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# PRESS RELEASE

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## SPX ANNOUNCES RUNNERS UP RECIPIENTS FOR 2019 NATIONAL POSTER COMPETITION

The South Pacific Stock Exchange (SPX or Exchange) today announced the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up award recipients in the three categories of the 2019 National Poster Competition.

The 2019 National Poster Competition is a financial literacy initiative centred around savings and investment options through the stock market and was launched in June this year with assistance from the Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts targeting students from Year 5 up to Year 13. The main objective of this initiative has been to assist and inspire school students to rise to the financial skills challenge and build their confidence and knowledge about savings and investments about the stock market from an early age. In addition to the secondary school students, this year the financial literacy initiative was extended amongst the upper primary school students with a view to assess their understanding of overall money matters and examine their creativity and artistic skills while helping them to enhance their knowledge about the share market.

The National Poster Competition was divided into three categories; category 1 focused on primary school students covering Year 5 to Year 8; category 2 focused on students in lower secondary school covering Year 9 and Year 10 while category 3 focused on upper secondary school students covering Year 11 to Year 13. Each category had its own theme with an aim to get students to research about growing and managing money using the stock market, investment options through listed entities and structure of Fiji's capital markets including the basic difference between money and capital market.

Overall, 562 posters were submitted amongst which 374 entries were received solely from primary school students. In terms of participating schools, 69 schools participated in this financial literacy initiative with the highest number of schools being from the Western division. As a delightful development, majority of the participating students were females accounting for 58% of the number of entries.

To maintain transparency and independence of SPX in identifying the various category winners, the Exchange appointed an independent panel of Judges who were represented by a mixture of personnel from stockbroking industry, listed entities, academia and those having broader capital market knowledge. All the submissions underwent a rigorous assessment process over various rounds of consideration with the Judges focusing on relevance of posters submitted and adherence to the given themes, overall impression through design, suitable texts and graphics, creativity in use of illustrations, evidence of research work and final delivery of the posters in terms of layout materials used.

SPX Chief Executive Officer, Ms Krishika Narayan said that "through such financial literacy initiatives targeting students, the Exchange is able to extend its reach to a wider spectrum of our community since parents and teachers also get involved while helping their children and students in undertaking research to

compile their entries. Overall SPX is thrilled with the level of interest generated from the National Poster Competition not only from students but the display of an equal level of interest and enthusiasm from parents and teachers while assisting the students to compile and submit the best posters. This year, in addition to the secondary school students, the concept was extended to the primary school students and we intend to continue with such investor awareness programmes in future so that we can continue with our drive to build a more financial literate society in Fiji.”

Ms Narayan further acknowledged the support from the Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts in providing consent and required assistance to ensure the success of this investor awareness initiative and mentioned that SPX will continue to build similar partnerships with the Ministry of Education, Heritage & Arts in bringing future financial literacy initiatives for the benefit of our future generation.

Ms Narayan concluded by extending SPX’s gratitude to the independent panel of Judges for independently assessing the entries submitted and identifying the various winners in the three categories.

The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Runner Up Award Recipients of the 2019 National Poster Competition are as follows:

<b>2019 SPX NATIONAL POSTER COMPETITION</b> <i>(Runners Up ONLY)</i>		
<b>CATEGORY 1</b> <b>(Year 5 – Year 8)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Runner Up	Melvin Aveesh Gounder (Bhawani Dayal Memorial Primary School)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner Up	Akansha Lodi Prakash (Ahmadiyya Muslim Primary School)
<b>CATEGORY 2</b> <b>(Year 9 &amp; Year 10)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Runner Up	Niral Nivedita Prasad (Levuka Public Secondary School)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner Up	Leanne Zhong (Yat Sen Secondary School)
<b>CATEGORY 3</b> <b>(Year 11 –Year 13)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Runner Up	Levi Gaunavinaka (Nakasi High School)
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Runner Up	Nilufa Begum Khan (Vashist Muni College)

When asked about the quality of posters received, the Chairperson of the 2019 National Poster Competition Judging Panel, Mr Poasa Werekoro said that “we received a large number of poster entries and many of them had creative content all trying to maintain their relevance to the given themes. The Judges were particularly impressed with entries from the primary schools where majority posters were received from and were amazed with the level of creativity and the inspiring illustrations compiled by the students portraying the theme of savings, investment and overall money matters showing their understanding of the subject matter. From the Judges point of view, we were looking for posters that stood out through use of relevant layout and design and its links to the given themes, use of innovative illustrations, effective communication of research work and the overall impression generated through the delivery of the finalised posters.”

The Exchange also acknowledged the overwhelming support of its listed entities for providing sponsorship in both cash and in kind which has assisted the SPX to allocate an attractive mix of prizes for the winners. A

special reference is being noted for Amalgamated Telecom Holdings Ltd (ATH), BSP Convertible Notes Ltd (BCN), Free Bird Institute Ltd (FBL), FijiCare Insurance Limited (FIL), FMF Foods Ltd (FMF), Fiji Television Limited (FTV), Kontiki Finance Limited (KFL), Pleass Global Ltd (PBP), RB Patel Group Ltd (RBG), Toyota Tsusho (South Sea) Limited (TTS), VB Holdings Ltd (VBH) and Vision Investments Ltd (VIL) for the kind gesture in terms of sponsoring the prizes.

Finally, the SPX thanked all the students who submitted their posters as part of the 2019 National Poster Competition and congratulated the six Runner Up award recipients for the quality of their work which in the end deserved recognition. The Exchange also conveyed its appreciation to the parents and teachers for showing support and encouraging the students to be part of the 2019 National Poster Competition.

As for the overall winner in each category, the Exchange will announce their names and present them with their respective awards and credentials on the national platform at the 2019 SPX Annual Awards event scheduled for the evening of Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Should you require any further information on the issue, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Krishika Narayan  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**-ENDS-**

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