



PRESS RELEASE

FCCC Warns Traders To Pass Down Duty Reductions Friday 12 February 2021

To ensure that the savings from the duty and tax reductions in the 2020-2021 Fijian National Budget are being passed down to Fijian consumers, the Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission's (FCCC) enforcement team will be conducting Phase 3 spot checks and general audits at various shops and supermarkets around Fiji, from next week.

"These duty reductions were designed by the Fijian Government to relieve the financial pressure faced by Fijian businesses and consumers due to the unforeseen economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic," said FCCC CEO, Joel Abraham.

Mr Abraham said that FCCC will be using a targeted approach to ensure that the benefits of duty and tax reduction are passed down to the consumers as was intended by the budget.

"Our teams have been working tirelessly over the past several months to lay the groundwork for this by raising awareness among traders and educating them on their responsibilities in terms of what they need to do to pass down the benefits of the tax and duty reductions to their customers."

The FCCC (Budget Amendment) Act 2020 Section 53A, which was ratified last year, authorises FCCC to ensure Fijian consumers also benefit, in terms of working and guiding the private sector to pass on the benefits of the 1,942 categories of duty or tax reduction and monitoring the impact of reductions.

"These inspections kick off phase 3, which is the enforcement phase of our mandate and any traders found to be breaching this, or any other consumer law, will be taken to task."

"As we have mentioned in the past, we prefer a collaborative approach, and the result of our consultations and work with businesses has seen many of them reducing their prices, accordingly- I would like to commend these traders for showing compassion, leadership and setting an example."

"While certain businesses have done their part, we have also received disappointing reports of some traders who have not passed these costs down to consumers. We urge businesses who are not passing down savings that they themselves have benefitted from to rethink their stance because we will be coming down hard on them."

Mr Abraham said that businesses are more than welcome to reach out to FCCC for help and advice to ensure they are compliant.

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

You can also contact FCCC on 8921991 or through live chat on their website at fccc.gov.fj.

Please follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FijianCCC/ for the latest updates.

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