



PRESS RELEASE (No. 5 of 2016)

ODPP HOSTS THE 2nd ANNUAL NATIONAL PROSECUTION COURSE

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) began its 2nd Annual National Prosecution Course at Lomanikoro House, Gladstone Road, Suva, this morning as part of its continuing education outreach for police and statutory prosecutors across Fiji.

Court of Appeal President His Lordship Mr Justice William Calanchini officially opened the National Prosecution Course this morning (27.06.16) at Lomanikoro House, Gladstone Road, Suva.

Justice Calanchini reminded Prosecutors that they have a special and unique responsibility.

“State Prosecutors no matter which branch of the State you appear for, have a unique and special responsibility and you are subject to general ethical obligations which do not apply to other counsel who appear in civil litigation or the counsel who appear on behalf of the defendant or accused in your matter,” Justice Calanchini said.

“It is not your duty to obtain a conviction by all means or at any cost; your duty is to fairly and impartially ensure that the assessors and the Judge or the Magistrate have all the relevant evidence and facts presented in an intelligent form.

“It is your obligation to inform the court as just how the prosecution is putting its case against the defendant or the accused- you do this objectively and impartially.”

The National Prosecution Course is an intensive course which will run from 27 June 2016 to 29 July 2016.

There are 24 prosecutors and law enforcement agents attending from the Fiji Police Force, Fiji National Provident Fund, National Occupational Health and Safety Services, Ministry of Fisheries, Water Authority of Fiji, Suva City Council and the Land Transport Authority.

Principal Legal Officers Seini K. Puamau and Yogesh Prasad are convening the course on behalf of the ODPP and they will be assisted by State Counsel from the ODPP throughout the six week course.

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27 June 2016

NB: Pictures attached below.



WPC 3786 Kini Salote garlanding Chief Guest His Lordship, the President of the Court of Appeal Justice William Calanchini and Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde at the opening of the 2nd Annual National Prosecution Course.



Police and Statutory Prosecutors at the ODPP 2nd Annual National Prosecution Course in Suva.



(Left to Right) DPO Southern Fisi Nasario, Course Convener Principal Legal Officer Seini Puamau, Chief Guest (in garland) His Lordship, the President of the Court of Appeal, Justice William Calanchini, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde and Acting Director of Summary Prosecutions, Sakeo Raikaci with other Police and Statutory Prosecutors.

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.