



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

Court grants State's forfeiture application

The Suva High Court has granted the Office of the Director of Public Prosecution's (ODPP) application for a non-conviction based forfeiture regarding properties suspected to be proceeds of crime.

The State had filed a non-conviction based civil forfeiture pursuant to section 19C with section 19E of the Proceeds of Crimes Act in the case of State-v- Aidong Zhang.

Aidong Zhang was found guilty on charges of obtaining property by deception and money laundering. Between 1 June 2014 and 31 January 2016, Aidong Zhang had deceptively obtained property and engaged directly or indirectly in money laundering in the amount of FJD\$1,240,740.74. He had obtained the money by deception from the complainant who was his business partner on the pretext that the said properties were being sold at \$5.5 million instead of its actual price of \$3.3 million.

The Suva High Court has ordered that the assets which were acquired through illicit means, be forfeited to the State. These assets, which include a mix of properties will be sold and the corresponding proceeds will be forfeited in accordance with the High Court's ruling.

This judgment underscores the ODPP's ongoing commitment to ensuring that criminals are deprived of the proceeds of crime and we will relentlessly pursue and target properties derived from criminal operations.

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