



PRESS RELEASE (No. 8 of 2016)

No appeal against Minister's acquittal

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde, has reviewed the Ruling by the Magistrate in the Praveen Kumar Bala case and has accepted the decision of the Magistrate to acquit Mr Bala.

Mr Bala was charged with one count of dangerous driving occasioning death. He was alleged to have driven a motor vehicle in a dangerous manner that caused the death of Puna Chand in Lautoka in 2013. In a written Ruling handed down on 22 July 2016 the Lautoka Magistrates' Court acquitted Mr Bala of the charge.

Mr Pryde said, "Although there are areas of disagreement with the Ruling by the Magistrate, we accept the central premise of the court that the State failed to prove the manner of driving was dangerous in the circumstances. The State has therefore decided that there will be no appeal against the decision to acquit."

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9 August 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.
