



## PRESS RELEASE (No. 4 of 2019)

### **DPP REFUTES ILO INVOLVEMENT IN RELEASE OF TRADE UNIONIST**

The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Mr Christopher Pryde, has categorically refuted claims made in a report by Radio New Zealand today (8.5.19) that the International Labour Organisation was involved in negotiations to have a trade unionist released from police custody last week.

Mr Felix Anthony and two other trade unionists, Ms Salanieta Matiavi and Mr Paula Manumanunitoga, were arrested last week by police on suspicion of having breached the Public Order Act.

Mr Pryde said, "At no time did the International Labour Organisation (ILO) have anything to do with the release of Felix Anthony from police custody. Mr Anthony was released along with two other trade unionists, Salanieta Matiavi and Paula Manumanunitoga, within the 48-hour time frame without charge after the police were satisfied there was no need for further enquiry. Any suggestions that the ILO or any other organisation negotiated their release are false."

Mr Pryde also said that, "The files of the three trade unionists are with our office and a decision on what charges, if any, will be made in due course. The decision to charge is made independently by the Director of Public Prosecutions on the basis of sufficiency of evidence and the public interest. This process does not involve negotiations with the ILO or any other organisation or person."

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8 May 2019

*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.*

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