



## PRESS RELEASE (No. 6 of 2022)

### **No Charges to be laid against Politician**

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Christopher Pryde, has directed the police not to lay any charges against a politician suspected of indecently annoying a woman on two separate occasions earlier this year following a review of the police evidence docket.

Professor Biman Prasad had been interviewed by police on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022 acting on a complaint from a woman that he allegedly indecently annoyed her on two separate occasions earlier this year. He had been granted police bail to appear in court on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 pending the filing of charges.

Mr Pryde said, “The police docket was reviewed by the ODPP in the usual manner but our conclusion was that there is insufficient evidence for a reasonable prospect of conviction were the matter to proceed to court. As part of our review, we analysed the charges proposed by the police as well as other possible charges and available defences. We also noted the representations provided to us by Professor Prasad’s lawyers. As the matter does not meet the evidentiary threshold, police have been directed not to file any charges.”

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8 November 2022

*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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