



## PRESS RELEASE (No. 12 of 2015)

### **IOWANE BENEDITO ASSAILANTS TO BE CHARGED**

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde, has decided to charge 3 police officers and 2 members of the military in relation to an alleged assault on Iowane Benedito which occurred in November 2012.

Sanita Laqenasici, (Police Officer), Jona Davonu, (Police Officer), Filimone Catimaibulu, (Soldier), Pita Matairavula, (Military Officer), and Semesi Naduka, (Police Officer) are each to be charged with unlawfully and indecently assaulting Iowane Benedito on 28 November 2012.

Mr Pryde said: “Four men are currently in Police custody and will be produced in the Magistrates’ Court in Suva tomorrow (22.10.15). A fifth suspect, Pita Matairavula, whose whereabouts are unknown, will be produced in court once he has been located.”

Mr Pryde also said, “The Police are to be commended for completing a difficult investigation. This case reinforces the continuing 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.”

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21 October 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.*