



Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority

PRESS RELEASE

Press Release No: 23/2008

Phone: 3301 551

Date : December 31st, 2008

Fax : 3315 537

The Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority (FIRCA) Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jitoko Tikolevu, wishes to reply to the Fiji Times Headline Article of 31st December 2008 titled “**Food cost to go up**”.

The article is misleading and has not captured the correct intention of the policy. Duty changes announced in the 2009 Budget was effective from 21st November 2008 and not 1st January 2009 as the article seems to be portraying. The current prices of the goods already reflect the duty changes that were announced in the 2009 Budget and will not result in further increase on 1st January 2009. Hence, the claims that the New Year is going to be “herald by higher duty and cost of living” is baseless. Most of these items are manufactured or produced locally and the increase in duty rate aims to encourage import substitution of local products and provide stimulus to domestic industries. Assisting local industries will ensure that employment levels are maintained as well as the creation of new opportunities.

JITOKO TIKOLEVU
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

~~ END ~~