



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**KENYA LAW**  
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**Republic v Wamai (Criminal Case E002 of 2022)  
[2024] KEHC 15025 (KLR) (20 November 2024) (Ruling)**

Neutral citation: [2024] KEHC 15025 (KLR)

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
IN THE HIGH COURT AT EMBU  
CRIMINAL CASE E002 OF 2022  
LM NJUGUNA, J  
NOVEMBER 20, 2024**

**BETWEEN**

**REPUBLIC ..... PROSECUTION**

**AND**

**TIMOTHY GITONGA WAMAI ..... ACCUSED**

**RULING**

1. The accused person is facing the charge of murder contrary to Section 203 as read together with Section 204 of the *Penal Code*. Particulars of the charge are that on the night of 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 at Rung'ang'a village, Embu West Sub-County, within Embu County, the accused person murdered Jones Kiringa Wamai.
2. The accused took a plea of 'not guilty' and the same was duly entered. The case proceeded to hearing and the prosecution called Nine (9) witnesses and then rested their case.
3. Under Section 306 of the *Criminal Procedure Code*, this Court is tasked with making a ruling on whether or not the accused person has a case to answer and whether the prosecution has established a *prima facie* case. The provision states:

Section 306 (1) of the *Criminal Procedure Code*:

“When the evidence of the witnesses for the Prosecution has been concluded, the court, if it considers that there is no evidence that the accused or any one of the several or any one of the several accused committed the offence shall, after hearing, if necessary any arguments which the advocate for the prosecution or the defence may desire to submit, record a finding of not guilty.”



4. The court in the case of *Republic v Abdi Ibrahim Owi* (2013) eKLR, defined a *prima facie* case as follows:

“*Prima facie*’ is a Latin word defined by *Black’s Law Dictionary* 8<sup>th</sup> Edition as, “sufficient to establish a fact or raise presumption unless disproved or rebutted”. ‘*Prima facie*’ is defined by the same dictionary as “the establishment of a legally required rebuttable presumption.”

5. In other words, a *prima facie* case is a rebuttable presumption that the accused person is guilty of the offence. In the case of *Ramanlal Trambaklal Bhatt v R* (1957) EA 332 at 335, the court stated as follows:

“Remembering that the legal onus is always on the Prosecution to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt, we cannot agree that a *prima facie* case is made out if, at the close of the prosecution’s case, the case is merely one in which on full consideration might possible be thought sufficient to sustain a conviction.” This is perilously near suggesting that the court would not be prepared to convict if no defence is made, but rather, hopes the defence will fill the gaps in the Prosecution case.....there is a case to answer depends only on whether there is “some evidence, irrespective of its credibility or weight, sufficient to put the accused on his defence”. A mere scintilla of evidence can never be enough; nor can any amount of worthless discredited evidence. It may not be easy to define what is meant by a, “*prima facie* case”, but at least it must mean one on which a reasonable, properly directing its mind to the law and the evidence could convict if no explanation is offered by the defence”.

6. Nevertheless, where the court is not acquitting the accused person, there is no need to give a deep reasoning in a ruling for case to answer. The case would have been otherwise where there was a submission on ‘no case to answer’ as the court would have been required to give its reasons for considering that the accused has no case to answer.

7. I have considered the evidence by the prosecution in its entirety and it is my considered view that a *prima facie* case has been established. The accused person has a case to answer and is therefore placed on his defense.

8. It is so ordered.

**DELIVERED, DATED AND SIGNED AT EMBU THIS 20<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024.**

**L. NJUGUNA**

**JUDGE**

..... for the State

..... for the Accused Person

