



**Fiji Commerce
& Employers
Federation**

THE VOICE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

PRESS RELEASE: National fuel measures must include private sector

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation (FCEF) welcomes the Government's recent appointment of a Fuel Controller, a Fuel Advisory Committee, and a Cabinet Sub-Committee for Energy. This national effort to oversee energy related matters and guide a coordinated national response, comes at a critical time for the public, workers, and businesses.

"We support this initiative, and hope that there will be greater information sharing, consultations, and coordination with the private sector, to optimise positive outcomes at this time of heightened uncertainty", said Mr Edward Bernard, Chief Executive Officer - FCEF.

In the last few weeks, fuel security has become a priority business challenge across all industries, including for micro and small enterprises. Therefore, it is imperative to ensure that effective national measures are implemented that support:

- Reliability of fuel supply
- Stability of fuel prices and
- Certainty for businesses

The national measures that will be put in place by the Fuel Controller, the Fuel Advisory Committee, and the Cabinet Sub-Committee should comprehensively address sourcing fuel from the best markets, efficiently prioritising distribution based on needs, and planning for possible further escalation of both fuel supply and fuel prices.

It is also critical to acknowledge that we are still within our cyclone season. Therefore, the private sector wants to see decisions that provide confidence and stability.

Mr Bernard further added that FCEF will continue to engage with businesses to provide guidance on the continuity of industry and business operations, while at the same time clearly articulate their priorities to Government.

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