



## ODPP Weekly Court Bulletin

4 May- 8 May 2026

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### Case 1: State-v- Norman Fisher and Ors

#### Charges:

- Conspiracy to commit unlawful possession of illicit drugs
- Unlawful possession of illicit drugs and
- Criminal intimidation
- Damaging property

Norman Fisher, Manasa Saladrau, Sunia Vakaloloma, Travis Cheer and Anaseini Rokolati appeared at the Ba High Court on Wednesday (6.5.26) before Justice Samuela Qica in relation to their involvement in the Vatia Drug Case.

It is alleged that between 1 November 2025 and 15 January 2026 at Lautoka, the accused persons conspired amongst themselves and with others to unlawfully possess, transfer, transport and supply 2644.5 kilograms of cocaine.

Sunia Vakaloloma also faces an additional charge of criminal intimidation, while Manasa Saladrau faces an additional charge of damaging evidence. Manasa Saladrau and Anaseini Rokolati faces additional count of unlawful possession of 0.8122 grams of methamphetamine.

The State had previously offered immunity to Travis Cheer and Sunia Vakaloloma.

During proceedings, the State made a verbal application for a *nolle prosequi* in favour of Travis Cheer. The application was granted and Travis Cheer was formally discharged. The Court was informed that a written *Nolle Prosequi* will be filed within 14 days.

The Court was further advised that the prosecution has received the recorded immunity police statement of Travis Cheer, while the statement of Sunia Vakaloloma remains outstanding

The State also informed the Court that it intends to confirm its position on the possible discontinuance of proceedings against Sunia Vakaloloma by way of *nolle prosequi* on the next court date.

The matter was adjourned to 3 June 2026 for:

- Filing of the Amended Information;
- Filing of the written *Nolle Prosequi* for Travis Cheer;
- Outstanding disclosures relating to immunity witnesses; and
- Confirmation of the intended *Nolle Prosequi* in relation to Sunia Vakaloloma.

Sunia Vakaloloma's bail was further extended, while the remaining accused persons have been further remanded.

## **Case 2: Bail Ruling- Vatia Drug Case**

Ponipate Mateyawa, Norman William Fisher, John Taotala, Merewalesi Qolimaiwasa, Bainivalu Suguturaga, Manasa Saladrau and Elia Navunicag appeared at the Ba High Court on Wednesday (6.5.26) before Justice Samuela Qica.

They are amongst the three group of people who were charged for their alleged involvement in the 2644.5 kilograms of cocaine case.

The accused persons had filed their bail applications which was strongly objected by the State.

The State submitted that there remained:

- A risk of interference with ongoing investigations, evidence and witnesses;
- Significant public interest concerns arising from the escalating drug crisis; and
- A likelihood of further offending if the accused persons were released on bail.

The Court accepted the State's objections and refused bail for all applicants.

All accused persons were further remanded in custody.

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## **Case 3: State-v-Samuela Tawase**

### **Charges:**

- 1 count of Sacrilege
- 1 count of Damaging Property

Samuela Tawase appeared before the Suva Magistrates' Court today (8.5.26) charged with an act of sacrilege incident at the Samabula Shiv Temple.

The 28-year-old accused is alleged to have jumped over the temple fence on 13 July 2025 and damaged religious idols.

Upon an application by the State, the Court conducted a special verdict hearing to determine the accused person's mental capacity. The hearing was heard last month before Magistrate Yogesh Prasad.

Following the hearing, the Court found that the accused was of unsound mind at the time of the alleged incident and acquitted him pursuant to section 105 of the Criminal Procedure Act.

The accused was referred to Saint Giles Hospital for treatment and review in three months.

#### **Case 4: State-v-Fonta Laszlo**

##### **Charge:**

- 1 count of unlawful importation of illicit drugs
- 1 count of unlawful possession of illicit drugs

Hungarian national, Fonta Laszlo charged with the unlawful importation and unlawful possession of illicit drugs appeared for first call at the Lautoka High Court on Tuesday (5.5.26).

It is alleged that on 17 April 2026, the accused unlawfully imported and possessed 4869.7 grams of methamphetamine.

The accused was intercepted by authorities at Nadi International Airport, where screening of his passenger baggage allegedly revealed drugs concealed within the luggage.

The State sought time to file the Information and full disclosures.

Counsel for the accused informed the Court that the accused speaks only Hungarian and Russian. The Court advised that a suitable interpreter will be arranged for the proceedings.

The matter was adjourned to 19 May 2026, and the accused was further remanded in custody.

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#### **Case 5: State-v-Alexander Leweniqila, Manoa Vakavunivalu and Aisake Lovobalavu**

##### **Charge:**

- 1 count of murder

Alexander Leweniqila, Manoa Vakavunivalu and Aisake Lovobalavu charged in connection with the death of a 30-year-old man appeared first call at the Suva High Court on Wednesday (6.5.26) before Justice Daniel Goundar.

It is alleged that on 15 March 2026, the accused persons assaulted a 30-year-old man, resulting in his death.

The State sought further time to assess the evidence and file the Information and disclosures. The application was granted by the Court.

The matter was adjourned to 18 May 2026.

All accused persons bail was further extended.

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#### **Case 6: State-v- Savenaca Damuni, Vinay Prakash and Sushila Devi**

##### **Charge:**

- 1 count of manslaughter arising from breach of duty
- 1 count of corporate manslaughter

A father and two company directors charged in relation to the death of a 6-year-old boy at a timber yard appeared at the Suva High Court today (8.5.26) before Justice Dane Tuiqereqere.

Savenaca Damuni is charged with manslaughter arising from breach of duty. It is alleged that he failed to take necessary precautions by allowing his six-year-old son to stand on the blade of a forklift while it was in operation. The child allegedly fell from the forklift and came underneath the vehicle, resulting in his death.

Vinay Prakash Chandra and Sushila Devi, directors of Raviravi Investment Timber & Hardware (PTE) Ltd, are alleged to have permitted their employee, Savenaca Damuni, to operate a forklift despite knowing that he did not possess a valid licence to operate an industrial truck, and that such negligence contributed to the child's death.

The alleged incident occurred on 2 May 2023 at a timber yard in Vatuwaqa, Suva.

The State filed and served the Information and disclosures.

The matter was adjourned to 28 May 2026 for plea.

All accused persons bail was further extended.

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#### **Case 7: State-v- Ratu Lote Leweivuna & Ors**

##### **Charges:**

- 1 count of unlawful possession of illicit drugs
- 1 count of unlawful importation of illicit drugs

Two police officers and two civilians charged in relation to the 4.7 kilograms of methamphetamine case appeared at the Suva High Court on Wednesday (5.5.26) before Justice Daniel Goundar.

Ratu Lote Leweivuna and Sevuloni Lubi are charged with the unlawful possession of illicit drugs while Eroni Bati and Alipate Matadigo are charged with the unlawful importation and transportation of illicit drugs.

The accused persons had applied for bail which was strongly objected by the State.

Following submissions, the Court granted bail to all accused persons on strict bail conditions.

The matter was adjourned to 24 July 2026 for Pre-Trial Conference.

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#### **Case 8: State-v- Sonal Kumar, Abdul Saiban & Ors**

##### **Charges:**

- 1 count of manslaughter
- 1 count of accessory after the fact to manslaughter
- 1 count of manslaughter arising from breach of duty

Seven police officers charged in relation to the death of Richard Mock appeared at the Lautoka High Court on Wednesday (6.5.26)

Police officers, Sonal Kumar and Fenton Thaggard are charged with one count of manslaughter. It is alleged that between 16 and 17 January 2025, the accused persons assaulted the victim which caused his death.

Abdul Saiban, retired police officer, is charged with one count of accessory after the fact to manslaughter. It is alleged that he assisted Sonal Kumar and Fenton Thaggard knowing that they were involved in the commission of an offence against the victim, in order to enable them to escape punishment.

Police officers Owen Smith, Isireli Nagilolevu, Ratu Peni Masara Ranamu and Ratu Filimoni Yawayawa are charged with one count of manslaughter arising from breach of duty. It is alleged that they failed to exercise due care and attention in the course of their duties, which led to the victim's death.

The State filed and served the Information and Disclosures

The State also informed the Court of its intention to consolidate the matter involving Fenton Thaggard with the proceedings against the six other police officers. The proposed consolidation was opposed by defence counsel.

The Court granted bail to all accused persons on strict bail conditions.

The matter was adjourned to 28 May 2026 for hearing of the consolidation application.

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### **Upcoming Trial:**

- *Trial on health tender case resumes Monday, 11 May 2026 against former PM, AG and Health Minister*
- *Trial starts in the Rewa Street Drug case on Monday, 11 May 2026 against Joshua Ravula, Ginna Choi, Peniasi Delai, Dai Ming Hui and Yu Yan Feng.*