



**PRESS RELEASE**

**JOINT MEETING BETWEEN MINISTER FOR FINANCE,  
NATIONAL PLANNING, SUGAR INDUSTRY & PUBLIC  
UTILITIES; FIRCA; MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT; LTA; AND  
THE FIJI BUS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION**

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The Minister for Finance, National Planning, Sugar Industry and Public Utilities, Mr Mahendra Pal Chaudhry convened a meeting at 11am this morning with government officials (FIRCA, LTA and Ministry of Transport) and representatives of the Fiji Bus Operators Association to prepare an assistance package for the bus industry given the escalating fuel prices.

The meeting decided to form a working committee to immediately explore options and report back to the Minister for Finance, National Planning, Sugar Industry and Public Utilities on the best practical way to assist the industry before end of this week. The committee will consist of the above government agencies and the bus industry's representatives. It was agreed that the first meeting will take place on Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2008 at the Ministry of Transport.

Given the urgency to resolve the matter, the findings and recommendations will be submitted to the Cabinet at its 1<sup>st</sup> July meeting.

JITOKO TIKOLEVU  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2008**