



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

DPP to appeal manslaughter conviction

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde, will file an appeal against the decision of the High Court on 20 December 2021 to acquit Luke Nasetava of the murder of his wife and instead find him guilty of the lesser offence of manslaughter.

The court found that Luke Nasetava stabbed his wife multiple times on her back, head and other parts of her body at her workplace on 31st August 2019 and which led to her death. The court acquitted the accused of murder and instead convicted him of manslaughter on the grounds that his wife had provoked him to kill her as a result of her alleged marital infidelity.

Mr Pryde said, "It is our view that marital infidelity cannot be used to constitute a wrongful act within the meaning of s 242 (2) of the Crimes Act. To allow a man to have a murder charge reduced to manslaughter by claiming that he was provoked into killing his wife by her alleged infidelity is wrong in law and reflects an outdated view of gender roles in modern Fijian society."

Nasetava was sentenced to nine years imprisonment by the High Court today (14.1.22) with a non-parole period of 8 years.

The Notice of Appeal will be filed in the Court of Appeal on Monday (17.1.22).

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