



Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority

## PRESS RELEASE

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Phone: 3301 551  
Fax : 3315 537

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The Minister for Finance, National Planning, Sugar Industry and Public Utilities, Mr. Mahendra Pal Chaudhry convened a meeting at 11.30am this morning with the Mineral Water companies and the Fiji Island Revenue & Customs Authority (FIRCA) to hear the industry's concerns on the recently announced policy by Government to impose a new excise duty and export duty of 20 cents per litre effective from 1 July 2008.

Mineral Water bottlers wanted a reconsideration of the decision made by Government and suggested that this policy measure be delayed to give them breathing space whilst they continue to negotiate to reach an amicable solution on the issue with Government.

Minister explained that mineral water is a scarce resource and that the industry must give back a fair share to the resource owners and Government. Excise duty and export duty were just examples of ways this could be achieved.

Given the urgency to resolve the matter, Minister has asked the industry to come up with detail submissions for his consideration and he will then make recommendations to the Cabinet at its 15 July 2008 meeting.

Meanwhile, production continues at the mineral water factories.

JITOKO TIKOLEVU  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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