



PRESS RELEASE

**FCCC: Zero Tolerance Approach To Be Taken On The Ground Inspection.
Friday 24 April 2020**

The Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) has implemented a zero-tolerance approach against any trader or businesses engaged in any breaches during the current COVID-19 crisis.

This simply means that the ground enforcement teams will not be issuing verbal warnings or infringement notices for any non-compliance, rather the trader will be instantly warned for prosecution.

“We have taken a hardline approach given the increase in non-compliance by traders, we have no other option but to go hard on traders that try to take advantage of Fijians during these hard times”

We have had our ground teams that have conducted over 300 inspections in the past two days alone and we are concerned with the trends we are seeing, just over these two days we have warned 20 traders for prosecution.

“We have a very collaborative approach and have always worked with the private sector to ensure compliance and it is very unfortunate that there are some traders who had resorted to unethical practices such as price gouging, conditional selling, selling of expired items and failure to display prices on price-controlled and non-controlled items respectively,” said FCCC CEO Joel Abraham.

“FCCC’s special response teams are deployed to the major divisions in Fiji and are actively involved in conducting daily inspections. Traders should take a lesson out of our efforts post TC Keni and TC Josie where traders found taking advantage of Fijians were charged for price gouging and fines over \$30,000 were imposed by the courts. So, let this be a warning to all traders - even if you think we will not be able to reach you, we will get you!”

Abraham also confirmed that FCCC under its business assistance program has facilitated over 30 businesses including arranging with major suppliers to assist in restocking items various supermarkets through special delivery runs.

“We received a complaint about a shortage of sugar at the Welcome Supermarket in Korovou Town. FCCC’s team then contacted M. Abdul & Co Ltd, who were the nearest suppliers, who then delivered the necessary supply to the trader,” Abraham added.

“During this challenging time, our team is working tirelessly to ensure that consumers are not being taken advantage of and prices changes do not occur except without reasonable cause during this critical time. It is our duty to protect all Fijians and we will continue to safeguard their rights.”

Traders found breaching the law can face fines of up to \$250,000.

Send your complaints by going to the FCCC web app at FCCC.APP, live chat on the FCCC website www.fccc.gov.fj or emailing oncomplaints@fccc.gov.fj and business@fccc.gov.fj For more information/details, you can also contact FCCC on 8921991.

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