

MEDIA RELEASE

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FSC EVALUATING UNIQUE INVESTMENT PROPOSAL FOR PENANG MILL SITE

A unique investment proposal to utilise the Penang Mill Site is being evaluated by FSC to determine value added opportunities for the Sugar Industry in Fiji.

The proposal, which has the potential to utilise all of the sugar cane produced in the Rakiraki area, is focused on the extraction of high value products from sugar cane, leaving cane juice to be processed into specialty sugar. Integral to the process is the utilisation of internationally patented extraction technology to produce high value cane based products. Specialty sugar including natural raw cane sugar and jaggery could be produced on site from the cane juice left from the extraction process. These all command good price premiums from export markets.

Chief Executive Officer Graham Clark says, “a project of this nature has the potential to form a nucleus agro- processing hub in Rakiraki which would be of great benefit to our cane farmers, who could also supply export products of high quality to add to their family incomes”.

Value added production is a key way forward. Apart from additional employment opportunities, the benefits of good quality cane production cannot be underestimated and this is something that Rakiraki farmers are good at. The Penang mill site has very good potential in this regard.



Right: The Penang Mill site, after the ravaging effects of tropical cyclone Winton in 2016

FSC will undertake a feasibility study in the next few months. Currently, preparatory work such as the demolition of the old factory structure, severely damaged by tropical cyclone Winston, and the provision of utility supplies such as power and water to the site is underway in order to open such opportunities for evaluation.

The Penang Mill site was closed in May 2016 and all cane produced were diverted to Rarawai Mill with growers compensated in transportation costs. All permanent Penang Mill technical employees were re-deployed to Rarawai and Lautoka, whilst the field operations remained at the Penang site.

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