



FIJI COMMERCE COMMISSION

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Press Statement

Lottery Ticket Rugby World Cup 2011: Contravention of Commerce Commission Decree 2010

The Fiji Commerce Commission (“Coimmission”) is an Independent Statutory Body that promotes effective competition and informed markets, encourages fair trading practices, protects consumers and businesses from restrictive trade practices and controls prices of regulated industries and other markets where competition is lessened or limited.

The Commission has began its investigation on the sale of lottery tickets for Rugby World Cup 2011 and the subsequent drawing of it.

The Commission noted that while the tickets were initially sold at FJD \$20, however subsequently the same lottery ticket has been sold at FJD \$10. The announced major prizes for same were \$100,000 (First Prize), \$70,000 (Second Prize) and \$30,000 (Third Prize) .

This alleged practice of selling the same lottery ticket at a lower price will place the persons, who bought the ticket for \$20, at a disadvantage, given their probability of winning has been reduced relative to those who bought the tickets for \$10. Such a practice would be seen to be in contravention of the following statutory provisions under the Commerce Commission Decree 2010:-

- Section 75: For Deceptive or Misleading Conduct.
- Section 76: For Unconscionable Conduct.

- Section 77 (1) (e): For False or Misleading Representation.
- Section 83 (1): For Misleading Conduct In Relation To Goods.
- Section 85 (1): For failure to provide Gifts and Prizes as offered.

The Commission today has written to FRU to **showcase within 5 days from the date of issue of this letter, why they should not be penalized \$ 25,000 for each of the above mentioned breaches of the Commerce Commission Decree 2010.**

Furthermore, the Commission, in exercise of its powers under Section 15(4) read with Section 75 of the Commerce Commission Decree 2010, has directed Fiji Rugby Union to :-

1. Place an advertisement in the newspaper offering to reimburse \$10 to every person who would have bought the lottery ticket at \$20, **within 5 days** from the date of issue of this letter.
2. Reimburse \$10 to every person who would have bought the lottery ticket at \$20, **within 10 days** from the date of issue of this letter.
3. Submit to the Commission a list of all lottery tickets (with ticket numbers) sold at \$ 20 and \$10, **within 5 days** from the date of issue of this letter.
4. Submit to the Commission a list of all reimbursements carried out along with details of persons whose reimbursements could not be carried out, **within 12 days** from the date of issue of this letter.
5. Given that the you have already declared the winner, then the Commission directs you to refrain from proceeding with the disbursal of prize money unti further orders.

The Commission wishes to advise all those involved in raising money from the public to comply with the Fiji Commerce Commission decree 2010 fully or face the full brunt of law.



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Dr. Mahendra Reddy
Chairman