



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

Date: 26 January 2026

Name of Accused: Ponipate Seuvou Mateyawa, John Toatala, Iliesa Cokanasiga, Merewalesi Qolimaiwasa and Johnathan Pedro Hill

Charges: Conspiracy to commit unlawful importation of illicit drugs (x1)
Possession of properties suspected of being proceeds of crime (x4)

Update:

Five more people have been charged in relation to the drug bust at Vatia waters which resulted in the seizure of cocaine weighing approximately 2,644.5 kilograms.

This matter was called today (26.01.26) for first call at the Ba Magistrates Court.

The five accused persons have been charged with one count of conspiracy to commit unlawful importation of illicit drugs.

It is alleged that between 1 November 2025 and 17 January 2026, the accused persons conspired amongst themselves and with others to unlawfully import, transport, transfer and store 2,644.5 kilograms of cocaine.

In addition, four of the accused, John Toatala, Iliesa Cokanasiga, Merewalesi Qolimaiwasa and Johnathan Pedro Hill, have also been charged with possession of property suspected of being proceeds of crime, after allegedly being found with items and cash suspected of being proceeds of crime.

All accused persons have been remanded in custody.

The matter has been transferred to the Lautoka High Court for first call on 5 February 2026.

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