

Free Bird Institute Limited

Fiji Islands

8 September 2020

MARKET ANNOUNCEMENT

- Approval for the arrival international students

FBL has received a conditional approval on the 25th of August 2020 from the COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Taskforce (CRMT) to allow international students of the institute from Japan to enter Fiji under the *Specific Request under Significant Economic Value* category of the *Fijian COVID Safe Economic Recovery Framework*. The conditions set out in this approval letter that FBL must adhere to, will ensure that these international students are brought in a COVID-safe manner and ensuring that the safety and well-being of all Fijians are protected.

The Executives and Management are currently carrying out its internal COVID-safe plans and measures to ensure that all the conditions are met and approved by the relevant authorities before bringing in any international student.

Chief Operating Officer, Mereseini Baleilevuka said, “We will be liaising with all the relevant stakeholders internal and external to our organisation to ensure that all parties are on the same page in carrying out this first phase of our business recovery plan and making sure that this is done in the safest way possible. We envisage to train all our staff that will be involved in this process on the necessary health measures that will be put in place to ensure the safety of everyone including those in our community.”

She added, “Students will also undergo 3 COVID-19 tests, the first test needs to be done pre-departure, second upon arrival and third at the end of the quarantine period. We will also work with our teams in Japan to ensure that all students are made aware of all these requirements prior to departure and what is expected of them during the quarantine period.”

The Executive Management hopes that this approval will give FBL the boost that it needs to start getting back on track. This will allow some of our employees who have been stood down to return to work and also increase the hours of those that continue to work on reduced hours. This opportunity will also provide some form of financial relief to our homestay families that will be housing these students during their stay in Fiji. Over the past 4 years, FBL has paid out over \$5.1 million to over 200 families in Nadi and Lautoka as homestay fees and we hope that we can continue this.

We will release more information as and when details are being finalised.



Waisale Iowane
Executive Director



Roqiqi Korodrau
Company Secretary

