FIJI REVENUE & CUSTOMS AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

Press Release No: 08/2015 **Phone: 324 3000**

Date: 03 March, 2015 **Fax: 331 5537**

IMF assesses FRCA

The International Monetary Fund completed its assessment of the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority identifying a number of critical areas that need improvement.

Fiji is the fourth country in the world to be assessed by the IMF using the new assessment tool- Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT).

"We invited the IMF to conduct an independent assessment of FRCA. The exercise was overall very beneficial to FRCA as it gave us an overall picture of where we are as a tax administration and where we could or need to be," FRCA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Jitoko Tikolevu said.

The IMF assessed FRCA over three weeks and presented a draft report last week.

TADAT is designed to provide an objective assessment of the health of key components of a country's system of tax administration. The framework is focused on nine key performance outcome areas, which are the integrity of the taxpayer database, assessment of risk, support of voluntary compliance, filing of returns, payment of obligations, accuracy of reporting, tax dispute resolution, efficiency of tax administration and transparency and accountability.

"The assessment certainly gives FRCA a better picture on its strengths and weaknesses in tax administration systems, processes, and institutions.

"The Authority will soon undertake a rebranding exercise, which including reforms in certain areas.

"This report will help us in the setting of our reform agenda, reform objectives, priorities, initiatives, and an implementation timeline," Mr Tikolevu said.

FRCA's strengths were in its taxpayer awareness and education activities, its initiatives to detect unregistered taxpayers, revenue collection, external oversight and transparency in reporting and its monitoring of taxpayer perceptions and service.

The on time payment of tax obligations and sound arrears management was also identified as strength for FRCA.

"We will need to improve on our auditing activities to deter inaccurate reporting," Mr Tikolevu said.

"We will also need to improve our rate of on time filling for all types of taxpayers as well as be more innovative and introduce e-filling and at the same time encourage more use of our e-payment channels.

"Certainly, there are some quick wins in some of the changes they are proposing, particularly with our business processes. "We will invite the team again to conduct another assessment after 12 months, after we have implemented their recommendations."

For more information, please contact the Public Relations Unit on 3243013/3243031.

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