there to provide accurate COVID-19 related information.”

In addition to online cases, Abraham assures Fijians that FCCC is being vigilant when it comes to monitoring things on the ground and is taking the necessary action.

“FCCC’s special response team is working hard, 24/7, to make sure that Fijian consumers are not being taken advantage of during this time of emergency. We are monitoring for traders who may do so, and we want to make it clear that we will take strong action against traders engaging in such unfair trading practices.”

**For more information/details on this and the FCCC Act 2010, you can visit the FCCC website on [www.fccc.gov.fj](http://www.fccc.gov.fj) or call 8921991.**