

Just Wages for Supermarket Workers

In a bid to make the Christmas season more tolerable and affordable for exhausted supermarket workers, the Young Labour wing of the Fiji Trades Union Congress visited seven supermarkets in the Suva division this morning to advocate for payment of proper and due wages.

“The reason for the visits is that we have been getting complaints from supermarket workers about a range of issues such as non-issuance of payment slips, non-payment of overtime and day-offs instead of wages,” said Pearllice Antonio, Assistant General-Secretary of the Young Labour Fiji.

Ms Antonio said the workers were intimidated by management and did not lodge official complaints for fear of job losses.

“But the general response from the management is that the workers were being looked after.”

The nine-member team distributed the FTUC’s latest press release titled “Exploitation of Workers in Retail Sector” to management representatives and workers themselves.

“This is the festive season and workers are being overloaded with work and we would like to see them paid just wages for their labour.”

The next step for the group is a letter to the Ministry of Labour to reveal their findings and request their attendance to the plight of these supermarket workers.

“We’re also planning to host workshops for these supermarket workers where we can get representatives from each supermarket and teach them about their rights in the workplace,” Ms Antonio said.

Young Labour Fiji has more than 30 members and was formed under the umbrella of the FTUC early this year.

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