

**SOCIAL
TIMES**

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Members of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces Band perform the military tattoo during the launch of the 100th year celebration of the band at the Queen Elizabeth Barracks in Nabua, Suva, last Friday.
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Picture: JOVESA NAISUA



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TIMES DAILY**

Wedding inquiry

Police probe claims of negligence, defilement

By SERAFINA SILAITOGA

POLICE are investigating the parents and partner of the 11-year-old girl, who was impregnated in Labasa after an alleged rape.

The law enforcers said they were investigating issues of parental negligence and defilement.

The investigation of defilement follows the girl's alleged wedding ceremony three weeks ago.

Police spokesperson Ana Naisoro said they were yet to determine whether the wedding

did happen and who all were involved in the ceremony.

"We are investigating the defilement case because she is still a minor," she said.

"We are looking into those issues as it is all part of this case and the fact that the girl is believed to be living with a man at the age of 11.

"The parents are also being investigated for parental negligence."

Ms Naisoro said the investigations have not been completed and police were pursuing these areas of concern.

It is understood the victim was taken to an area outside Labasa Town to be wedded three weeks ago, when the matter was reported to police.

This was confirmed to this newspaper by a relative of the girl, who wished to remain anonymous.

Police earlier confirmed three men had appeared in the Magistrates Court in Labasa with two being granted bail and the third remanded in custody.

The three men were charged with a count each of rape, said Ms Naisoro.

What do you think?



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