



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**16<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2007**

Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority (FIRCA) welcome any specific complaints of substance from the general public regarding any taxpayer who may be involved in tax evasion.

However, it will not entertain any politically motivated smear campaigns as seems to be the case with the reports in the FIJI SUN in the last two days.

Board Chairman Mr. Filipe Bole has denied FIRCA had anything to do with the information as speculated in the Fiji Sun of 15th August.

**“ The information is not from FIRCA. The Authority has nothing to do with the information contained in the article and it appears those behind it have political motives to discredit FIRCA and the government,” said Mr. Bole.**

FIRCA wishes to make clear that there are no tax issues concerning ministers in the Interim government on which appropriate action has not been taken when required or warranted.

FIRCA is aware of similar smear campaigns launched against politicians in the past and has kept its distance from such insinuations.

The suspension of some six officers from duty has nothing to do with the unsubstantiated allegations in the FIJI SUN reports. These officers were suspended because of breaches of FIRCA's code of conduct and for their involvement in approving tax refunds from which they have personally benefited along with their accomplices.

He said that concerned members of the public can provide information on breaches of the tax and customs laws on the hotline **0800 3317070** or write to the Acting CEO.

FIRCA has strengthened its fraud team, which will investigate tax evasion and customs complaints involving staff and taxpayers.

Mr. Bole assured that the new team consisting of experienced staff will ensure that all complaints will be properly investigated.

**Filipe Bole**  
**Board Chairman**  
**FIJI ISLAND REVENUE AND CUSTOMS AUTHORITY**