IN THE HIGH COURT OF FIJI WESTERN DIVISION AT LAUTOKA

Civil Action No. 11 of 2008

BETWEEN

: VIJENDRA MANI Driver, Technician.

PLAINTIFF

AND

<u>SUBHAS CHANDRA SHARMA</u> trading as <u>SHARMA</u> <u>MUSIC CENTRE</u> of Nadi Town.

DEFENDANT

RULING

- 1. This is a case where the plaintiff suffered injuries as a result of a motor-vehicle accident, allegedly, during and in the course of his employment with the defendant. He sues his defendant employer accordingly.
- 2. The pleadings in this case are closed and the matter is almost ready for trial. There are some issues between counsel regarding the Pre-Trial Conference Minutes.
- 3. A set of Pre-Trial Conference Minutes dated 18 March 2009 executed by Mishra Prakash & Associates for the plaintiff and Babu Singh & Associates who were then acting for the defendants, is on file. At the time, the plaintiff had compiled and filed Copy Pleadings.
- 4. On 28 July 2009 however, Suresh Maharaj & Associates were appointed Solicitors for the defendant. On 09 November 2009, Suresh Maharaj & Associates filed an application to amend their Statement of Defence. On 11 December 2009, a Consent Order was entered giving leave to the defendant to amend their defence and file counter-claim. The reply to the amended defence and the defence to counter-claim were filed on 26 February 2010 and on 26 March 2010, the Reply to Defence to Counter-Claim was filed.
- 5. It was at that stage that the new counsel for the defendants, who, I believe was embarking on a subrogated defence of the matter for Sun Insurance Company Limited, for which the defendant company, apparently, had a workmen's' compensation cover for its employees, began to revisit the Pre-Trial Conference Minutes executed earlier by the former solicitors of the defendant

- and would find issues with some parts of the concessions made therein for and on behalf of the defendant.
- 6. I think the most appropriate thing to do now is to set a date for mention to see if the parties can agree to a set of PTC Minutes. If not, the only other alternative is to dispense with PTC and to proceed to setting a trial date.
- 7. Case adjourned to Wednesday 12 October 2016 for mention.

Anare Tuilevuka **JUDGE**

05 October 2016.