



Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority

## PRESS RELEASE

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### CLARIFICATION ON SEA PORT CHARGES

Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority (FIRCA) clarifies that there is no threat to revenue collected by the Fiji Ports Corporation as a result of the export duty levied on bottled water. All exports through sea ports are subject to sea port charges, according to the tariff that Fiji Ports has in place. This tariff is set for different specifications of goods and all exporters are required to pay port charges applicable to them.

Export duty on locally processed water became chargeable from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2008. Some exporters have upon their own volition stopped exporting water products and were not in any way prevented by FIRCA. These exporters have made submissions which are being considered. Once exports resume, port charges will become payable.

Some water bottlers are still processing their trade accounts to be submitted to FIRCA for analysis in support of their contention on the 20 cents per litre duty. Moreover, they have not as yet provided their distribution agreements and detailed statements of cost analysis.

It has been revealed in the analysis process that certain companies, and individuals associated with these companies, have outstanding tax returns.

These people are currently being contacted to lodge their returns and clear outstanding tax liabilities.

JITOKO TIKOLEVU  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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