



PRESS RELEASE (No. 7 of 2024)

ODPP National Prosecution Conference focuses on emerging criminal trends in Fiji

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions National Conference centred on emerging criminal trends in Fiji has convened at the Shangri-La Yanuca Island Resort this morning (21.11.24).

The event was officially opened by the Program Director, Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, US State Department, Evan Robbins who welcomed around 150 participants including prosecutors, defence counsels, private practitioners, police officers and investigator to the two-day event.

The event will feature key-note speakers both from local and overseas who will be speaking on the theme 'Fiji on the Cusp of Emerging Trends: Narcotics, Age of Criminal Responsibility, International Cooperation, AI, Cyber Security, and Mental Health.'

The Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, Ms Nancy Tikoisuva stressed that while the theme for these conference is quite dense, it is apt to the current emerging criminal trends in the country.

Ms Tikoisuva said, "The theme might look disconnected at first, but we hope as we go through each session you will be able to see how interconnected each issues are to one another. Drugs threaten the very fabric of our reality, it's affecting our families, communities, churches, schools and the whole nation. Our children are vulnerable and the age of criminal responsibilities together with the space in which these criminal transactions are taking place is changing therefore there is a need to understand and comprehend the extent of its effects.

"Apart from the extent of drug problem in Fiji, we have issues such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and mental health threatening the lives of our people. We cannot fight in isolation, promotion of international cooperation and synergies at all levels is required. Strengthened cooperation with the private sector actors, between law enforcement authorities, private sector companies and civil society is an important prerequisite for a collective effort in this fight."

This conference is intended to be a learning platform for law enforcement stakeholders to engage and discuss the emerging criminal issues and learn from keynote speakers who have experience in their field.

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