



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **FIRCA REFUTES ASSERTIONS OF BLOCKING OF DEVELOPMENT**

FIRCA views with concern and dismay the main feature item broadcast on Fiji TV News on Tuesday, April 10, asserting blockage by FIRCA of hundreds of millions of dollars of tourism development. This totally false assertion, made recklessly without any prior consultation with FIRCA, related to an asserted number of developments of which no names were given, except one name regarding a development where substantial settlement has already been reached between the developer and FIRCA by way of the giving of necessary undertakings and assurances to those in authority. Due to the failure of the broadcast to specify the other asserted instances of blockage, FIRCA is unable to respond specifically to same. Nevertheless, FIRCA is in a position to categorically state that it absolutely rejects any allegations of blockage by it of tourism development.

Developers who rely on taxable land sales to fund development must expect to pay tax upon profits derived from such sales. It is the duty of FIRCA, in the public interest, to collect such tax. It is clearly understood that allegedly aggrieved parties referred to in the broadcast do comprise such persons. FIRCA does not have an issue with developers who do not rely on taxable land sales to fund development.

As to the Advance Assessment policy highlighted in the broadcast, Fiji TV should be aware (and would have been made aware, if it had consulted FIRCA) that FIRCA has made a public offer open to all developers who assert difficulty in complying with such Advance Assessments. That offer was repeated in detail to the tourism industry by FIRCA at the very recent Tourism Convention,

and has been made to taxpayers in the instances in which problems have been expressed to FIRCA, which are very few and by no means commensurate with the volume of complaints alleged by Fiji TV.

The offer is simply that, if a timeline acceptable to FIRCA is agreed for the payment of tax on taxable land sales, and figures of tax and dates for payment are agreed, Advance Assessments will not be insisted upon. Further, proceeds of sale will be required to be brought into Fiji.

The figure of 22 projects cited by Fiji TV for asserted blockage is absolutely ludicrous and bears no relation to any number of developments complained of to FIRCA, or known to FIRCA. No doubt, if the organizers of the asserted 22 developments could identify themselves to FIRCA and give details of any asserted complaints, same could be investigated and dealt with very rapidly.

FIRCA repeats its total denial of the ridiculous assertions by Fiji TV.

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**FIJI ISLANDS REVENUE AND CUSTOMS AUTHORITY**

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