



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

Court sets new Voir Dire date in alleged Ra Christian State Matter

Date: 1 February 2016

Name of Matter: State -v- Ratu Epeli Niudamu & Others

Name of Accused: 1. Ratu Epeli Niudamu

2. Sailasa Wairoaroa Malani
3. Sereima Adidave Rokodi
4. Nanise Kasami Nagusuca
5. Waisea Duailima
6. Isikeli Waisega Kabakoro
7. Laisiasa Mocevakaca
8. Emosi Toga
9. Waisake Racaca
10. Samuela Ligabalavu
11. Mikaele Gonerara
12. Josefa Natau
13. Sulueti Lotu Waqalala
14. Ulaiyasi Rabua Tuivomo
15. Apolosi Qalilawa
16. Ilisapeci Natau

Charge: One count each of sedition contrary to section 65 (2) (a) and one count each of inciting communal antagonism contrary to section 67 (1) (a) of the Crimes Decree 2009.

Update

The matter was called at the Lautoka High Court today (01.02.16) before Justice Aruna Aluthge.

All accused persons were present in court.

The sixteen accused persons in this matter are charged with sedition and inciting communal antagonism in relation to the alleged Ra sovereign Christian state matter.

The matter was called for a Voir Dire hearing however the State informed the court that the sedition matter was scheduled from 1st to 2nd February 2016 and the court had already set another two week murder trial.

The court was informed that the Murder trial was ready to proceed today (01.02.16) and as such the Voir Dire hearing should be rescheduled to a later date.

The court noted this and rescheduled the sedition matter to 15th to 19th February 2016.

Defence Counsel informed the court that he would also be challenging the interviews of his clients.

Bail has been extended to all accused persons.

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