



## PRESS RELEASE (No. 6 of 2015)

### **DPP Concerned about Rise in False Complaints**

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde, is concerned at the increase in the number of false or malicious complaints being laid with the Police and brought before the courts.

Mr Pryde said: “The Police take sexual assault complaints seriously and when people make false complaints for some ulterior motive the integrity of the criminal justice system is adversely affected. Not only are considerable resources wasted but innocent people’s lives are disrupted and great potential harm can result not only for the falsely accused person but for victims of crime in having their complaints taken seriously.”

In the past two months the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has terminated court proceedings against 8 persons charged with rape when it was discovered that the complainants in each case had provided false information to the Police.

Mr Pryde said: “The State takes these matters very seriously and any person giving false or deliberately misleading information to the Police or who attempts to interfere in a prosecution will be charged with an offence.”

Currently, 7 persons are being prosecuted in the courts for a range of offences including giving false information to a public servant and attempting to pervert

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the course of justice.

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16 June 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.*