



PRESS RELEASE

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THREE IMPERSONATORS CAPTURED – PUBLIC CAUTIONED

The Fiji Revenue and Customs Service is calling for the public to take heed of individuals who are impersonating Revenue & Customs Service Officers, for the purpose of personal financial gain.

“In the last two weeks alone, we have received 20 complaints of such incidents, with three people apprehended in the last 24 hours and currently in police custody. These impersonators have tried to swindle money ranging from \$500 to \$10,000. Said CEO Mr. Visvanath Das.

“The Modus Operandi of these impersonators is to target businesses in different areas, call members of staff directly such as their financial controllers and advise them that there will be a raid or audit and offer them the opportunity to settle via cash payment in order to suspend the raid or audit”.

One such example happened this morning (Saturday 2nd September) with Viti Foods Limited. Where an impersonator called the company several times, claiming to be tipping them off on a raid which was about to happen, emphasizing that the company could be fined \$25,000 or face 2 years imprisonment if the raid did happen. The impersonator further advised the staff that the raid can be cancelled if they pay \$2,000 cash in an envelope and addressed to a Sergeant Marica.

“I acknowledge the partnership with the Police Commissioner’s Special Taskforce and the vigilant taxpayers who formally registered their complaints that has led to the capture the three people who are currently in Police custody”.

I urge the public to be aware of phone calls, emails or personal visits by individuals who claim to be Revenue and Customs Officers. I ask members of the public, Business and Individuals to please:

1. Ensure you ask visiting officers for their Staff Identification Card;
2. Check Staff ID card validity to ensure it is current;
3. Check that the picture of the staff on ID matches the officer ;
4. Take note of their employment number on the ID card; and
5. if still unsure of the credibility of the officer to contact our office immediately.

The phone numbers to contact to report suspected impersonators, the numbers to call are Mr. Dakai on mobile number 9922275 or the office of the CEO on mobile number 9907740.

END

For queries please contact the Stakeholder Engagement / Public Relations Department on 3243031/3243259.



Visvanath Das
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
2nd September 2017