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Consumers Alerted to Avoid Dealing with Mr. Raman Prasad

The Consumer Council of Fiji (CCoF) is urging consumers to avoid dealing with Mr. Raman Prasad, who claims to be the owner of a property situated at 22 Panapasa Road. Mr. Prasad has taken bond payments from multiple consumers and is now evading calls and follow-ups.

The Council currently has three cases registered against Mr. Prasad, with a total monetary value of \$2400. Despite numerous attempts to contact him, including a trader visit to his residence, Mr. Prasad remains unresponsive. His phone is constantly diverted, and efforts to communicate with him have proved futile. The Council is actively liaising with Fiji Police Force to ensure other consumers do not experience the same fate.

The details of the complaints are alarming:

- A complainant made an \$800 deposit for the said flat and was supposed to move in May. However, multiple calls to Mr. Prasad about the move-in date have gone unanswered.
- Another complainant made a \$700 deposit in December 2023 and is still waiting for the flat. Despite multiple calls requesting a bond refund, Mr. Prasad has refunded only \$200 and has since blocked the complainant's contact number.
- A third complainant made a \$900 bond payment, and Mr. Prasad has been unresponsive since the payment was made.

CCoF Chief Executive Officer Ms. Seema Shandil expressed deep concern over the situation and urged consumers to exercise caution when making bond payments or other large transactions.

"We are committed to protecting consumer rights and will pursue all avenues to try and provide some resolution to consumers. It is imperative that consumers remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the authorities immediately," said Ms. Shandil.

The Council continues to work closely with law enforcement to resolve these cases and will provide updates as new information becomes available.

For any consumer-related issues or to lodge a complaint, Fijians can call the toll-free number 155 or email <u>complaints@consumersfiji.org</u>.

Head Office Level 5 Vanua House Victoria Parade GPO, Suva Phone: 3300792/3310183 CEO: 3305864 Fax: 3300115 Email: complaints@consumersfiji.org Lautoka/West Suite 4 Popular Building Vidilo Street P.O. Box 5396, Lautoka Phone: 6664987 Email: <u>consumerltk@connect.com.fj</u>

Labasa/North Shop 2, Mudaliar Investment Sangam Avenue Street P.O. Box 64, Labasa Phone: 8812559 Email: colbs@connect.com.fj





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