



Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority

PRESS RELEASE

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FRCA and British American Tobacco Fiji signs Operations Agreement to tackle illicit trade in tobacco products

Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) today signed and launched an Operations Agreement with British American Tobacco Fiji (BAT Fiji), to collectively address the growing issue of illicit trade in tobacco products.

This Agreement marks an exciting milestone for both FRCA and BAT Fiji following the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2005. More importantly, it marks a significant step towards strengthening the cooperation in the fight to curb and deter any future illegal tobacco trade activities throughout Fiji and the region.

Globally, the sale and use of illegal tobacco – encompassing tobacco which is smuggled, counterfeit or tax-evaded - continues to rise and presents a large problem for customs and border control authorities. It also presents a challenge to government in respect of the loss to government revenue and the threat to the local legitimate tobacco industry.

Under this agreement, FRCA will be cooperating closely with BAT Fiji to further strengthen border management and internal control capabilities and procedures. This will enable any future illicit trade in activities to be effectively addressed.

The implementation of this Agreement and any requisite operational changes will be driven by key customs and border control enforcement officials.

FRCA remains confident that together with industry stakeholders, such as BAT Fiji, we will not only make serious impacts to deter future illicit trade activities but also continue to safeguard the interests of government together with the interests and welfare of legitimate business and local communities.

Jitoko Tikolevu
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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