



PRESS RELEASE (No. 2 of 2015)

VILIKESA SOKO ASSAILANTS TO BE CHARGED

The Director of Public Prosecutions Mr Christopher Pryde (DPP) has decided to charge 8 police officers and 1 military officer in relation to the death of Vilikesa Soko which occurred whilst he was held in police custody in August 2014.

Manasa Talala, Seruvi Caqusau, Kelevi Sewatu, Penaia Drauna, Filise Vere, Viliame Vereivalu, Jona Davonu, Pita Matairavula and Senitiki Natakasavu are to be jointly charged with the Manslaughter of Vilikesa Soko and with Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm to Senijieli Boila.

The DPP has also decided to charge these same men with an alternative count of rape in regards to Vilikesa Soko.

In addition, Manasa Talala and Viliame Vereivalu are also to be charged with Perverting the Course of Justice by instructing other police officers to make false statements in regard to this investigation.

Mr Pryde said: "The Police are to be commended for conducting a professional and thorough investigation. This case reinforces the commitment of the State to bring to justice any person who thinks that their position places them above the due process of the law. As this matter is now before the courts there should be

no further public discussion or speculation in the media other than what is reported in the courts.”

---END---

11 February 2015

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.