



R B Patel Group Limited

4 June 2021

MARKET ANNOUNCEMENT COVID-19 IMPACT

The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to cause major social and economic disruptions throughout the world including Fiji. The considerable uncertainty around the possible duration and the resulting depth of impact that may come from the disruption caused due to the fluidity of the situation.

RBG Chairman, Mr Yogesh Karan, today said that the safety of our customers, employees and the communities are our number one priority while announcing the impact of COVID-19 on the company's operations.

"We remain focused on supporting the community at this time and our online shopping is available for those who find this safer and more convenient. This can be accessed from our website www.rbpatel.com.fj."

"We would like to once again thank our customers, government agencies and suppliers for their support at this uniquely challenging time. The ability to work together has ensured that our communities have had an uninterrupted supply of basic food items at all times"

"We also want to thank all our dedicated employees who have been working tirelessly to support customers and replenish stores swiftly. Our employees responded incredibly well in a crisis and we are very proud of how they have worked as a great team to serve all our valued customers. The reduced working hours have also put pressure on working efficiently"

"As we continue to focus on employee and customer safety, social distancing measures, wearing of masks and downloading the careFiji app have been implemented in all stores nationwide. This also includes informative notices requesting customers to comply to social distancing in stores together with additional cleaning and hygiene measures."

"The measures we've introduced in line with Ministry of Health guidelines have been well received by our employees and customers alike, and we're grateful for the community support for this incredibly important public health effort."

"Given the significantly increased uncertainties associated with the second wave of infections forecasts of sales performance, changes to customer shopping patterns including impulse stocking and the closure of non-essential businesses, we remain unable to accurately forecast the net impact of COVID-19 on the financial year 2021 results.

At this stage, given the increased uncertainties, we remain confident that we will be close to last year's results. Further updates on the impact of COVID-19 on the company's performance will be provided as appropriate.

We have started to see logistics issues coming to the fore with shipping delays, increasing freight costs and unavailability of certain products on a timely basis. We expect such issues to remain for the foreseeable future and may become more challenging.

“RBG has a strong balance sheet, with access to liquidity and funding. It is well supported by its lenders, with significant headroom in available facilities and lending covenants. RBG’s cash flows are being managed efficiently, and payments to the employees and suppliers are being made on time. As this period of uncertainty continues, both discretionary spend and capital expenditure will be reviewed with adjustments appropriated as required.”

“RBG has two construction projects that are currently in progress, in Nadi and Lami, funded by ANZ Banking Group Ltd. Work on these will continue to completion.”

“As major landlords we have continued to receive requests from our tenants for relief with rent payments. These are being reviewed on a case-by-case basis and our rent revenues have already been impacted.”

“The Board has not made any decisions on dividends. This will be announced when considered by the Board.”

Chairman, Yogesh Karan, also added: “The Board is confident that RBG remains in a strong financial position and the team is doing everything possible in these very challenging circumstances. On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the staff and management for their continued efforts and to our customers for their support.”


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Director


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Company Secretary

For more information, please contact Company Secretary, Deepak Rathod on Ph. 3391899.