

PRESS RELEASE (No. 2 of 2020)

DPP establishes Proceeds of Crime Task Force

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde, (DPP) has appointed Senior Legal Officer, Ms Moira Konrote, to head the newly established Proceeds of Crime Taskforce (PCTF), a specialist unit within the Serious Fraud Division of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP).

The PCTF will be the central liaison point in the ODPP for money laundering and proceeds of crime matters and will be responsible for developing working relationships with other proceeds of crime agencies such as the police antimoney laundering unit, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Fiji Revenue and Customs Service, as well as international agencies such as the New Zealand Asset Recovery Unit.

Mr Pryde said, "There has been a marked increase in drug offences over the past 5 years and an exponential increase in the proceeds of this crime being laundered through the financial system in Fiji. The aim of the PCTF is to concentrate our efforts in attacking the drug problem by removing the profit. Once criminals know the State can confiscate assets that are tainted by criminal activity or that their drug profits can be forfeited, the prospect of a lengthy prison sentence will be a more effective deterrent."

This year's ODPP conference will also focus on addressing ways to tackle proceeds of crime issues such as money laundering and will be held at the Warwick Resort from 26 -27th June 2020.

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25 February 2020. **NB:** *Picture attached*



ODPP Senior Legal Officer, Ms Moira Konrote, has been appointed to head the ODPP Proceeds of Crime Taskforce.