



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

Custodial sentences for all accused in Soko matter

Eight Police officers and a military officer convicted of rape, sexual assault and perverting the course of justice have been given custodial sentences by the Lautoka High Court this afternoon (22.11.16).

Manasa Talala, Seruvi Caqusau, Kelevi Sewatu, Penaia Drauna, Filise Vere, Viliame Vereivalu, Jona Davonu, Pita Matairavula and Senitiki Natakasavu were each charged with the rape and sexual assault of Vilikesa Soko and Senijeli Boila. Mr Soko succumbed to his injuries and later died whilst in custody.

In addition, Manasa Talala and Viliame Vereivalu were also charged with defeating the course of justice by instructing other police officers to make false statements.

Justice Aruna Aluthge in his judgment delivered last week found all accused persons guilty of all charges and convicted them accordingly.

Manasa Talala and Seruvi Caqusau have been sentenced to 8 years imprisonment with a non-parole period of 5 years, Kelevi Sewatu, Penaia Drauna and Senitiki Natakasavu were sentenced to 7 years imprisonment with a non-parole period of 4 years while Filise Vere, Viliame Vereivalu, Jona Davonu and Pita Matairavula have been sentenced to 9 years imprisonment with a non-parole period of 6 years.

-Ends-

NB: *Copy of the sentence will be uploaded to the ODPP website once released by the Court.*