



## PRESS RELEASE (No. 5 of 2020)

### **DPP appeals manifestly lenient rape sentence**

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde, (DPP) will appeal the sentence handed down to a 73-year-old man convicted of rape by the Suva High Court in August.

The 73-year-old man was convicted and sentenced to 6 years imprisonment with a non-parole period of 5 years imprisonment on 14 August 2020 for raping a 7-year-old boy in October 2019 at a church in the Eastern Division.

Mr Pryde said, “In 2018 the Supreme Court in *State v Gordon Aitcheson* raised the sentence tariff for child rape to between 11 and 20 years imprisonment and made no distinction between types of rape as the High Court has done in this case. Rape is rape. We are of the view that a sentence based on the type of rape committed is misconceived and that the resulting sentence is manifestly lenient. The case will therefore be appealed.”

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