

PRESS RELEASE

Comprehending Copyright

The word copyright is a term used to describe the rights given to the creators of a broad range of literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works.

The Copyright Tribunal is established under the Copyright Act. The Tribunal's function is to decide, where the parties cannot agree between themselves on the terms and conditions of licenses offered by, or licensing schemes operated by, collecting licensing bodies in the copyrights and related rights areas. This is to ensure that the monopoly rights of the owners and their agents are not abused.

The Tribunal's jurisdiction covers anyone who alleges that he or she has been unreasonably refused a licence by a collective society or considers the terms of an offered license to be unreasonable.

The current membership of the Tribunal has Mr Ajmal Khan as the Chairperson, and Ms Marie Chan and Ms Marieta Rigamoto as members.

There is also a Copyright Awareness Committee. The Solicitor-General, Mr Christopher Pryde is the Chairman of the Copyright Awareness Committee. The committee members are representatives from:

1. USP
2. Fiji Audio Visual Commission (FAVC)
3. Fiji Performing Right Association (FPRA) – owns and administers Performing Rights in musical works and associated lyrics on behalf of its members who are composers, authors and publishers of music also protects rights of affiliated societies around the world
4. Fiji Audio Visual Industry Association (FAVIA)- represent audio visual library owners
5. Fiji Island Revenue & Customs Authority (FIRCA) – Customs Dept.- Border Protection enforcement
6. Fiji Island Trade & Investment Board (FTIB)
7. Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Trade & Communication
8. Office of the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP)
9. Fiji Police Force
10. Ministry of Justice – administers Trademark, Patents & Industrial Design
11. AG's Chambers Staff

In light of the very few applications brought before the Copyright Tribunal, the Copyright Awareness Committee was formed to undertake the task of creating awareness of its roles and functions this year.

A public seminar has also been organized by the Copyright Awareness Committee to celebrate this year's World Intellectual Property Day celebrations on 26.4.08. The function will be held at the *Alliance Francaise* between 6-8pm on Thursday, 24.04.08 with a panel of 3 speakers. Works of art from local artists will be displayed and local

poets will recite from some of their works. The public will be given an opportunity to ask questions and a discussion on issues raised will be conducted.

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