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Prime Minister of Fiji and Minister for iTaukei Affairs and Sugar Industry

SPEECH AT THE UNVEILING OF THE PARADIES BEVERAGES NEW BREW HOUSE

Walu Bay
SUVA

Thurs. 23rd April, 2015
1400 Hours

Paradise Beverages (Fiji) Ltd today unveiled the new FJD 18 million brewhouse at its Suva Brewery.

The Brewhouse is part of owner Coca-Cola Amatil's three-year, FJD 44 million capital investment program and was officially opened today by Fiji Prime Minister Josaia Voreqe (Frank) Bainimarama and CCA Group Managing Director Alison Watkins.

CCA purchased the business from SABMiller in 2012, following the latter's takeover of Australia's Foster's Group Ltd (FGL), parent company of Foster's Group Pacific Ltd. It was renamed Paradise Beverages (Fiji) Ltd as part of CCA's alcohol beverages strategy for the Pacific region and Australia.

Ms Watkins said, "Today is a significant milestone marking our commitment to the Pacific region.

"In December 2012 after we purchased the Paradise Beverages business, we announced a three-year program to invest FJD 44 million to modernise our facilities, improve the capability of our local teams and provide better working conditions for our staff.

"Roughly half the total investment has been spent here at the Suva Brewery. The new Brewhouse is fully automated with the latest state of art technology, which allows us to optimise the quality and consistency of our beer.

“As a significant local employer, we place great importance on supporting the region as well as providing our customers with the highest quality beverages. I’m proud to say that from the start, we have worked with local tradespeople and supported Fijian businesses wherever possible.

“As well as creating a number of additional temporary jobs, the project has allowed us to invest in training and upskilling the local workforce. Through several experts brought in from Germany and Australia, we’ve been able to leave another lasting legacy hereby introducing new skills not previously present in the local workforce. A great example of that is hygienic welding, which was a skill that didn’t exist in Fiji, up until now.

“As well as the considerable positive impact on the local economy, there have been some great benefits for our local Paradise employees who have learned detailed

project management skills and process design disciplines which will be extremely valuable for future projects”

As our employees have seen the promised investment in this brewery materialise, and better working conditions result, their pride, passion and morale has been boosted even further. Importantly, we don't expect any redundancies, instead employees are being redeployed from brewing into packaging.

“Finally, the advanced new brewing facilities will effectively increase the shelf life of our beers, opening up opportunities to fully exploit the demand to export our beers. We're looking forward to sharing the pride and passion of Fiji with consumers from Australia and other parts of the world.”

Following its purchase of Paradise Beverages in 2012, CCA is now one of Fiji's biggest tax payers (contributing FJD 66.1 in 2014) and is among the region's largest employers,

with around 300 staff across Fiji and Samoa. One of four sites run by Paradise Beverages, the Suva Brewery employs 119 local people and produces brands including Fiji Bitter, Fiji Gold (Fiji's number one selling beer), Vonu Pure Lager and Fiji Premium, as well as a range of Ready To Drink (RTD) products including Bounty Rum and Cola, plus the Tribe range.

Other facilities include its Samoan Brewery (home of Vailima Beer, Samoa's biggest selling beer), its Lautoka Distillery which is home to the award-winning Bounty Rum range, and the Lautoka Distribution Warehouse. Of the FJD 44 million, three-year capital investment in the Fiji economy, roughly half being spent on the Suva Brewery, with the other half allocated to the distillery to double production of Bounty Rum.

A review of the all four facilities in 2012 identified a number of requirements for significant investment. Built as part of the original brewery 58 years ago, the

redevelopment of the Suva Brewery Brewhouse is part of an extensive modernisation process. In November 2014, CCA announced the closure of its Paradise Beverages' Lautoka Brewery and its conversion into a distribution warehouse, with production transferred to Suva. The two facilities currently employ 192 staff and this number is not expected to change, despite the implementation of the new automated system, with employees instead redeployed from brewing into packaging.

Planning for Project Bula Vou (Fijian for New Life) commenced back in April 2013, with work starting in mid-2014. The first brew was completed earlier this month and a commissioning phase will see full production transferred to the new brew house over the next two months. The project is expected to be completed on schedule in August 2015.

The project will see the replacement of the entire brewing facilities within the Suva Brewery. The new installation has

been completely entirely in parallel with the old equipment and within the current site footprint, meaning production has been unaffected throughout. The new facilities will effectively set the brewery up for a doubling of capacity, and allow for future cost effective investment in tanks to meet forecast growth in demand.

The brewery currently produces around two million cases of beer each year for local consumption, with capability for 500,000 cases for export. An extra two million cases for export is possible with the cost-efficient addition of extra tanks.