



ODPP Weekly Court Bulletin

21-25 September 2026

Case 1: Vatia Drug case

Charges:

- Unlawful importation of illicit drugs
- Unlawful possession of illicit Drugs
- Unlawful entry into Fiji
- Serious assault
- Conspiracy to commit unlawful possession of illicit drugs
- Possession of property suspected of being proceeds of crime

Eleven accused persons charged in relation to the 2,644.5 kilograms of cocaine in the Vatia drug case appeared yesterday afternoon (24.9.26) at the Ba High Court.

The accused persons are Alejandro Juvenal Yagual Gonzalez, Luciano Enrique Mero Sanchez, Ramon Isidro Vega Parraga, Jonathan Javier Solorzano Bermello, Anand Kumar (aka Bobby), Bainivalu Suguturaga, Ponipate Seuvou Mateyawa, John Toatala, Merewalesi Qolimaiwasa, Norman Fisher, Manasa Saladrau and Anaseini Lisa Kinikinilau Rokolati.

The alleged offences occurred between 1 November 2025 and 2 February 2026 in the Central and Western Division.

The State had consolidated all separate proceedings into one case. The consolidated Information was read to all accused persons and they all pleaded Not Guilty to the respective charges. **(See consolidated Information below).**

The State had also served consolidated disclosures on all counsel earlier which covers all the Vatia files into one proceeding.

The Court has fixed the **first week of February to the last week of March 2027** for the trial.

Defence Counsel who intend to challenge the admissibility of their clients caution interviews have been directed to file the voir dire grounds by 31 October 2026 and the State to consider and address the relevant voir dire issues in November and December.

The four Ecuadorian nationals are not challenging their caution interviews and have indicated that they will be running a defence of duress while the other counsel have sought time to consider their clients position in relation to admissions or confessions contained in their caution interviews.

The State has also indicated to the Court that it will be filing an **application for the destruction of the seized illicit drugs within 14 days.**

Defence counsel have been requested to advise the State by email if they are objecting to the proposed destruction together with their reasons for their objections.

The application for destruction is to be filed and served by the next court date.

The matter has been adjourned to **15 October 2026**.

Consolidated Information Summary

Count	Accused persons	Charge and summary of allegation
Count 1	Alejandro Juvenal Yagual Gonzalez; Luciano Enrique Mero Sanchez; Ramon Isidro Vega Parraga; Jonathan Javier Solorzano Bermello and others	Unlawful Importation of Illicit Drugs – alleged unlawful importation into Fiji of 2,644.5 kilograms of cocaine .
Count 2	Anand Kumar also known as Bobby and others	Unlawful Possession of Illicit Drugs – alleged possession of 2,644.5 kilograms of cocaine within Fiji waters.
Count 3	Alejandro Juvenal Yagual Gonzalez; Luciano Enrique Mero Sanchez; Ramon Isidro Vega Parraga; Jonathan Javier Solorzano Bermello	Unlawful Entry into Fiji – alleged entry into Fiji through an unauthorised port.
Count 4	Bainivalu Suguturaga and Anand Kumar also known as Bobby	Unlawful Possession of Illicit Drugs – alleged dealings involving the transfer and transportation of 155.6 kilograms of cocaine .
Count 5	Bainivalu Suguturaga	Serious Assault – allegedly resisted arrest
Count 6	Ponipate Seuvou Mateyawa; John Toatala; Merewalesi Qolimaiwasa and others	Conspiracy to Commit Unlawful Possession of Illicit Drugs – allegedly conspired amongst themselves and others to unlawfully possess by way of engaging in dealings to transfer, transport and supply 2,644.5 kilograms of cocaine .
Count 7	John Toatala	Possession of Property Suspected of Being Proceeds of Crime – alleged possession of \$500 FJD suspected to be proceeds of crime.
Count 8	John Toatala and Merewalesi Qolimaiwasa	Possession of Property Suspected of Being Proceeds of Crime – alleged possession of a generator, raincoat, electric extension cord and 102 litres of unleaded fuel , with a stated combined value of \$905.22 , suspected to be proceeds of crime.
Count 9	Norman Fisher; Manasa Saladrau and Anaseini Lisa Kinikinilau Rokolati	Conspiracy to Commit Unlawful Possession of Illicit Drugs – allegedly conspired amongst themselves and others to unlawfully possess by way of engaging in dealings to transfer, transport and supply 2,644.5 kilograms of cocaine .
Count 10	Manasa Saladrau and Anaseini Lisa Kinikinilau Rokolati	Unlawful Possession of Illicit Drugs – alleged possession of 0.8122 grams of methamphetamine .
Count 11	Manasa Saladrau	Damaging Evidence – alleged destruction of a mobile phone knowing that its contents may be required as evidence in a judicial proceeding.

Case 2: State-v-Anare Cilicewa

Charge:

- One count of murder

Anare Vuli Cilicewa, convicted of one count of murder of his partner was sentenced to mandatory life imprisonment by the Suva High Court.

The offence occurred in Raiwaqa, Suva, in September 2024.

The Court found that the accused used a broken bottle to inflict a serious injury to the deceased's left arm, forced a condom stuffed with cloth into her mouth, manually strangled her, and then used an electric cord to further strangle her by tying it around her neck.

The accused tied the deceased's hands and legs, wrapped her body in a bedsheet, and dragged it downstairs, where it was later discovered beneath a single bed by police.

In sentencing, the Justice Pita Bulamainivalu adopted a starting point of 20-years imprisonment, added a further three years to account for aggravating factors. These included the accused's disregard for the deceased's right to life and her opportunity to live a free and fulfilling life in accordance with her own wishes, as well as the physical and emotional abuse inflicted upon her prior to her demise.

The Judge also considered the accused's breach of trust arising from their intimate relationship, the fear he instilled in the deceased through threats and subjugation before her death, and the trauma caused to her friends and relatives as aggravating factors. The court described his conduct as chauvinistic and misogynistic.

From the resulting 23-year term, the Judge deducted one year to reflect mitigating factors and a further two years for the time the accused had already spent in remand bringing the minimum term to 20 years.

Anare Cilicewa stands convicted and sentenced to mandatory life imprisonment, with a minimum term of 20 years to be served before he may be considered for a pardon.

Case 3: State-v- Aiyaz Syed-Khaiyum & Ors

Charges:

- Unlawful carriage of firearms on an aircraft
- Receiving a corrupt benefit
- Giving corrupt benefit
- Breach of trust
- Abuse of office

The matter relating to the unlawful carriage of firearms on an aircraft was called earlier this week before the Lautoka High Court

Former Attorney General Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum faces charges relating to the unlawful carriage of firearms on an aircraft, receiving a corrupt benefit, breach of trust by a person employed in the public service and abuse of office.

Former Fiji Airways executive general manager corporate affairs Shaenaz Voss and Fiji Airways general manager safety, security and quality Sharun Ali face charges relating to giving a corrupt benefit.

Shaenaz Voss, Sharun Ali and Fiji Airways, trading as Fiji Link, also face charges relating to the mandatory reporting of security occurrences and airline security.

The accused persons are charged under the Civil Aviation (Security) Act 1994, Civil Aviation (Security) Regulations 1994 and Crimes Act 2009.

Counsel for the first and second accused have responded to the State's draft proposed agreed facts and documents. However, counsel for the third accused informed the court that they made representations to the State to consider before responding to the PTC minutes.

The State informed the Court that its representation filed at the Court Registry on 20 September 2026 addressed all concerns raised by the third accused and that the State will continue the proceedings against the third accused, with no amendments to, or withdrawal of, the charges.

The State further advised the Court that all disclosures within its custody are in order and sought that a trial date be secured expeditiously.

The State has informed the court of its intention to call approximately 20-25 witness and expects the trial to last at least four weeks.

A tentative trial date has been fixed from **10 May 2027 to 25 May 2027**.

A further Pre-Trial Conference is fixed for **21 October 2026**. Bail was extended for each of the accused.

Case 4: State v Leveni Vuebeti and Tevita Tora

Charges:

- One count of rape
- One count of murder

Two men charged in relation to the rape and murder of an 18-year-old woman appeared earlier this week at the Lautoka High Court.

Tevita Tora and Laveni Vuebeti face one count each of rape and one count each of murder. It is alleged that on 4 December 2025, the accused persons raped and murdered the woman. The victim was found lying motionless in a park in Lautoka.

The State had filed the Information and the accused persons have pleaded Not Guilty to the charges.

The State informed the court that there are admissions in the caution interview and the State will be relying on the same. Counsel for the first accused informed the court that they are not challenging the admissions, however counsel for the second accused wants to look at the transcribed caution interview before confirming their position.

The matter is adjourned to **12 October 2026**. Both accused persons have been further remanded in custody.

Case 5: State v MRA

Charges

- Two counts of rape
- One count of sexual assault

A teacher charged with the rape and sexual assault of a 16-year-old student appeared at the Suva High Court earlier this week.

The accused faces two counts of rape and one count of sexual assault. The alleged offence occurred on an unknown date between 1st June 2026 and 20th July 2026.

The State had earlier filed the Information and the accused pleaded not guilty.

The matter was adjourned to **23 November 2026** for a Pre-Trial Conference and to fix a trial date.

The accused bail was further extended.

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