



INDEPENDENT CONSUMER AND  
COMPETITION COMMISSION

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**ICCC to prosecute non-compliant shops in New Ireland**

The Independent Consumer and Competition Commission (ICCC) will prosecute eleven shops in New Ireland Province for increasing their prices above 10 percent (10%) without prior approval.

During ICCC's nationwide price measure exercise carried out in the province recently, it was recorded that eleven shops in Kavieng and Namatanai districts were found to have increased prices of certain goods listed in Schedule 1 of the Price Measure No.4 above 10% without seeking prior approval from the ICCC.

Out of 32 shops inspected, 11 shops were issued with an Infringement Notice (IN) for failing to comply with the Price Control Measure No. 4

These shops have been given 14-days if they choose to appeal the IN that was issued by the ICCC. In the appeal these shops are to justify their reasons for increasing the prices of the certain goods sold or pay a K10,000.00 fine for non-compliance. Failing this, they will be taken to court by the ICCC.

ICCC Commissioner and CEO Mr. Paulus Ain who was on the ground welcomed and acknowledged concerns by shop owners about price increases at the suppliers and wholesalers end however, cautioned them to always apply to the ICCC before increasing their prices of the scheduled goods.

Mr. Ain noted the retail prices for flour, cooking oil, laundry soap and sugar remained steady (reasonably flat) when the base price was collected last year during Phase 1. However, the prices for rice have been increasing gradually and it is a concern.

Mr. Ain is warning shop owners who pretend to comply with the Price Order during the price inspection exercise that this is an ongoing exercise and if they are caught, they will be penalised.

"Let this be a warning to all the shop owners that ICCC will not hesitate to penalise any shop that increases its prices of the certain goods per Schedule 1 without applying to the ICCC prior to increasing the prices" Mr. Ain warned.

He added that those shops in other centers yet to be visited by the ICCC must seek approval for any price increase now to avoid being penalised.

He further applauded the other shop owners for being compliant and keeping their prices at a reasonable level despite the current inflationary pressure experienced in the country.

**Summary of INs issued in New Ireland Province**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of INs issued</b>
Kavieng town	8
Lakurumau (Poliamba)	1
Namatanai	2

Authorised by:



**MR. PAULUS AIN**

*Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer*