



Press Statement
Thursday 19 March 2020

Supermarkets Well-Stocked With Food

I want to assure every Fijian family that Fiji is food secure, and they can take comfort knowing that FCCC has confirmed with all major supermarkets that they have the availability of food items while cleaning and hygiene products are locally produced.

FCCC will also be closely monitoring supply and note that running to buy a massive amount of goods, 'Stocking Up' or 'bulk buying' will only cause the supply and reorder disruptions. The local supply chain from distributors to retailers work on a timetable, e.g. Monday for Nausori delivery, Tuesday to Suva and so on, you will see some empty shelves if retailers do not have some items left in their bulk, however, be assured that these are on the way.

It's worth noting that the vast majority of products are not affected, and supermarkets and pharmacies are not seeing shortages but to make sure everyone has access to essential items, FCCC has introduced some common-sense limits to essential products.

At this stage, retailers have been asked to exercise their judgement based on their customers and store locations to limit sale for customers. For example, for Baby Milk, we do not want bulking buying of baby milk so that everyone who needs it can continue to buy it and not wait for re-order inventory. Not everyone may be able to bulk buy and there could be our Fijian babies who will go without milk because some of us panicked.

FCCC would like to update you on the supply and availability of essential food items because we know that it can be frustrating when you don't have the products you need. Be assured that we are working very closely with the importers, wholesalers and retailers to get products onto shelves as quickly as we can to meet this demand. As of 3 pm today we have checked with the following and confirmed;

RB Patel – Ample stock issues with restocking

Extra supermarket – Ample stock issues with restocking

Shop n save – Ample stock issues

Newworld – ample stock from warehouse to all branches will take around 7 days

Hansons – has not noted bulk buying

MH & Max Valu – Ample stock but issues with restocking

Nayans Supermarket – Low stock on rice and flour (these are sourced locally and FMF has confirmed they have ample stock)

Dauds supermarket current stock will last two weeks, re-order has been put in place

Rajendras Supermarket – Adequate stock however, they will close for 2 hours to enable re-stocking as they have noted customers trying to loot the bulks. Police have been called to the supermarket

Kundan Singh – sufficient stock till next week – reorder has been done

CJ Supermarket – Flour, rice, cooking oil is out of stock, order has been sent to FMF for supply

Fresh Choice (Garden City) Flour, rice egg, canned food out of stock liaising with local wholesalers to supply these.

We will constantly monitor the situation and have asked traders to do their best to keep all the products available to everyone. It is worthwhile noting that Fiji has not closed of imports and major supermarkets like ShopNSave has confirmed that they have at least 20 containers on its way as part of their normal supply chain.

FCCC will monitor this situation and release advisory as required. Our team members are doing the very best they can, so please support them, and each other. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this together.

For more information/details on this and the FCCC Act 2010, you can visit the FCCC website on www.fccc.gov.fj or call 8921991.

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