



PRESS RELEASE (No. 11 of 2014)

JOSEFA BILITAKI

On 26 September 2014 Josefa Bilitaki was arrested by Police for allegedly sending indecent and annoying text messages through his telephone to the Prime Minister. The Police sent the file to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to review the evidence and make a decision on whether any charges should be laid.

The DPP has concluded that there is insufficient evidence of any criminal wrongdoing by Mr Bilitaki and therefore there will be no further action.

On 7 October 2014, the Police received a formal complaint by Mr Bilitaki that he had been assaulted by some men he took to be military officers or Police and that he had been unlawfully detained by Police on 26 September 2014. The Police again sent the file to the DPP to review the evidence and make a decision on whether any charges should be laid. The DPP has reviewed all evidence, including that from the medical doctor who examined Mr Bilitaki when he was first admitted to hospital complaining he felt unwell.

The DPP has concluded that there is insufficient evidence to proceed to court on a charge of assault and therefore there will be no further action.

However, the DPP is concerned by the way in which Mr Bilitaki came to be arrested and held in custody for a trivial matter.

Mr Pryde said: “The procedure for arrest without warrant of suspected persons is clearly set out in the Criminal Procedure Decree. It is important that the Police are fully aware of these provisions and act accordingly. I intend raising the issue of arrest without warrant with the Police Commissioner.”

---END---

17 November 2014

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is an independent office established under section 117 of the 2013 Fijian Constitution. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is motivated by the principle that it is in the interests of justice that the guilty be brought to justice and the innocent are not wrongly convicted.