

IN THE HIGH COURT OF FIJI

AT SUVA

CRIMINAL JURISDICTION

CRIMINAL CASE NO. HAC 145 OF 2014S

**STATE**

**VS**

**ERONI QIO**

**Counsels : Ms. S. Navia and Ms. S. Lodhia for State**  
**: Mr. I. Romanu for Accused**  
**Hearings : 10 and 11 May, 2016**  
**Summing Up : 13 May, 2016**  
**Judgment : 13 May, 2016**

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**JUDGMENT**

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1. The three assessors had returned with a unanimous verdict finding the accused guilty as charged.
2. Obviously the assessors had accepted the prosecution's version of events and that meant they had accepted the three prosecution's witnesses' evidence and their version of events. It also meant that they had rejected the accused's denials and his version of events.
3. I have reviewed the evidence called in the trial and I have directed myself in accordance with the summing up I gave the assessors today.

4. The assessors' verdict was not perverse. It was open to them to reach such conclusion on the evidence.
5. I agree with the assessors and I accept their opinion. Like them, I find the prosecution's three witnesses credible and I accept their evidence. I accept PW2 and PW3 identification evidence of the accused. I reject the accused's sworn denials. He was not a credible witness and I therefore reject his version of events.
6. On the basis of the above, I find the accused guilty as charged and I convict him accordingly.
7. Assessors thanked and released.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' shape.

**Salesi Temo**  
**JUDGE**

**Solicitor for the State** : **Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, Suva.**  
**Solicitor for the Accused** : **Tuifagalele Law, Barrister and Solicitor, Suva.**