



PACIFIC CENTRE FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY

"Working to promote good governance and zero tolerance on corruption"

Press Release

Teleni an Obstacle to Treason Investigation Complaint

Suva, 7 September, 2008: The Pacific Centre for Public Integrity, has stated that Commodore Teleni must step aside to allow his officers to conduct a full and proper inquiry into the recent treason complaint lodged by members of the public.

PCPI Campaigner, Mr Peter Waqavonovono stated that in the interest of fairness and to maintain the integrity of the investigation, Commodore's Teleni's immediate suspension should not be negotiable. "The fact that he is included in the complaints list and he heads the Fiji Police poses a serious conflict of interest on his part. Furthermore, he is likely to compromise this investigation."

PCPI Campaigner, Mr Peter Waqavonovono stated that it should be a matter of serious public concern that the officers at the Samabula Police Station had refused to accept the complaint so instead it had to be lodged at the Raiwaqa Police Station.

He said despite claims by the interim regime that the rule of law was intact, this incident and the refusal of Commandore Teleni to publicly indicate if the complaint would be investigated was further proof of the weakened state of the police force.

PCPI stated that it is deeply unfortunate that the reputation and credibility of the Fiji Police force has been eroded by a "few rotten apples", following the coup. The organization said that it is obvious that there are a majority of professional officers in the police force who are under constant pressure to maintain the integrity and standards of the force.

They added that the incident at the Samabula Police Station only further reinforced public fears that the police is controlled by the interim regime and the military, and therefore raises serious concerns on whether they can be trusted to carry out their duties without fear or favor within the law.

PCPI stated they supported the treason complaint lodged by members of the public and added that under the penal code and constitution, everyone has a right to seek redress through the law.

PCPI is also deeply concerned by reports that individuals who had lodged the treason complaint are being threatened and intimidated by members of the security forces. "Obviously, there are some individuals who will go to extreme lengths to subvert the cause of justice, and we are confident that there are enough good officers in the security forces that will not let this happen", said Mr Waqavonovono.

For more information call Peter Waqavonovono, on : 9186612 or 3318 927.

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