



ODPP MEDIA UPDATE

Ratu Peceli Rokorolovo sentenced to life imprisonment for murder

Ratu Peceli Rokorolovo was sentenced to mandatory life imprisonment for the murder of Dr Isireli Biumaitotoya, also known as Dr Leli Darling.

Justice Aruna Aluthge found Rokorolovo guilty and convicted him of murder, contrary to section 237 of the Crimes Act 2009, last month following the trial. The Court found that the State had proven its case beyond reasonable doubt.

The Court heard that between 31 August and 1 September 2025, Rokorolovo went to Dr Biumaitotoya's residence at Fatima Court, Martintar, Nadi, to collect \$1,000 which had been promised to him. An argument followed, during which Rokorolovo attacked Dr Biumaitotoya with a cane knife. Following the attack, Rokorolovo fled the scene in the deceased's vehicle. Dr Biumaitotoya sustained multiple injuries, including three fatal chop wounds to the back of his head resulting in his death.

The Court heard evidence that the accused and the deceased were in a relationship which involved issues relating to financial dependence, jealousy, alcohol abuse and escalating conflict. Evidence from family members, neighbours, police officers, medical personnel, forensic experts and witnesses relating to digital evidence and admissions made by the accused were also heard in court.

Rokorolovo raised claims of self-defence and provocation which was rejected by Justice Aluthge who found his account of self-defence implausible and unsupported by the physical evidence, and held that the force used was excessive and disproportionate. The Court also found no credible evidence of a sudden loss of self-control sufficient to establish provocation as claimed by him.

Considering the nature and number of the injuries inflicted, the use of a deadly weapon, and the accused's conduct following the attack, including fleeing the scene in the deceased's vehicle and failing to seek assistance, the Court was satisfied that Rokorolovo intended to kill Dr Biumaitotoya.

Justice Aluthge sentenced Rokorolovo today to mandatory life imprisonment, with a minimum term of 21 years to be served before a pardon may be considered.

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