



PRESS RELEASE (No. 10 of 2017)

TALANOA SESSION CONCLUDES ODPP POLICE TRAINING YEAR

Failing to supply sufficient breath, applications for extensions of custody, and affidavits opposing bail were some of the issues discussed during a *talanoa* session with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Mr Christopher Pryde, and officers from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) West last Saturday night (25.11.17) in Lautoka.

The *talanoa* session was an opportunity for prosecutors from the police and other prosecuting agencies as well as private practitioners to discuss issues with the DPP and legal officers from the ODPP West. The evening was also an opportunity to farewell Sergeant Qio Vodowaqavuka who was retiring after 33 and ½ years' of service with the Fiji Police Force and 5 years with the Police Summary Prosecutions Divisions.

The *talanoa* session concluded the formal workshop that was held earlier in the day and was attended by 26 participants from the Police Summary Prosecutions Division and 18 law enforcement agents from the Lautoka City Council, the Civil Aviation Authority, the Maritime Safety Authority and members of the private bar.

The DPP said, "The ODPP remains committed to raising standards in prosecutions and we look forward to welcoming everyone again next year to a full training programme throughout the country, including the introduction of more specialised prosecution courses targeting maritime

safety amongst others.”

The ODPP conducts prosecution workshops every third Saturday in the month around the country and they are open to any prosecutor including practitioners from the private bar. The ODPP also conducts 6-week basic and advanced prosecution courses each year.

---END---

28 November 2017

NB: Pictures attached below



Participants at the ODPP Prosecutors Training at Rogorogivuda House, Lautoka on Saturday (25.11.17).



Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde, with Divisional Prosecuting Officer, West, Assistant Superintendent of Police Anil Prasad at the ODPP Prosecutors Training at Rogorogivuda House, Lautoka on Saturday (25.11.17).



Sergeant Qio Vodowaqavuka receives his medal of service from the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde, at the ODPP Prosecutors Training workshop. Sgt Vodowaqavuka was farewelled by fellow members of the Fiji Police Summary Prosecutions Division on Saturday night.



Principal Legal Officers Ms Seini Puamau and Mr Semi Babitu, Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde, and Divisional Prosecuting Officer, West, Assistant Superintendent of Police Anil Prasad with participants during the Talanoa session at the Lautoka City Council Chamber.



Participants at the ODPP Prosecutors Training at the Lautoka City Council Chamber on Saturday (25.11.17) with the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde (in garland) and Divisional Prosecuting Officer, West, ASP Anil Prasad (sitting fifth from left).