ODPP Weekly Court Bulletin

19-23 October 2026

Case 1: State-v- JW
Charges:

- Nine counts of rape

A 41-year-old man charged with nine counts of rape of his 14-year-old stepdaughter has been found guilty and convicted accordingly by the Lautoka High Court this afternoon (23.10.26).

Between 2020 and 2026, the accused raped his stepdaughter multiple times. The offences started when the child was 8-year-old in 2020. The victim became pregnant as a result of the rape.

The matter was first called before the Lautoka High Court in June 2026, where the accused pleaded not guilty.

Following a trial, Justice Sunil Sharma this afternoon found the accused guilty and convicted him accordingly.

The matter has been adjourned to **24 November 2026** for sentencing. The accused has been further remanded in custody. He has remained in custody since his first court appearance.

The State has facilitated counselling support for the 14-year-old child, who has attended several sessions to help her cope with the emotional and physical impact of the traumatic experience.

(NB: please note that the copy of judgment has not been forwarded to our office yet).

Case 2: State-v- RD
Charge:

- One count of rape

A man charged with one count of rape involving his two-year-old stepdaughter appeared before the Suva High Court earlier this week.

It is alleged that the accused person raped his stepdaughter on 4 January 2025 at his residence in Caubati.

The accused had pleaded not guilty, and the matter proceeded to trial, which lasted one week.

The matter is adjourned for **10 November 2026** for judgment.

The accused person's bail was further extended. The child has been residing with her biological father in light of the accused person's bail.

Case 3: State-v- Aiden Alec Hurtado
Charge:

- One count of unlawful possession of illicit drugs

The 20 plus kilograms of cocaine held in police custody in relation to *State v Aiden Alec Hurtado* have tested positive for cocaine following a retest ordered by the Suva High Court.

The testing was conducted following a directive by the Court two weeks ago to establish the status of the illicit drugs tendered as exhibits during the trial.

The State had earlier informed the Court that the drugs had not been destroyed and remained in police custody. Justice Rajasinghe subsequently ordered the State to retest the substance and verify its weight.

The State confirmed to the Court this morning that the 20.8 kilograms of drugs had been tested and the results are positive for cocaine. The report was submitted in court.

Following confirmation of the test results, the Court has subsequently ordered the State to destroy the drugs and file the destruction report in court.

Hurtado, a Colombian national, was convicted in 2017 of unlawfully importing 18 kilograms of cocaine into Fiji in 2014.He was initially acquitted in 2015. However, following an appeal by the State, the matter was remitted to the Suva High Court for retrial, which resulted in his conviction.

Hurtado was sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment, with a non-parole period of 15 years. After deducting time spent in remand, his effective sentence was reduced to 13 years and 11 months' imprisonment, with a non-parole period of 11 years and 11 months.

Case 4: State-v-Simione Rokosemudu, Iowane Sukanaisoro and Ilisoni Waqa
Charges:

- One count of murder

Three police officers charged in relation to the death of Lami Police Constable Peniasi Racagi appeared for first call at the Suva High Court before Justice Daniel Goundar this morning (9.10.26)

The accused persons, Simione Rokosemudu, Iowane Sukanaisoro and Ilisoni Waqa, are charged with one count of murder contrary to Section 237 of the Crimes Act 2009.

It is alleged that the three police officers with another between 21 and 22 February at Lami, as either joint principles or secondary offenders or either as aiders and abettors murdered Constable Racagi.

The State has filed the Information and Disclosures this morning. The accused persons are seeking bail, however the State is opposing for them to be released on bail.

The court has directed the accused persons to file formal bail application.

The matter is adjourned to **17 November 2026** for plea. All three accused persons have been remanded in custody.

Case 5: State-v-Jiuta Naivalrua Raibevu
Charges:

- One count of interfering with evidence
- One count of unlawful possession of illicit drugs

A 51-year-old man charged in relation to the missing exhibits at the Suva High Court registry appeared at the Suva Magistrates' Court this morning (23.10.26).

Jiuta Naivalarua Raibevu is charged with another with one count of interfering with evidence and one count of unlawful possession of illicit drugs.

It is alleged that the accused together with another, unlawfully interfered, seized and possessed 39.5 kilograms of cocaine from the Suva High Court registry. The alleged offences occurred between 23 March 2021 and 15 September 2026.

The accused person has applied for bail, however, the State has objected to the same. The State has also applied for the case to be transferred to the Suva High Court.

The matter is adjourned to **6 November 2026** for bail ruling in the Suva Magistrates Court while the substantive matter in High Court will be called on **20 November 2026.**

The accused was further remanded in custody.

Case 6: Voreqe Bainimarama-v-State
Bail Variation application

Former Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama appeared before Justice Daniel Goundar at the Suva High Court. He has filed an application to vary his bail conditions to allow him to travel to New Zealand to accompany his wife for medical treatment.

Bainimarama is facing charges in two separate cases. In one matter, he is charged alongside the former Commissioner of Police with offences relating to inciting mutiny. In the other, he is charged alongside the former Attorney-General and former Health Minister in relation to a health tender case.

The State is opposing the bail variation application.

The Court has directed both parties to file their submissions, with the ruling reserved for next Monday.

The matter has been adjourned to **26 October 2026** and will be called in Sigatoka due to a judicial workshop being held in the Western Division, which will be attended by judges.

Case 7: State-v- Manish, Harish Sampath & Ors
Charges:

- Six counts of currency reporting at the borders
- Six counts of money laundering

The case involving six Indian nationals charged with money laundering and failing to declare currency at the borders was called at the Nadi Magistrates' Court last week to address their visa status.

Manish, Harish Sampath, Krishna Kumar, Malini, Sanjana Chandran and Chandran Dasu each face one count of failing to report currency at the borders and one count of money laundering. They were intercepted by Fiji Revenue and Customs Service officers at Nadi International Airport on July 12 while preparing to leave Fiji, allegedly carrying approximately $183,000 in undeclared foreign currency.

During earlier proceedings, the court was informed that the accused persons visitor's visa were due to expire on October 16, 2026 and that there are possibility that the accused persons could be deported.

Following the court's directive, the State liaised with the Department of Immigration to confirm the status of their visa. The Department responded, outlining its position on their visa status and the need to take into account the pending criminal proceedings and existing bail conditions.

The State conveyed the Department's response to the court, which ordered that the accused persons not be deported in light of the pending criminal charges.

Meanwhile, Defence counsel representing the six accused persons has served the State with a letter of representation.

The matter has been adjourned to **11 November 2026,** for the State to confirm its position on the charges.

The accused persons remain on bail under strict conditions.

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