



## PRESS RELEASE (No. 12 of 2016)

### **Police begin First Hour Procedure and Digital Recording Workshop**

The Fiji Police Force began their 3 day First Hour Procedure and Digital Recording workshop today (19.10.16) at Suvavou House.

This is a pilot project which will be implemented by the Police from the Totogo Police Station from November 2016 for six months with the intention of implementing the First Hour Procedure and the digital recording of caution interviews throughout the country at every Police Station thereafter.

The workshop aims to equip participants with the knowledge of newly developed standard operating procedures for the digital recording of evidence during caution interviews and providing every suspect with legal aid assistance within the first hour of arrest known as the First Hour Procedure.

The digital recording of the caution interview can be later used in Court and will provide greater transparency in the arrest and detention procedure.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde, said, "It is hoped that the use of the digital recording initiative will lessen the number of challenges in Court whilst the implementation of the First Hour Procedure will ensure all suspects are made fully aware of their Constitutional rights."

The Commissioner of Police, Brigadier General Sitiveni Qiliho and the Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr Anthony Gates, officially opened the workshop this morning.

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*NB: Photos attached*

19 October 2016



*The Commissioner of Police Brigadier General Sitiveni Qiliho delivering his speech at the opening of the First Hour Procedure and Digital Recording Workshop at Suvavou House. The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde and the Chief Justice, the Honourable Mr Anthony Gates, were also present at the opening this morning.*



*Participants at the opening of the Police First Hour Procedure and Digital Recording of evidence workshop at Suvavou House this morning.*

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*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.*

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