



FIJI COMMERCE COMMISSION

HEAD OFFICE & CENTRAL EASTERN DIVISION

Level 1 Garden City Complex, Raiwai,
Suva.
P O Box 5031, Raiwaqa, Suva.
Phone: (679) 337 2178
Fax: (679) 337 2389
Email: helpdesk@commcomm.gov.fj
Web site: www.commcomm.gov.fj

WESTERN DIVISION

1st Floor, Shah Investment Building
Office 2, 5 Tukani Street
P O Box 594, Lautoka
Telephone/Fax: (679) 666 1853

NORTHERN DIVISION

Lot 3, Silas Ramzaan Street,
P O Box 262, Labasa
Telephone/Fax: (679) 881 1155

5th December, 2013

Mr. Hassan Qaqaya

Head of the Competition and Consumer Policies Branch
Division of International Trade in Goods, Services and Commodities
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Dear Mr. Qaqaya

Re: World Competition Day 2013

Greetings from Fiji Commerce Commission!

Fiji Commerce Commission ("FCC") wishes to express its sincere appreciation and profound gratitude to UNCTAD for the initiative and tireless effort in the area of competition law and consumer protection. We also support the initiative by UNCTAD aimed at marking 5th December, 2013 as the World Competition Day. The declaration of such an important day not only assists in raising the profile of the competition law and consumer protection legislations and authorities, but is essential to spread out the messages on the essence of competition law and policies in promotion of fair trade and promoting industry, trade and commerce while at the same time ensuring the fundamentals rights of the consumers are protected and promoted.

This year's theme "**Adverse effects of Cartels on the Poor**" is opportune and a timely one. The theme will surely spread the message on the need to curb cartelization and other forms of restrictive trade practices and abuse of dominance with the aim to ensure the prices of goods and services are kept at affordable levels with an overall objective of reducing inflation and improving the welfare of the consumers. Curbing cartelization surely assists in curbing artificially inflated prices, thus enhancing accessibility and affordability and assisting in fighting the global issue of poverty. Fighting cartelization to reduce poverty also jells in well with the Millennium Development Goals of reducing poverty and improving the social welfare.

Competition policy and law provide a necessary framework that supports and complements measures aimed at alleviating poverty. Competition policy, where it exists, hovers over all economic activity

within a country, promotes rivalry among businesses, and keeps a check on rent-seeking and anticompetitive practices, which could stall any poverty-alleviation programmes.

Poverty is one of the biggest challenges today for the developing countries including Fiji. The causes of poverty are diverse and issues are continuously debated and discussed nationally and internationally. It is internationally understood that competition fosters productivity. The objective to enhance productivity forces the market players to innovate and optimize efficiency, leading to supply of better quality and competitively priced products, which ultimately benefit the poor.

The Fiji Commerce commission strongly supports the initiative to mark the World Competition Day and will continue to support the annual event. We also support and call the competition authorities for greater coordination to collaboration with the aim to fight unfair and restrictive trade practices to enhance the welfare of all the people.

We wish all the competition authorities best of luck for the World Competition day 2013

Yours sincerely,



Bobby Maharaj

Chief Executive Officer

Fiji Commerce Commission

