



Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority

PRESS RELEASE

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Phone: 3301 551

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Fax : 3315 537

Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority in response to a news article in today's Fiji Times (Thursday 26th March 2009), would like to clarify that all goods stored in private bonded warehouses are subject to Customs Laws since private bonded warehouses are extended border control points.

Over the last few years, the passage of time allowed the current storage of approved goods has been regressively reduced from five years to one year. Goods which exceed the particular passages of time and remain in the private bonded warehouse would have to be seized by Customs and sold off by public auction. This has been provided for in the Customs Laws on such matters.

The situation currently in focus refers to a particular private bonded warehouse owner which had a number of cars seized and made ready for disposal by auction. Some times prior to the auction, the engines and a few other parts were dismantled and relocated within the private bonded warehouse owner's premises. These missing items were later retrieved and returned to the buyers at that auction.

It is common practice, that buyers at any auction must inspect the goods that they will bid for as all auctions are on 'as is where is basis' of sale.

The incident of unlawful removal of parts from those vehicles is being investigated and this process may take a while longer.

It is common knowledge to all private bonded warehouse operators that they must practice due diligence in taking good care of goods stored in their premises.

All stakeholders dealing with Customs must practice effective voluntary self-compliance.

JITOKO TIKOLEVU
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

