



PRESS RELEASE (No. 14 of 2015)

DPP WITHDRAWS CHARGE AGAINST JONE MANASA

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde, has directed that charges against Jone Manasa are withdrawn after receiving evidence that he had been assaulted by Police in custody.

Jone Manasa was initially charged with one count of robbery with violence but at a voir dire hearing in Lautoka in 2013 the court ruled that the admissions made by Jone Manasa were inadmissible on the basis they were made involuntarily.

Mr Manasa's matter is being called for mention on 30 November 2015 for a decision on whether the State will continue with the matter.

Mr Pryde said, "The only evidence against Jone Manasa is the confession he made whilst in Police custody which has been ruled inadmissible by the court. There being no other admissible evidence upon which to convict Jone Manasa the charge against him will be withdrawn. The allegations against the police officers are very serious. The file will now be returned to the Police recommending that an investigation is commenced into the allegations raised by Mr Manasa."

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26 November 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.
