



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

DPP files appeal against acquittal of former PM and suspended COMPOL

The Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr John Rabuku, has filed an appeal against the acquittal of the former Prime Minister, Voreqe Bainimarama and suspended Commissioner of Police, Sitiveni Qiliho.

Voreqe Bainimarama was charged with one count of attempted to pervert the course of justice and Sitiveni Qiliho was charged with one count of abuse of office.

The former PM and the suspended COMPOL were found not guilty and acquitted accordingly by the Suva Magistrates Court on 12 October 2023.

The State has filed eight grounds of appeal and reserves the right to amend, add or delete any grounds of appeal at the receipt of the court record.

In summary, the State's grounds of appeal centres around the opinion that the Magistrate erred in law and in fact on several evidentiary and procedural issues, thereby resulting in an unfair trial and an erroneous verdict.

The Notice of Appeal against the acquittal was filed in the High Court yesterday afternoon (02.11.23).

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