



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

Date: 6 October 2016

Name of Matter: State-v- Fiji Times Ltd & Ors

Name of Accused: Josaia Waqabaca, Anare Ravula, Fred Wesley, Hank Arts & Fiji Times Ltd

Charge: Inciting communal antagonism contrary to section 65 (2) (a) (i) and section 53 (1) of the Crimes Decree

Update:

This matter was called today (6.10.16) at the Suva Magistrates' Court before Magistrate Shageeth Somaratne.

It is alleged that Josaia Waqabaca, Anare Ravula, Fred Wesley, Hank Arts, and the Fiji Times Ltd made, or caused to be published, a statement in the iTaukei language in Nai Lalakai newspaper that is likely to incite dislike, hatred, or antagonism of the Muslim community.

All accused persons elected to be tried in the Suva High Court. The matter will be called for first mention in the Suva High Court on 14 October 2016.

The publisher of The Fiji Times, Mr Hank Arts, made a bail variation application in Court to allow him to travel overseas which was opposed by the State.

Magistrate Somaratne will deliver the bail variation ruling on 13 October 2016.

Bail has been extended to all accused persons.

-Ends-