

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

### **Landmark progress in Copyright battle**

**December 23, 2010, Suva, Fiji Islands** - The Fiji Audio Visual Industry Association (FAVIA) is pleased to report that the court ruling on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010 involving the First Copyright Movie Infringement case (State v Yogesh Lal), that the Court has ordered that the Prosecution has provided sufficient evidence to put the accused on his defense. This means that there has been successful testing of the Copyright Amendment Decree 2009 and so now the burden is on each defense from here on out to prove or justify their dealing of the infringing copies that were seized from their shops.

The new legislation no longer requires copyright owners to be present, which in the past has been a challenge for prosecution.

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the court passed sentencing highlighting the penalties of parties found guilty of dealing, would be subject to an exact fine of \$5,000 per pirated disc up to \$50,000, and an additional 12 months in jail. Those parties also found in possession of equipment in the duplication of pirated material would also be subject to a 2<sup>nd</sup> penalty of \$50,000 and a further 12 months in jail.

This sends a clear message that video piracy does not pay, and those who are not following local laws should cease activities immediately or risk up to \$100,000 in fines and 2 years in jail.

FAVIA will continue to assist the industry, assist the Police and DPP, in serving the public.

- END -

For more information, please log onto: [www.ifiji.com/favia/](http://www.ifiji.com/favia/)

#### **ABOUT FAVIA**

The Fiji Audio Visual Industry Association was set up in July 2006 to promote the protection of intellectual property and raise awareness on copyright issues in Fiji. Association members include Fiji Television, SPR, IMHD, Damodar Brothers, TFL, Eros Pacific. Office bearers are: President – Chris Caine; Secretary – Krupesh Patel; and Treasurer – Div Damodar.