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IN THE FIJI COURT OF APPEAL

Criminal Appeal No. 10 of 1986

Between:

VINOD PRASAD
(s/o Ram Prasad)

Appellant

- and -

R E G I N A M

Respondent

The Appellant in Person
Mr Anil Sharma for the Respondent

Date of Hearing: 23rd February, 1987

Date of Judgment: 13th March, 1987

JUDGMENT OF THE COURT

Speight, V.P.

Appellant was convicted after a trial in the Supreme Court of two counts of conspiracy which had resulted in a number of his co-accused obtaining large sums of money from Banks and elsewhere by cashing cheques taken from a cheque book which had been fraudulently obtained from the ANZ Bank, Suva. Within a period of two weeks many thousands of dollars were obtained by various members of the group.

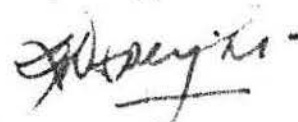
The present appellant appealed only against his sentence and he raised two matters in support of his claim that the term of three years imprisonment was excessive.

1. That he was not the leading member of the conspiracy.
2. Some years ago when before the Court on other matters a psychiatric report suggested he was not of full understanding.

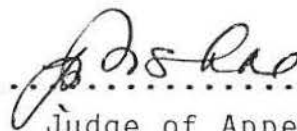
It is sufficient to say in respect of both these matters that the evidence shows and the learned trial Judge concluded that this Appellant was the mastermind behind the whole operation, far more cunning than the others, and his conduct throughout showed him to be an alert person. It is also noted that he has a long history for offences of this nature.

In our opinion no grounds have been raised to question the appropriateness of the sentence imposed.

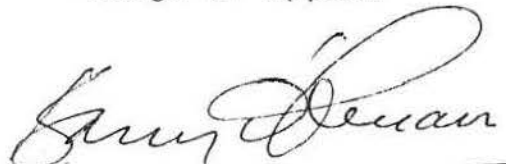
Appeal dismissed.



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Vice-President



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Judge of Appeal



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Judge of Appeal