

MEDIA RELEASE

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Lautoka Mill successfully completes the testing of its 12-Megawatt Turbine

One of the key strategic objectives for FSC, is for all three mills to operate a co-generation power plant for power exports. Co-generation plants have a dual purpose. Firstly, to supply the power needs for the sugar factory. Secondly for any excess power to be sold to the national grid, so as to be a sustainable revenue generating option for FSC in the long-run.

For the Lautoka Mill, the 12-Megawatt Turbine is for power co-generation. Included as part of its capital projects this year, the mill's 12-Megawatt Turbine got a major overhaul, hence not only will it be able to power the factory, but it has the potential to export excess power to the grid.

The mill's turbine testing process commenced three weeks ago and to minimize downtime, the mill synchronized this testing exercise with its maintenance day, on Sunday 25th August.



Above: FSC's largest mill, Lautoka Mill

A result of the testing involved the blowing out of the turbine's steam lines, emitting loud noise in the process. FSC took extensive steps to advise Lautoka residents of the noise associated with these tests.

The final set of testing took place over the last 48 hours. The mill halted crushing to facilitate the completion of this testing. It was discovered in the process of testing, that two boiler tubes were leaking and this slowed the testing process, as engineers and technical teams had to divert their attention to repair the tubes before testing could recommence.

Lorry drivers waiting at the mill have been given meals and were given the option to divert their cane to Rarawai Mill, which is crushing as normal. However, many have opted to wait. The mill is expected to resume crushing later this evening.

FSC thanks, cane farmers, the cane lorry drivers and transport contracting companies for their patience during this time.

ENDS

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