



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

Date: 28 August 2018

Name of Matter: State-v- Yvette Nikolic & John Nikolic

Name of Accused: Yvette Dainne Nikolic and John Geoffery Nikolic

Charges: 1 Count of unlawful possession of Illicit Drugs contrary to section 5 (a) of the Illicit Drugs Control Act, 2004 (*Yvette Nikolic and John Nikolic*)

1 Count of unlawful importation of Illicit Drugs contrary to section 4 (1) of the Illicit Drugs Control Act, 2004 (*John Nikolic*)

1 Count of failure to declare Arms and Ammunition to a Custom Officer contrary to section 21 (1) (a) of the Arms and Ammunition Act, 2004. (*Yvette Nikolic and John Nikolic*)

Update:

This matter was called today (28.08.18) at the Lautoka High Court before Justice Aruna Aluthge.

The Australian couple, Yvette Dianne Nikolic and John Geoffrey Nikolic, were charged after drugs, arms and ammunition were found on a yacht at Port Denerau Marina, Nadi on 22 June 2018.

The couple are jointly charged with one count of possession of illicit drugs and one count failure to declare arms and ammunitions to a custom officer while John Nikolic is additionally charged with one count of unlawful importation of illicit drugs.

It is alleged that John Nikolic imported 12.9 kilograms of cocaine and the couple had in their possession 34.4 grams of methamphetamine and cocaine tablets with an estimated value of between \$20 to \$30 million. It is also alleged that they failed to declare that they had in their possession one 9 millimetre Smith and Wesson pistol with 62 rounds of ammunition and one revolver with 41 rounds of ammunition.

The State filed a consolidated Information this morning.

Both accused persons pleaded not guilty to their charges.

The matter has been adjourned to 11 September 2018 for Pre Trial Conference.

Both accused persons have been further remanded in custody.

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