



PRESS RELEASE (No. 3 of 2016)

DPP concerned over media reports in Deuba murder case

The DPP, Mr Christopher Pryde, is concerned at the reporting of events by some media organisations surrounding the arrest and charge of Josua Colanaudolu in the Deuba murder case currently before the courts.

The media are reminded that since the accused has now been charged, speculation on the accused's background or other issues concerning the case are sub judice and therefore media reports must be confined to what is actually said in court.

Any breach of the sub judice rule by members of the media or people commenting through social media is a contempt of court and could potentially result in a mistrial. Any person or media organisation breaching the sub judice rule may also be liable for prosecution.

It must be remembered that all accused persons have a constitutional right to a fair trial and that an accused person is innocent until the charge has been proved beyond reasonable doubt by the court.

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4 April 2016

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.
