



## PRESS RELEASE (No. 4 of 2012)

### **RESPONSE BY DPP TO LAW SOCIETY OF ENGLAND AND WALES STATEMENT**

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions extended an invitation to Mr Nigel Dodds of Law Society Charity the author of the controversial “report” on Fiji’s judiciary, and not to the Law Society of England and Wales. The invitation was in response to a number of errors in the “report” which was criticised for being hastily assembled, inadequately researched and based to a large extent on hearsay, opinion, unsubstantiated evidence and a failure to rigorously examine the issues. Mr Dodds has not responded to this invitation or addressed any of the multitude of criticisms entailed in his “report”.

Mr Pryde said, “It is unfortunate that the Law Society resolved to uncritically accept Mr Dodds “report” without verifying the methodology used. This means they cannot claim to be open minded about the situation in Fiji. In any event, we have other more important issues to deal with in Fiji in the run up to elections in 2014 than to be organizing yet another visit for “prominent international organisations” such as the Law Society. These issues include the reform of out-dated laws and the building and strengthening of institutions of

accountability such as the judiciary in the face of travel bans and other sanctions by Australia and New Zealand.

“Mr Dodds had an opportunity when he visited Fiji to request meetings with the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, the Permanent Secretary for Justice and other officers of state. He chose not to do so. In the meantime, we look forward to receiving Mr Dodds’ response to the many correspondences critical of his “report” and look forward to his return visit to Fiji.”

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9 July 2012

*The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is an independent office established under section 20 of the State Services Decree 2010. 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.*