



ODPP Weekly Court Bulletin

18 May- 22 May 2026

Case 1: State v Keni Salawai & Jope Seniloli

Charge:

- 1 count of murder

Keni Salawai and Jope Seniloli, charged with the murder of Police Constable 8012 Peniasi Racagi, appeared today (22.5.26) at the Suva High Court before Justice Daniel Goundar.

It was alleged that between 21 and 22 February 2026, the two accused persons, assaulted the victim causing injuries, which resulted in his death.

The State filed a discontinuance (*Nolle Prosequi*) this morning due to insufficient evidence.

The accused persons were discharged accordingly.

NB: The State filed a *Nolle Prosequi* at this stage, reserving the right to refile the charges in the future should new evidence emerge.

Case 2: State v Dominiko Tabao

Charge:

- 1 count of attempted murder
- 1 count of serious assault
- 1 count of going equipped

Dominico Tabau, who is charged in relation to the alleged accident at Laqere, appeared before the Suva High Court today (22.5. 26) before Justice Dane Tuiqereqere.

It is alleged that last month the accused drove a vehicle into a roadblock manned by a police officer, causing serious injuries.

The State sought additional time to file the Information and Disclosure, as it is still awaiting documents, including the medical examination report of the victim, PC Senoveva Tikoduadua.

The State also informed the court that co-accused Saimoni Rokotunidau had been charged and appeared at the Nasinu Magistrates Court on 12 May 2026. His matter was adjourned to 26 May 2026 pending transfer to the High Court. The State indicated that it intends to consolidate both matters.

The Defence informed the Court that they will file a bail application on behalf of the accused.

The bail matter will be heard on 28 May 2026, while the substantive matter will be called on 12 June 2026.

The accused was further remanded in custody.

Case 3: State v Artika Sharma & Ors

Charges:

- 1 count of attempted murder
- 2 counts of kidnapping
- 1 count of assault causing actual bodily harm and
- 1 count of damaging property

Artika Sharma, Ajay Kumar, Ravinal Anand and Sanjay Kumar appeared last week before the Lautoka High Court in relation to the alleged kidnapping of a 20-year-old woman and the assault of a 61-year-old man.

The four accused were initially charged with acts intended to cause grievous harm. However, following a review of the evidence, the charges were upgraded to attempted murder.

It is alleged that on 25 February 2026, the accused persons attempted to murder the 61-year-old man after he intervened to save the 20-year-old woman from being kidnapped.

The State has filed the Information and Disclosures.

The matter has been adjourned to 12 June 2026 for plea.

The accused persons' bail has been further extended.

Case 4: State v Rusiate Lal & Ors

Charge:

- 1 count of murder

The trial of Rusiate Lal, Ronald Lal, Ron Lal, Sundar Lal and Balewai Waqabaca, has been rescheduled to next year.

The family of five, Rusiate Lal, Ronald Lal, Ron Lal, Sundar Lal and Balewai Waqabaca are charged with one count of murder of Eneri Abbas Ali. Sundar Lal and Balewai Waqabaca are husband and wife and the other accused are their children.

The victim was in a de facto relationship with the couple's daughter. The victim planned to meet the family to seek forgiveness for impregnating their daughter before marriage and to take her

back home. It is alleged that on 19 September 2021, a day before the scheduled meet, the accused persons assaulted the victim that resulted in his death.

The matter was initially set for trial at the Lautoka High Court in March; however, Defence counsel filed a stay application alleging that the prosecution had coached witnesses.

After hearing submissions from both the Defence and the Prosecution, the Judge dismissed the application, finding that no witness coaching had occurred.

The trial is now scheduled to proceed in February 2027. The accused persons remain on bail, and the matter has been adjourned for mention at a later date.