



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**Erongat v Republic (Criminal Revision E124 of 2024)
[2024] KEHC 6952 (KLR) (11 June 2024) (Ruling)**

Neutral citation: [2024] KEHC 6952 (KLR)

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE HIGH COURT AT LODWAR
CRIMINAL REVISION E124 OF 2024
RN NYAKUNDI, J
JUNE 11, 2024**

BETWEEN

SIMON ERONGAT APPLICANT

AND

REPUBLIC RESPONDENT

RULING

1. The applicant was charged with the offence of assault causing actual bodily harm contrary to section 251 of the Penal code.
2. The applicant pleaded guilty to the offence and was convicted on his own plea of guilty. As a consequence, he was sentenced to a fine of twenty-five thousand and in default 6 months 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 has not shown any indiscipline. He needs guidance and counselling on handling family matters without violence. The report further indicated that the applicant appreciates non-custodial measures since he wants to unite with his family and his children. He is remorseful for his actions and seeks lenience. With these facts, the probation officer recommended a community service order at St. Marks Primary School, Nakalale village, Lokitaung for a period of 3 months.
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.

In the case of *Republic vs Felix Madalitso Keke* Confirmation Appeal No. 404 of 2010 (unreported) where the court held as follows: "Considerations of the public interest when sentencing offenders must go beyond considerations of deterrence; there is always the consideration that the public whose interest the sentence wants to serve includes the prisoner before the court at first instance. It is in the public interest that sentences are passed which are not cruel, degrading and inhuman. Harsh or lenient sentences may not necessarily serve the public interest; they are likely to have an opposite effect. While sentences must fit the crime, the offender and the victim, they must also fit and cohere with overall sentencing goals, justice, reformation, restoration and rehabilitation. Our sentences may not be in the public interest if they only succeed in instilling crime and fail in bringing the prisoner a better person in society's continuum."

The court of Appeal in *Thomas Mwambu Wenyi v Republic* (2017) eKLR cited the decision of the Supreme Court of India in *Alistar Anthony Pereira v State of Maharashtra* at paragraph 70-71 where the court held as follows on sentencing "Sentencing is an important task in the matter of crime. One of the prime objectives of the criminal law is imposition of appropriate adequate, just and proportionate sentence commensurate with the nature and gravity of crime and the manner in which the crime is done. There is no straight jacket formula for sentencing an accused person on proof of crime. the courts have evolved certain principles: twin objective of sentencing policy is deterrence and correction. What sentence would meet the ends of justice depends on the facts and circumstance of each case and the court must keep in mind the gravity of the crime, motive for the crime nature of the offence and all other attendance circumstances. The principle of proportionality in sentencing a crime doer is well entrenched in criminal jurisprudence, As a matter of law, proportion between crime and punishment bears most relevant influence in determination of sentencing the crime doer. The court has to take into consideration all aspects including Social interest and consciousness of the society for award of appropriate sentence

- 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, the circumstances fit the legal framework of the *Community Service Act* as an alternative sentence to imprisonment. I believe a non-custodial sentence would be greatly benefit the applicant with proper guidance and counselling. Consequently, the effective measure as recommended by the probation officer is to have the applicant serve a community service order for the remaining period at St. Marks Primary School, Nakalale village. As an addition, the probation officer has an obligation in ensuring that the applicant undergoes professional counselling to help him manage anger issues.



SIGNED, DATE AND DELIVERED AT LODWAR THIS 11TH DAY OF JUNE 2024.

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R. NYAKUNDI

JUDGE

