



ShameemLaw

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David Burness v FNPF and Attorney General

PRESS STATEMENT

The case of **David Burness v FNPF and the Attorney General** has begun to attract a great deal of interest from members of the public who are similarly affected by the proposed changes to the FNPF Act which will reduce the benefits of elderly people already receiving their pensions.

Dr Shaista Shameem, the lead counsel in the case currently before the High Court of Fiji, which will be heard from July 4th 2011, says that since yesterday, ShameemLaw's phone has rung 'off the hook' with calls from pensioners wanting to join the action. ShameemLaw's staff is now making a list of people who have contacted her office to make similar applications to the court on their behalf. ShameemLaw will consider each application on its merits.

However, Dr Shameem says that her first priority is to obtain an interim injunction from the court so that a Decree or similar law is not enacted to frustrate her client, David Burness's July 4th hearing. 'We are rapidly approaching **FNPF D-Day**, meaning 'FNPF Decree Day' and my client is very worried', Dr Shameem said.

FNPF informed the public that the new Decree introducing changes to the FNPF Act which will reduce pensions by as much as 64% will be enacted on July 1st.

Dr Shameem said she and Mr Burness will be desperately waiting all day today in the court complex for the High Court Registry to inform her when a Judge can hear her application for an ex-parte interim injunction. Dr Shameem made the application two days ago for an ex-parte hearing to stop the FNPF new Decree from being promulgated until her client's main application was heard by the High Court; she is awaiting a reply from the Court on her urgent motion.