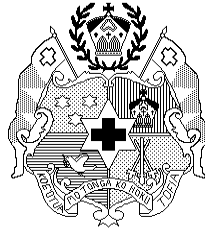


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MEDIA RELEASE

COMPLETION OF PROSECUTION OF OFFENDERS FOR HOME INVASION AT SOPU

- 1 The Attorney General's Office wishes to announce the completion in the Supreme Court on, Tuesday 28 April 2015, of the prosecution of six individuals who were charged with various criminal offences arising from a home invasion at Sopusu on 10 June 2014.
- 2 The criminal prosecution had arisen from an incident on 10 June 2014. The six Defendants had travelled from Lapaha to Nuku'alofa that night in a white 3 tonne truck belonging to one of the defendants.
- 3 At about 3:00 am, the Defendants drove to the victim's residence at Sopusu, where they broke into the house and tied up a female occupant, who was alone at the residence. The Defendants had covered their faces with shirts, then robbed the residence of various goods in excess of \$10,000 in value, and then they left the residence. One of the accused however raped the female occupant.
- 4 The first accused, pleaded guilty to four charges of conspiracy to commit serious housebreaking, conspiracy to commit theft, serious housebreaking and robbery, but pleaded not guilty to a charge of rape.
- 5 Peni Tomasi Mo'unga, Petelo Mo'unga and 'Amanaki Tupou'ata pleaded guilty to four charges each of conspiracy to commit serious housebreaking, conspiracy to commit theft, serious housebreaking and robbery.

- 6 'Atunaisa Tupou'ata pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit serious housebreaking, conspiracy to commit theft and abetment to commit serious housebreaking.
- 7 Siosaia Tu'uhoko pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit serious housebreaking and conspiracy to commit theft.
- 8 The first accused, who is 34 years old, was convicted of robbery, conspiracy to commit serious housebreaking, conspiracy to commit theft and serious housebreaking, and he was sentenced to 6 years imprisonment with the final 18 months (1 year and 6 months) suspended on conditions. He is therefore required to serve 4½ years imprisonment. He will be tried for the rape charge at a later date.
- 9 'Amanaki Tupou'ata who is 20 years old was convicted of robbery, conspiracy to commit serious housebreaking, conspiracy to commit theft and serious housebreaking and he was sentenced to 4½ years imprisonment with the final 18 months (1 year and 6 months) suspended on conditions. He is therefore required to serve 3 years imprisonment.
- 10 Petelo Mo'unga who is 17 years old was convicted of robbery, conspiracy to commit serious housebreaking, conspiracy to commit theft and serious housebreaking, and he was sentenced to serve 4 years imprisonment, with the final 2 years suspended on conditions. He is therefore required to serve 2 years imprisonment.
- 11 Peni Tomasi Mo'unga who is 19 years old was convicted of robbery, conspiracy to commit serious housebreaking, conspiracy to commit theft and serious housebreaking, and he was sentenced to 3½ years imprisonment with the final 18 months (1 year and 6 months) suspended on conditions. He is therefore required to serve 2 years imprisonment.
- 12 Siosaia Tu'uhoko who is 21 years old, was convicted of conspiracy to commit serious housebreaking and conspiracy to commit theft, and he was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, which was fully suspended on condition that he undertakes 40 hours community service.
- 13 'Atunaisa Tupou'ata who is 23 years old, was convicted of abetment to housebreaking, conspiracy to commit housebreaking and conspiracy to theft, and he was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment fully suspended on conditions.

----- MEDIA RELEASE ENDS -----

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