



**SPEECH BY FIJI ISLANDS REVENUE AND CUSTOMS AUTHORITY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR TEVITA BANUVE**

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Ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to launch this new FIRCA Hotline. It is a toll-free line that will allow concerned members of the public to provide information on breaches of the tax and customs laws administered by FIRCA. Just as the Crime Stoppers number has assisted the police in reducing crime, I am optimistic that the FIRCA Hotline will reduce evasion of taxes and duties, and breaches in border control.

The Hotline number is **0800 331 7070**. The line is toll-free which means that the caller is only charged the cost of a local call, no matter where they are calling from within Fiji. The hotline will be manned during normal business hours, 8.00am to 4.30pm Monday to Thursday and 8.00am to 4.00pm on Friday by our Intelligence Unit staff

The general public can make calls anonymously, or can give their name and contact details if they wish to. The public should be assured that all calls will be handled confidentially.

Upon receiving the information, the Intelligence Unit will analyse the information and pass it on to the appropriate arm of FIRCA for necessary action to be taken.

At the moment, calls of this nature are made to various divisions and sections within FIRCA. This Hotline will ensure that the information is centralized and handled in an efficient and effective manner. We will also share this information with other law enforcement agencies such as the Police or Immigration Department where this is necessary and authorized.

FIRCA mostly receives calls relating to possible smuggling activities, suspicious movement of yachts within the islands, fraudulent entry of goods to avoid duties and tariffs, and abuse of duty free allowances. In relation to taxation matters, the Authority usually receive calls from members of the public informing us when people known to them do not declare their total income. For instance, the Authority receives calls about persons known to the caller, who operate a business on the side or rent out a property, without paying tax. Other types of calls received relate to corporate fraud involving large sums of money and white-collar crime.

FIRCA will treat all information received via the hotline seriously. The information will be crosschecked with our databases and other sources before any action is taken.

I believe that the additional revenue and enhanced border security flowing from this initiative will assist in our administration of the tax and customs laws.

I declare the FIRCA Hotline now open.