



PRESS RELEASE

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Custom demand duty on donations

The Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority (FIRCA) Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Jitoko Tikolevu wishes to reply to the news item "**Customs demands duty on donations**" on page 3 of the Fiji Times of 28 November, 2007.

Firstly, goods imported by registered religious or charitable organisations are provided duty concessions under the Customs Act. The concession however applies to certain goods only as provided for in the legislation.

The goods in question (furniture, used clothing, crockery, used rugs and medical supplies) were imported by an individual from New Zealand as donations. At the point of importation, FIRCA had granted duty concessions on the **medical supplies** and **used clothing** as provided for under the Act. Hence, the claim by Ms Hennings that the medical goods were not granted concessions is unsubstantiated.

The remaining items did not qualify for any concession under the provisions of the Acts hence duty was imposed. The total duty on the items was **\$1,304** only and not **\$4000** as claimed by Ms Hennings.

Furthermore, Ms Hennings has raised some issues on the storage charges incurred, FIRCA wishes to clarify that the fee is levied by Ports Authority and hence we have no jurisdiction on the charges.

The imported goods have not been denied clearance by FIRCA and will be released upon payment of customs dues. FIRCA also wishes to advise individuals of the need to clarify such issues with FIRCA prior to importations to avoid any misunderstanding.

JITOKO TIKOLEVU
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER