



PRESS RELEASE
FCCC ENFORCEMENT REPORT
Thursday 13 May 2021

Since the implementation of COVID-19 safety measures by the Fijian Government and the Ministry of Health and Medical Services, Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC) teams have been on the ground, ensuring compliance by traders, as well as conducting inspections for the stock of essential items.

As of Tuesday, 11 May 2021, FCCC has completed a total of 942 inspections across all the major Divisions, with 98 inspections in the Central Division, 220 inspections in the Western Division and 624 in the Northern Division.

FCCC CEO, Joel Abraham, said that FCCC teams have increased efforts over the past few weeks and have ramped up their inspections to cover as many businesses and traders as possible across the country.

“The situation being faced by the country at the moment is one that we have become familiar with since last year and our teams knew what would be expected of them once COVID-19 became present in our community again,” said Mr Abraham.

“Apart from our routine inspections for compliance with the FCCC Act 2010, we have included inspections for the stock and supply of essentials items as well as ensuring that businesses and traders are following COVID-19 health and safety measures.”

“We have found instances of both compliance and non-compliance with traders in each division but, I am happy to say that more instances of compliance has been noted, which is very encouraging news indeed.”

Mr Abraham added that a major supply issue noted over the past few weeks was a shortage in the supply of sugar caused by supply chain disruptions, but that has since been resolved after having made arrangements between Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) and traders.

“We found, through discussions with FSC, that delays in the delivery of sugar was the main cause for the temporary shortage in sugar supply experienced by traders. But that issue has been resolved and sugar supply should have begun to normalise.”

FCCC urges consumers to refrain from panic buying or overstocking items as their survey revealed that there are more than enough food items and essential cleaning products available in stores.

"I would like to remind all Fijians that there is no need to worry about products running out because our borders are open to imports from other countries," said Mr Abraham.

"FCCC teams are also continuing with inspections to ensure that traders don't take advantage of the vulnerability of consumers during these trying times by suddenly increasing the prices of certain items - our job is to protect Fijian consumer rights and we are carrying out this duty diligently."

"We also encourage consumers to come forward and let us know if they are facing any issues such as sudden price hikes in items, conditional selling, or prices of items not being on display."

In a bid to ensure the safety of all Fijians, FCCC is discouraging all unnecessary travel and would like to encourage consumers to use the following methods if they wish to lodge a complaint or clear any queries:

Central Division:

Call 892 1991 or email helpdesk@fccc.gov.fj

Western Division:

Call 891 1623 or email helpdesk.west@fccc.gov.fj

Northern Division:

Call 891 1624 or email helpdesk.north@fccc.gov.fj

Online methods:

FCCC app at <https://fccc.app/>

Live chat via the FCCC website at www.fccc.gov.fj

FCCC facebook page at www.facebook.com/FijianCCC/

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