

## PRESS RELEASE FCCC Commends more Businesses for Price Reductions Thursday 10 September 2020

The Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) has acknowledged more businesses for reducing their prices to reflect reductions and exemptions of duties and taxes that were part of the 2020-2021 Fijian National Budget.

The list of businesses includes Pak N Save, Nayan's, Extra Supermarket, Her Gorgeous Expression, Hop Tiy, Bondwell, Datec, Tents & Awnings, Viti Rentals, Sevens Rentals, Taunovo Buses, South Sea Cruise, Damodar, Life Cinemas, Grace Roads, Vuvale Restaurant, Navini Island Resort, Vono Pte Ltd, Hexagon and Inter Continental, and Grand West.

"It is very encouraging to have these businesses step up and be responsible by reducing their prices so that Fijian consumers can also benefit from these measures in the Budget, as was intended," said FCCC CEO, Joel Abraham.

"The reason the Fijian Government put in the reduction and exemptions in the Budget was to stimulate economic activity and help businesses get through the reduced economic activity caused by COVID-19. This does not mean the savings are supposed to stay with traders - it is meant to assist consumers and businesses equally."

Abraham said that the recent FCCC (Budget Amendment) Act 2020 Section 53A authorises FCCC to ensure this happens, in terms of working and guiding the private sector to pass on the benefits of the 1,942 categories of duty or tax reduction, monitoring the impact of duty reductions, and create awareness on the amendments.

"Instead of taking a punishment-based stance, we prefer to collaborate first, since often we find that non-compliance in such cases was because the business was not fully aware of what their responsibility is, as opposed to dishonesty."

"This is why we have taken a proactive approach and have met with over 100 stakeholders, not just to educate them on what they need to do but to also get their input."

FCCC is also conducting a thorough assessment of the supply chain - from the importer to wholesaler to retailer, all the way to the Fijian consumer, to ensure that there is no unethical conduct at any point.

Businesses are encouraged to reach out to FCCC for assistance, advice or clarifications on how to make sure they are being compliant.

For more information on the duty reduction and a list of items affected by the duty rate change, you can go to <a href="https://fccc.gov.fi/duty-reduction/">https://fccc.gov.fi/duty-reduction/</a>.

For more information, you can contact FCCC on 8921991 or through live chat on their website at <a href="fccc.gov.fj">fccc.gov.fj</a>.

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