



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

Date: 9 April 2018

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 today (9.04.18) at the Suva High Court before Justice Thushara Rajasinghe for Ruling on the State's proposed amended Information.

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.

Justice Rajasinghe granted leave to the State to amend the Information as proposed provided the State (i) removes the annexure to the Information and (ii) specifically provides details of the classes of the population for which the article allegedly promotes feelings of ill-will and hostility.

The case has been adjourned to 11 April 2018.

Bail has been extended to all accused persons.

-End-

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