



**Louren v Republic (Criminal Revision E105 of 2024)
[2024] KEHC 5244 (KLR) (17 May 2024) (Ruling)**

Neutral citation: [2024] KEHC 5244 (KLR)

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE HIGH COURT AT LODWAR
CRIMINAL REVISION E105 OF 2024
RN NYAKUNDI, J
MAY 17, 2024**

BETWEEN

BENSON LOUREN APPLICANT

AND

REPUBLIC RESPONDENT

RULING

1. The applicant was charged with the offence of stealing contrary to Section 275 of the *Penal Code*. He also faced an alternative charge of assault causing actual bodily harm contrary to section 251 of the Penal Code.
2. The applicant pleaded guilty to the offence before Hon. Shivega on 17th November, 2023 and as a consequence, he was convicted on his own plea of guilty and sentenced to 2 years imprisonment cumulative of the two counts.
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 is a 24-year-old and he is a dropout. He is a married man with two children depending on him, who were left under the custody of their parents after his arrest. He is remorseful and regrets committing the offence. He has been recommended for a non-custodial sentence. The probation officer recommended a CSO for one month at Kakuma probation office.
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.
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. Having gone through the facts of the present case and particularly the age of the applicant, the circumstances fit the legal framework of the [Community Service Act](#) as an alternative sentence to imprisonment. He is a young person with a whole life ahead of him and a non-custodial sentence would be greatly beneficial with proper guidance and counselling. I take note that he has only served 4 months of his sentence and for purposes of achieving the objectives of sentencing in totality, he should serve a non-custodial sentence for 8 months. Consequently, the effective measure as recommended by the probation officer is to have the applicant serve a community service order for 8 months at Kakuma probation office. Monthly reports shall be filed in court by the supervisor of the applicant through the probation officer. The essence of it is to achieve the effectiveness of this non-custodial sentence and that any breach of any conditions by the applicant shall attract cancellation of the community service order and have the sentence reverted to custodial sanctions.

SIGNED, DATE AND DELIVERED AT LODWAR THIS 17TH DAY OF MAY 2024.

R. NYAKUNDI

JUDGE

In the Presence of

Mr. Jonathan K. Bungei

Appellant

