



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

Date: 4 September 2018

Name of Matter: State-v- Seta Ram and Geeta Chandar

Name of Accused: Seta Sanjana Ram and Geeta Anjana Chandar

Charge: 17 Counts of trafficking in persons contrary to section 112 (4) of the Crimes Act 2009
16 Counts of obtaining property by deception contrary to 317 (1) of the Crimes Act 2009 and
2 Counts of money laundering contrary to section 69 (3) (b) of the Proceeds of Crime Act 1997.

Update:

This matter was called today (4.09.18) at the Suva High Court before Justice Daniel Goundar.

Both sisters Seta Sanjana Ram and Geeta Anjana Chandar were charged with a total of 35 counts which includes trafficking in persons (17), obtaining property by deception (16) and money laundering (2).

The two were alleged to have facilitated the travel of 17 Fijian citizens who were exploited through slavery and became victims of human trafficking in New Zealand between April and September 2014 and obtained a total of \$52,142 from the 17 complainants by deception.

For the money laundering charges, it is alleged that Geeta Anjana Chandar between September 2017 and March 2017 disposed of \$79,991.40 into a Bank of the South Pacific account and between February and May 2014 Seta Sanjana Ram allegedly disposed of \$2,525 into two Australia and New Zealand bank accounts that were the proceeds of crime.

Seta Sanjana Ram appeared in court this morning while an arrest warrant is in place for Geeta Anjana Chandar who is in Australia.

The State sought time to file the Information and disclosures.

The defence have been given time until 19 September 2018 to file a bail application and the State has been given until 25 September 2018 to respond to the bail application.

The matter has been adjourned to 28 September 2018 for a bail hearing.

The accused person has been further remanded in custody.

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