



## ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

**Date:** 11 December 2017

**Name of Matter:** State-v- Josaia Waqabaca & Ors

**Name of Accused:** Josaia Waqabaca, Anare Ravula, Fred Wesley, Hank Arts & Fiji Times Ltd

**Charge:** Sedition contrary to section 67 (1) (a) of the Crimes Act 2009 (Josaia Waqabaca);  
Sedition contrary to section 67 (1) (c) read with section 45 of the Crimes Act 2009 (Anare Ravula and Fred Wesley);  
Sedition contrary to section 67 (1) (c) of the Crimes Act 2009 (Hank Arts);  
Sedition contrary to section 67 (1) (c) read with section 51 of the Crimes Act 2009 (Fiji Times Ltd).

### **Update:**

This matter was called (11.12.17) at the Suva High Court before Justice Thushara Rajasinghe.

It is alleged that Josaia Waqabaca, Anare Ravula, Fred Wesley, Hank Arts, and the Fiji Times Ltd made, or caused to be published, a seditious statement in the Nai Lalakai newspaper.

The trial was expected to start today (11.12.17), however, upon the request of the defence counsel for the accused persons, the editor Mr Wesley, the Publisher Mr Arts, and the Fiji Times Ltd, the trial date was vacated.

The accused persons requested time to engage new counsel after their previous counsel Mr Feizal Haniff withdrew from their case last week.

A new trial date has been fixed from 4 – 8 June 2018.

The matter has been adjourned for mention on 9 February 2018.

Bail has been extended to all accused persons.

**-End-**