



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MSAF urges Public to be safe this festive season**

The Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) will closely monitor passenger ships this festive season to ensure there is no overloading or any other breaches of the Maritime Legislations which endanger passengers and crew.

“Overloading of passenger ships is an offence and is unsafe, and Ship owners/Operators/Masters who engage in this practice are liable to face criminal charges and administrative action in accordance with the Maritime Transport Decree, 2013. All ships must also ensure they have all the required Life Saving Equipment such as life jackets and life rafts and passengers and crew are made aware on how to access them during emergencies,” said MSAF Chief Executive Officer, John Tunidau.

“Furthermore non-compliance with the Maritime Legislation could result in criminal prosecution, suspension or cancellation of master’s Certification of Competency, detention of the ship and up to \$100,000 in fines,” Mr Tunidau said.

Members of the public who are travelling to outer islands are also urged to heed safety rules and precautionary measures when travelling on inter-island ships.

For more information or to report overloading call: 9906331, or email: [Info@msaf.com.fj](mailto:Info@msaf.com.fj)

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