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Consumer Council of Fiji



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PRESS RELEASE

Consumer Council of Fiji Stresses Immediate Action for Safe and Responsible Bus Services

The Consumer Council of Fiji (CCoF) is deeply concerned and alarmed by reports received from concerned consumers regarding the safety and well-being of passengers traveling on buses. Many consumers have reported that numerous buses are being driven at extremely high speeds, putting passengers' lives at risk and infringing upon their fundamental right to safety.

A recent complaint registered at the Council has revealed that certain drivers are speeding and racing with each other. Complaints such as these indicate that certain bus drivers appear to have a blatant disregard for the safety of their passengers and other road users, engaging in reckless and dangerous driving practices that create a state of fear and anxiety among those on board. This not only endangers the lives of passengers but also represents a clear violation of their right to a safe and secure journey.

Furthermore, consumers have reported that a significant number of buses are playing loud music that not only disturbs the peace but also has the potential to cause accidents and distract drivers. The cacophonous environment inside these buses not only affects the comfort and peace of passengers but also poses a grave safety risk by diverting the attention of drivers from the road.

The recent fatal bus accidents in the country serve as stark reminders that bus companies and drivers must prioritize passenger safety and adhere to responsible driving practices without exception. These accidents are tragic and unfortunate, underscoring the need for immediate corrective actions to prevent further loss of life.

The Consumer Council of Fiji is deeply committed to ensuring that consumers' rights and safety are upheld. The Council will actively collaborate with the Land Transport Authority (LTA) to address these pressing issues and work towards implementing stringent measures to hold bus companies and drivers accountable.

CCoF CEO, Seema Shandil, emphasized the urgency of the situation, stating, "The safety of consumers on our roads should be of paramount importance. Reports of reckless driving and the disturbing practice of playing loud music on buses are matters that require immediate attention. These actions infringe on the fundamental right to safety of consumers and create a perilous environment that is unacceptable."

The Consumer Council of Fiji urges the relevant authorities, bus companies, and drivers to take immediate corrective measures to ensure the safety and well-being of passengers on our roads. Consumers are encouraged to report any incidents of reckless driving, loud music, or other safety concerns to the CCoF for swift action.



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To report safety violations or concerns, please contact our helpline at 155 or email complaints@consumersfiji.org

Ms Seema Shandil

Chief Executive Officer