

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Market Announcement** 

24 April 2020

## PARADISE BEVERAGES LIMITED (PBF) COVID-19 UPDATE

At the first signs of the COVID-19 impact in early March, PBF implemented cross-functional business continuity and pandemic plans to ensure the health and safety of its people, to support its customers, and to maintain continuity of its operations.

With the approval of the Fijian Government, PBF has started producing 25,000 litres of hand sanitiser for exclusive distribution at no cost, to the people of Fiji. The first 1,000 litres has been donated to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services to cater for the front-line health care teams and support staff. Minister of Health and Medical Services, Dr. Ifereimi Waqanibete expressed his gratitude to Paradise Beverages for the donation.

"I commend Paradise Beverages for being an innovative responsible corporate citizen and stepping up to support the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and the Government of Fiji's response to COVID-19. The production of hand sanitisers by Paradise Beverages is a fine example of how Fijian companies can innovate to manufacture vital products when supply cannot readily meet demand. This donation of hand sanitisers will be used by our health care workers and support staff who are working tirelessly to ensure that all Fijians are safe during this time."

PBF is grateful for the Fijian Government's proactive approach to containing and controlling the spread of COVID-19 within Fiji. The global effects of the pandemic are, however, being felt locally. In addition to the almost total cessation of international tourism, the necessary curfews, lockdowns, and travel restrictions have had a significant impact on almost all customers. Fortunately, PBF has a resilient business with strong foundations which will enable it to withstand the immediate challenges presented by the pandemic.

PBF has followed the guidance of the World Health Organisation and the Fijian Government in implementing systems and processes to ensure the safety and welfare of its employees, customers and consumers being exposed to, or transmitting, COVID-19. These measures include strict observation of physical distancing requirements at our sites and in the market, expansion of hygiene provisions and the distribution of additional PPE across sites and in-market, and the adoption of alternative ways of working (including split shifts, zoning, and work from home arrangements).

Production at the Rum Co. Distillery is continuing in order to fulfil export orders and to continue supply of locally produced hand sanitiser. Due the drop in sales, and the inventory levels at the Fiji Brewery, production has been temporarily suspended. It is hoped production will recommence in early May. The Brewery, along with the Lautoka Warehouse, remains open for sales and customer pickups (subject to strict health measures). The Vailima Brewery in Samoa continues to operate, albeit on reduced shifts.

PBF is working closely with the Unions to minimise the impact of shift pattern adjustments on employees and has taken heart at the spirit of cooperation and flexibility shown by all parties. To support employees, PBF is coordinating applications for Fiji National Provident Fund assistance.

PBF is currently reviewing options which may be available for the company's Annual General Meeting of Shareholders, and will keep the market updated on these plans.

Like all businesses, PBF is preparing for a different set of economic conditions in the coming financial year and is committed to taking appropriate actions now to ensure the business is equipped to respond.

Yours faithfully,

Betty Ivanoff
Chairman

Vinish Singh Company Secretary