



PRESS RELEASE (No. 4 of 2015)

INTERNATIONAL TRIAL ADVOCACY TRAINING FOR ODPP AND LEGAL AID

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) announces the successful completion of a three-day International Advocacy Teacher Trainers' Course for 2015.

The inaugural International Advocacy Teacher Trainers' Course for six trainee trainers from the ODPP and the Legal Aid Commission was conducted by five faculty members of the International Advocacy Training Council (IATC) from 20-22 March, in Suva. The faculty members conducting the course were from South Africa, Malaysia and Hong Kong.

Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Mr Christopher Pryde said, "The six trainee trainers (3 from Legal Aid and 3 from the ODPP), are now qualified to provide trial advocacy training to local legal practitioners in Fiji."

He said the decision to invite the IATC to Fiji to provide the three-day intensive training is part of the ODPP's commitment to raise the standards of criminal trial advocacy in Fiji.

"Now that we have IATC accredited trial advocacy teachers in Fiji the ODPP intends to conduct three-day trial advocacy training courses on a regular basis throughout the year with the next course scheduled for August this year. These three-day courses will be open to all interested members of the legal fraternity

in Fiji,” he said.

“We also intend exploring the possibility of sponsorship for one or two legal practitioners from other Pacific Island states such as Vanuatu or Tonga to attend this course in Fiji next year,” said Mr Pryde.

The IATC trainers included Ms Audrey Campbell-Moffat, S.C. from Hong Kong who has been involved in advocacy training for over a decade and is the founding member of the IATC; Mr Jannie Van Der Merwe who is a prosecutor with the National Directorate of Public Prosecutions in South Africa; Mr David Leung, who is the deputy Director of Public Prosecutions for Hong Kong; Mr Ravi Nakoo who has authored a Criminal Defence Advocacy Programme which is currently being used by the National Legal Aid Foundation in Malaysia for their trainings; and Mr Amrit Pal Singh who is the current co-Deputy Chairperson of the Criminal Law Committee for the Malaysian Bar.

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The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is an independent office established under section 117 of the 2013 Fijian Constitution. The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions is motivated by the principle that it is in the interests of justice that the guilty be brought to justice and the innocent are not wrongly convicted.