

# BILL NO. 5 OF 2020

## A BILL

### FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE STAMP DUTIES ACT 1920

ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji—

*Short title and commencement*

**1.**—(1) This Act may be cited as the Stamp Duties (COVID-19 Response) (Amendment) Act 2020.

(2) This Act comes into force on 1 April 2020.

*Schedule amended*

**2.** The Stamp Duties Act 1920 is amended in Part 2 of the Schedule after paragraph (30) by inserting the following new paragraph—

“(31) In the period commencing on and from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020—

- (a) any mortgage, except the transfer or assignment of a mortgage and, for the avoidance of doubt, where stamp duty payable on any other instrument is as per the like duty for a mortgage, the exemption in this subparagraph does not apply to such instrument; and
- (b) any air waybill for any goods, merchandise or effects to be exported from Fiji.”.

*Office of the Attorney-General  
Suvavou House  
Suva*

*March 2020*

## **STAMP DUTIES (COVID-19 RESPONSE) (AMENDMENT) BILL 2020**

### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Bill and is intended only to indicate its general effect)*

#### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

1.1 The Stamp Duties (COVID-19 Response) (Amendment) Bill 2020 (**‘Bill’**) seeks to amend the Stamp Duties Act 1920 (**‘Act’**).

#### **2.0 CLAUSES**

2.1 Clause 1 of the Bill provides for the short title and commencement. If passed by Parliament, the amending legislation will come into force on 1 April 2020.

2.2 Clause 2 of the Bill amends Part 2 of the Schedule to the Act to provide an exemption for stamp duty payable on mortgages and air waybills in the period commencing on and from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020.

#### **3.0 MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

3.1 The Act comes under the responsibility of the Minister responsible for finance.

**A. SAYED-KHAIYUM**  
Attorney-General