



PRESS RELEASE (No. 1 of 2013)

SENTENCE OF 7 YEARS FOR CHILD RAPE WOEFULLY INADEQUATE

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde, has indicated that the State will appeal against the 7-year sentence handed down to Chen Wen Jian on Tuesday (15.1.13) by the High Court in Lautoka.

Mr Pryde said "It is important that a strong message is sent to men who rape women and children and a sentence of 7 years for child rape is woefully inadequate. The State will be appealing this manifestly lenient sentence."

A non-parole period was not set which means that Chen Wen Jian is eligible for release after two-thirds of his sentence has been served. He has been on remand since 2010 which means he is eligible for parole in 2 years.

Mr Pryde said that "in reality, Chen Wen Jian will serve little more than 4 years for the rape of a child when the maximum sentence for rape under the Crimes Decree is life imprisonment."

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17 January 2013

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.