



**Lodwar v Republic (Criminal Revision E074 of 2024)  
[2024] KEHC 5229 (KLR) (17 May 2024) (Ruling)**

Neutral citation: [2024] KEHC 5229 (KLR)

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
IN THE HIGH COURT AT LODWAR  
CRIMINAL REVISION E074 OF 2024  
RN NYAKUNDI, J  
MAY 17, 2024**

**BETWEEN**

**ABRAHAM LODWAR ..... APPLICANT**

**AND**

**REPUBLIC ..... RESPONDENT**

*(Being Review on Sentence from the Decision in Cr.  
Case No E464/2023 by Hon. V. Shivenga on 7.11.2023)*

**RULING**

1. The applicant was charged with the offence of Shop breaking and committing a felony contrary to section 306 of the [Penal Code](#).
2. The applicant pleaded guilty to the offence before Hon. V. Shivega on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 and as a consequence, he was convicted on his own plea of guilty and sentenced to 1 year imprisonment.
3. The applicant has approached this court pursuant to sections 357,362,364& 382 of the [Criminal Procedure Code](#) as construed with Article 50(2) (p) & (q) as conjunctively read with Article 50(6)(a) &(b) of the [Constitution](#).
4. The applicant seeks a sentence review based on the sentence review report on record. The report is responsive. According to the report, the applicant pleads for leniency. He stated that being in prison has helped him to reform and humble himself. I am of the considered view that the courts should embrace non-custodial sentences where circumstances require it. I consider this as one of the cases where a non-custodial sentence would have sufficed.
5. In determining whether to impose a custodial or non-custodial sentence, the court is required to take into account the following factors: -
  - a) Gravity of the offence: - sentence of imprisonment should be avoided for misdemeanour.



- b) Criminal history of the offender. Taking into account the seriousness of the offences, first offenders should be considered for non-custodial sentence.
- c) Character of the offender: - non-custodial sentence are best suited for offenders who are already remorseful and receptive to rehabilitative measures.
- d) Protection of the community: - where the offender is likely to pose a threat to the community.
- e) Offender's responsibility to third parties: - where there are people depending on the offender.

Turning to the issue of sentence the court wants to remind itself and the Lower Court that sentencing should always follow the provisions of the statute, the Sentencing policy guidelines published in 2023 and the Principles laid down in the various case law. It is trite that the basis on which Appeal's Court exercise jurisdiction to review or overturn the sentence is basically on factors of the sentence being manifestly excessive or in adequate likely to send shock waves to the public and the offender. The constitution 2010 also enacted Article 25 (a) dealing with rights and fundamental freedoms guarantees of citizens from torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment. That fundamental right should be borne in mind in sentencing an offender upon conviction for that particular offence. In some also as a matter of principle in sentencing any verdict, sanction or punishment must be proportionate to the crime for which the accused person has been convicted. It is also clear from the objectives and principles of sentencing, that the accused being a first offender or has entered a plea of guilty to the offence should count for something to reduce his or her sentence. Generally, for first offenders, it is very unlikely that if they are placed on non-custodial sentence they would be re-offending hence impacting negatively public law and order in our communities. The trial courts ought to focus more on rehabilitation of offenders than deterrence with lengthy sentences that may not aid in the transformation of the offender. There are various sentencing provided in our penal system which are rarely invoked as measures to punish crime by the trial courts. The non-custodial measures are fashioned around the Tokio rules 8.1 & 8.2 (a-m) which provide *inter-alia* Verbal sanctions, such as admonition, reprimand and warning Conditional discharge Status Penalties Economic sanction and donetary penalties, such as fines and day-fines Confiscation or an expropriation order Restitution to the victim or a compensation order Suspended or differed sentence Probation and judicial supervision A community service order Referral to an attendance center House arrest Any other mode of non-institutional treatment, or Some combination of these measures.

Just as the offender's person need and interests have to be weighed against society's interest at the pre-trial stage, so the offenders "rehabilitative needs" at the sentencing stage must be balanced against eh need to protect society and "the interests of the victim the list of non-custodial measures in Rule 8.2 while not exhaustive, contains a wide range of non-custodial measures to suit different circumstances and achieve different objectives

6. Further to the aforementioned, the Community Service Orders Act makes it possible for courts to issue an order requiring the offender to perform community service. This option is available to court when the offender is convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or imprisonment for a term exceeding three years but for which the court determines that any of that term as would be appropriate be served within the community on unpaid public works.
7. The facts in the instant case suggest an offence that can be punishable by a non-custodial sentence from the onset, particularly because the items stolen were recovered. It is my considered view that the period served by the applicant in prison has shaped his character and he has appreciated the importance of being a law-abiding sentence.



8. Having gone through the record, and conscious of the objectives of sentencing, I am persuaded that the applicant has learned a lesson for the duration served in custody. The sentence be and is hereby reviewed to the period already served. The applicant shall be set at liberty, unless he is otherwise lawfully held.

**SIGNED, DATE AND DELIVERED AT LODWAR THIS 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2024.**

In the presence of:-

Mr. Bungei K. Jonathan for the State Appellant

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**R. NYAKUNDI**

**JUDGE**

