



COMMERCE COMMISSION

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To All Media Outlets

Re: Restrictive Trade Practices in Fiji
Advise to Fiji Chamber of Commerce, Fiji Employers Federation and Fiji Retailers Association

The Commerce Commission is getting inundated with complaints from the public at large on restrictive trade practices undertaken by some of the Business operators in Fiji.

The Commission is an independent statutory body that promotes effective competition and informed markets, encourages fair trading, protects consumers and businesses from restrictive practices and controls prices of regulated industries and other markets where competition is lessened or limited.

The Commission has just received a complaint from a Beverage Company alleging that a very prominent supermarket has exclusive contracts with certain suppliers and thus is refusing to buy and sell their drinks which are in competition with the preferred suppliers drink.

The Commerce Commission ("the Commission") yesterday formally notified the company of the launch of an investigation by the Commission into its trade practices in Fiji's market.

The Commission understands that the private sector plays a very important role in the overall growth and development of Fiji's economy. The Commission wishes to strengthen the position of private sector by ensuring that they undertake correct business practices.

The Commission notes that there is no short cut to making sustainable profits. Hence the Commission wishes to take a proactive approach to educate the members of the Business community on business practices which will build resilience into their operations and make their activities sustainable.

In this regard, the Commission has written to the Fiji Employers Federation, Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Fiji Retailers Association informing them of the key provisions of Fair Trading Decree and the Commerce

Act 1998 and the amendments thereof. The Commission has asked that their members take time to read through the provisions of the relevant legislations in Fiji that govern Business conduct.

The Commission will undertake a Road Show across Fiji in July to educate the Business Community. Furthermore, the Commission will also write to the respective districts Chamber of Commerce for specialised workshops on Business conduct.

The Commission wishes to take a more proactive role in ensuring Fiji's Business practices are in line with the Laws of the country and Business sector do not lose money in unnecessary litigation process but rather use those resources for further surplus creation and thus contribute to economic growth.

Yours Sincerely,



Dr Mahendra Reddy
Chairman

Cc: Ministry for Commerce, Trade & Industry
Chief Executive Officer, Consumer Council of Fiji