



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

Church Pastor sentenced to 20 years for Rape

The leader of the so-called Jezreel Lion of Judah Church, Jone Cokanauto, was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment this morning (27.06.17) at the Suva High Court.

Justice Salesi Temo had earlier found Jone Cokanauto guilty of 10 counts of sexual offences which included 5 counts of rape, 1 count of attempted rape and 4 counts of indecent assault.

Jone Cokanauto raped four women from his church congregation who were between the age of 18 and 22 years. The incidents happened from 2005 to 2012.

Justice Temo sentenced Jone Cokanauto to 20 years imprisonment with a non-parole period of 19 years.

The court has also ordered that the names of the complainants are permanently suppressed to protect their privacy.

-Ends-

NB: A copy of the Sentence has been uploaded to the ODPP website