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Fraud charges against Irfaan Ali withdrawn because he is now President

Posted by: Denis Chabrol in Courts, Crime, News, Politics Friday, 14 August 2020, 11:03 6 Comments

Last Updated on Friday, 14 August 2020, 11:15 by Denis Chabrol



FLASH BACK: Former Minister of Housing, Water and Tourism, Irfaan Ali at SOCU's headquarters.

The Guyana Police Force's Special Organised Crime Unit (SOCU) Friday morning withdrew the 19 fraud charges against Irfaan Ali because he is now President and is automatically immune from prosecution, Special Prosecutor Patrice Henry said.

"The case was withdrawn because SOCU is no longer interested in pursuing the matter because of the office he now holds," Mr. Henry told News-Talk Radio/ Demerara Waves Online News.

He explained that even without going to the Court of Appeal, there is an automatic stay.

Mr. Henry said assuming the President Ali serves two five year terms, the assumption is that the prosecution's case would be weakened by the eventual absence of witnesses.

The SOCU Special Prosecutor further explained that based on "good governance issues" the President's for visas would have been adversely affected if the charges were not withdrawn.

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Among those, SOCU had said in its charges who got lands at significantly reduced purchase prices were then President Bharrat Jagdeo and former Public Service Minister Dr. Jennifer Westford.

Figures show that Jagdeo in September, 2010 bought a parcel of land for GYD\$2.3 million although its value is GYD\$10.6 million. He also bought another parcel GYD\$7.5 million although it was valued at GYD\$32.7 million.

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