



Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority

PRESS RELEASE

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Cabinet at its 1 July 2008 meeting had approved the imposition of 20 cents per litre export duty and 20 cents per litre excise duty on bottled water. This policy was gazetted through promulgation No. 17 & 18 of 2008. Fiji Islands Revenue & Customs Authority (FIRCA) has undertaken all the necessary steps to ensure full compliance of this recent Government decision.

In a meeting with the Minister of Finance on 7 July 2008, the bottled water companies were asked to submit individual written proposals justifying their objections. To facilitate this process, FIRCA wrote to the bottled water companies to submit all key documents in relation to their submissions by Tuesday 15 July 2008.

None of the bottled water companies have fully submitted all relevant information and documents. The purpose of the requested information was to assist FIRCA and the Ministry of Finance in analysing the bottled water companies' claims of the negative impact they perceive will be created by the new tax to their business operations. Without these relevant information, it was not possible to do a thorough analysis of these claims and making appropriate recommendations to Cabinet.

In this regard, bottled water companies have been given an extension until 18 July 2008 to provide all requested information in full for examination by FIRCA.

JITOKO TIKOLEVU
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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