



FIJI PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION

(Affiliated to PSI, PTTI, ITF)

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MEDIA RELEASE

CALL FOR THE RESIGNATION OF CEO, FRCS

The Fiji Public Service Association (FPSA) is calling for the resignation of the CEO, FRCS as he has failed to execute his duties as an Administrator and a Chief Executive Officer of a government Statutory Authority. Instead of leading the organization he is surrounded by a coterie of senior management staff who act as his advisers and these advisers virtually day to day run the organisation breaking the norms with arrogance to such an extent that in September, two (2) months ago thirty-five (35) staff members signed a petition and sent to FPSA against the Director, Revenue Management for using abusive language and threatening staff to terminate their services. Some senior Managers who had signed the petition stated that he ridiculed and shouted at them in front of other staff members. The Association took the matter up with the CEO in a meeting with him and it was agreed that the matter, which is a disciplinary offence must be sorted out as soon as possible but the issue is still hibernating in the system and the CEO is merrily unaware of his responsibility to see that justice is done to the 35 members who have signed a petition. The CEO seems to be least concerned about it. The Director, Revenue management is continuing to behave in the same manner as he had been doing and our members are performing under a serious stressful environment.

There has been other cases such as a Manager was suspended for four (4) months for serious misdemeanour but suddenly he was sent to attend a course abroad and returned to duty as nothing happened. The only request the officer received from the CEO was to go and seek forgiveness from the staff who he supervises. This is the performance of a CEO with one of the most attractive salary packages.

The third issue that has shocked the entire staff of the Fiji Revenue & Customs Services (FRCS) is the latest handiwork of the CEO when he allowed the Chief Ethical Standard Unit Officer and Director, Intelligence, Compliance and Investigations to return to duties when FICAC charged him for abuse of office and dishonestly involving \$4 million. He was bailed by the Magistrate Court on 25th October, 2018.

The normal process in the Civil Service and the government statutory authorities is to suspend the employee when his presence in the work place could compromise the investigation and/or pose a risk to the security, reputation or operations of the Service. The interesting hallmark of this case is that the Officer is himself the head of the Investigation Unit named as Ethical Standards Unit.

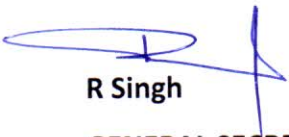
The Association wrote to the CEO, FRCS on 2nd November, 2018 raising the issue with him and citing the FRCS's Disciplinary Policy and Procedures under the FPSA – FRCS Collective Agreement and stating that this was not a normal disciplinary matter but a serious criminal case. He was given till 5th November to respond to our letter but has not done it so far. A copy of the Association's letter was sent to the Chairman of FRCS and the FICAC's prosecution officer for their information and presumably for their intervention.

In today's Fiji Times on page 15 under Business News, and a by-line from Monika Singh reports, stating that CEO will not be suspending its Director, Intelligence, Compliance & Investigations from his current duties.

To an utter shock of the Association and its members in the FRCS the CEO has the temerity and sheer brazenness to state in his media statement that he would reconsider his position pending receipt of further disclosures and or evidence from FICAC on the charges brought against the officer.

It is now clear that the CEO, FRCS is the judge and jury in this case filed by FICAC when he wants, from the another arm of the government to provide him with disclosures and evidence. This we believe is the duty of the Court and not the CEO who has no such status or legal knowledge to do any such thing.

The Association on behalf of its FRCS members calls on the Chairman of the FRCS Board to call for the CEO's immediate resignation or failing which he should be dismissed forthwith.



R Singh

GENERAL SECRETARY