



PRESS RELEASE

PROVISIONAL RULING ON 5% SALARY REDUCTION

The Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority (FIRCA) will meet and discuss the 5% salary reduction measure with the Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority Officers and Staff Association (FIRCAOSA). The salary reduction was approved by the Board as a cost cutting measure in view of the 15% reduction in FIRCA's revised 2007 Annual Grant provided by the Government.

Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Tevita Banuve said that Management will be proceeding to comply with Justice Jiten Singh's provisional ruling which was along the lines that FIRCAOSA and FIRCA are to utilise the provisions of Chapter 7 (Disputes & Grievance Procedures) of the Collective Agreement signed between the two parties for the purposes of finding an amicable solution to the Association's grievance regarding the 5% salary reduction. During these negotiations and discussions, the *status quo* (meaning the salary of staff prior to the reduction by 5%) shall be maintained, pursuant to clause 61.3 of the Collective Agreement.

The Court will not strike out the Association's current Application in Court, but will instead maintain the Application pending a determination of the negotiations and discussions that are to be proceeded with by the parties under Chapter 7 of the Collective Agreement.



Mr Banuve stated that Justice Singh had ruled that if the negotiations between the parties do not arrive at any amicable solution, either party will have the right to give 48 hours notice to the Court of this 'deadlock' and the current Court Action will be activated accordingly.

Tevita K. Banuve

Chief Executive Officer

March 20, 2007