



PRESS RELEASE (No. 4 of 2025)

Statement by the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Christopher Pryde: Return to Fiji Further Delayed

1. On 23rd January 2025 I wrote to the Honourable Chief Justice at his request responding to renewed allegations made against me by Nancy Tikoisuva. I had been given two weeks leave to answer the allegations and was expected to resume duties on Monday 3rd February 2025.
2. I responded to each of the allegations and urged the Judicial Services Commission (JSC) to dismiss the complaint so that I could resume my duties in Fiji without further interruption or interference after I was exonerated by the Tribunal, my suspension was lifted and I was reinstated to the position of Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) by His Excellency, the President.
3. I urged the JSC to dismiss the complaint on the basis that the allegations were misconceived, baseless, and trivial.
4. I also questioned the motive behind the complaint given that the allegations stemmed from information contained in my personal file that had been in the possession of the JSC for the past 21 months. I contended that the complaint was clearly brought with malicious intent to discredit me and other members of the ODPP staff.
5. On Friday 31st January 2025, I again wrote to the Honourable Chief Justice noting that I had still not received any response from the JSC to my letter of 23rd January 2025 or any decision by the JSC as to whether it intends to advise His Excellency, the President, to suspend me yet again.
6. As I had heard nothing from the JSC, I requested a further extension of my leave until such time as the JSC gives a decision.
7. I informed the Honourable Chief Justice that I am reluctant to return to Fiji and take up my position in the office if the JSC decides suddenly upon my return, once more, to suspend me, cut off my salary, and keep me waiting for another 21 months. I do not think anyone could be expected to resume duties under such difficult and challenging circumstances with the threat of suspension hanging in the air like the sword of Damocles.

8. In the meantime, however, I advised the Honourable Chief Justice that I have delegated my authority to Assistant DPP Pauline Madanavosa and we are in touch on a daily basis to ensure the operations of the office continue in the usual manner. I have known Ms Madanavosa for many years and have confidence in her ability to manage the office in my absence from Fiji.
9. I look forward to resuming my duties in Fiji just as soon as the JSC advises me that this unjustifiable threat against me is lifted.

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2 February 2025.