



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**Eboso v Republic (Criminal Revision 97 of 2023)
[2024] KEHC 6108 (KLR) (30 May 2024) (Ruling)**

Neutral citation: [2024] KEHC 6108 (KLR)

**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
IN THE HIGH COURT AT KIBERA
CRIMINAL REVISION 97 OF 2023**

DR KAVEDZA, J

MAY 30, 2024

BETWEEN

VINCENT ADOLO EBOSO APPLICANT

AND

REPUBLIC RESPONDENT

RULING

1. The applicant with another not before this court was charged and convicted for the offence of robbery with violence contrary to section 296 (2) of the [Penal Code](#), cap 63 Laws of Kenya. He was sentenced to death. *vide* Kibera Chief Magistrate’s Court Criminal Case no. 3999 of 2008. He filed an appeal before this court challenging his conviction and sentence *vide* Nairobi Appeal No. 698 of 2010. On June 17, 2014, this court dismissed his appeal. His sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment.
2. He has now filed the present application seeking resentencing. The grounds raised are that the sentence was in contravention of his constitutional rights. He was 25 years at the time of arrest and incarceration and has spent most of his adult life in prison. He is remorseful and undertakes to become a law-abiding citizen if released.
3. The Judiciary [Sentencing Policy Guidelines, 2023](#) provides as follows on who can apply for re-sentencing.
4. 8.16 A resentencing application can be made:
 - i. After the completion of the trial process and where a sentence has been issued.
 - ii. Where an appeal is pending before the Court of Appeal, the High Court will entertain an application for resentencing upon being satisfied that the appeal has been withdrawn.



12. In this case, it appears that in determining the sentence, the learned trial magistrate's decision was primarily influenced by the mandatory nature of the applicable law. This jurisprudence has since shifted after the promulgation of the *Constitution* of Kenya, 2010.
13. Furthermore, it is significant to emphasize that the decisions in the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal cases *Muruatetu*, *Manyeso* and *Nyamari* (*supra*), recognize that indeterminate sentences deprive a convict of the opportunity to be heard in mitigation, while convicts facing lesser sentences are granted such an opportunity. The deprivation constitutes unjustifiable discrimination, is unfair, and contravenes the principle of equality before the law as enshrined in article 27 of the *Constitution*. Additionally, an indeterminate life sentence, amounts to inhumane treatment and violates the right to dignity under article 28 of the *Constitution*. It is also a principle of international law that all prisoners serving life sentences should be afforded the possibility of rehabilitation and the prospect of release if such rehabilitation is achieved. (See the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights: *Vinter and others v. United Kingdom* (Application nos. 66069/09, 130/10 and 3896/10) [2016] III ECHR 317 (9 July 2013) and *Murray v. the Netherlands* [GC], no. 10511/10, (26 April 2016)
14. In the instant case, the appellant was charged with the offence of robbery with violence contrary to section 296(2) of the Penal Code and was sentenced to death as per the law, which sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. However, I am guided by the recent court of appeal decision in the case of *Nyamari* (*supra*) where life imprisonment was construed to mean a maximum of 30 years imprisonment, I hereby set aside the life sentence and substitute it with a sentence of thirty (30) years' imprisonment from the date of the applicant's arrest, December 15, 2008 pursuant to section 333(2) of the *Criminal Procedure Code*.

Orders accordingly.

Ruling dated and delivered virtually this 30th day of May 2024

D. KAVEDZA

JUDGE

In the presence of:

Applicant Present

Ms. Tumaini for the Respondent

Joy Court Assistant

Page 2 of 2

