

**IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS MAGISTRATES' COURT  
AT HONIARA**

Criminal Case No. 21 of 2019



**REGINA**

**v.**

**Hadley SABELI**

Before: Principal Magistrate Ms. Fatimah Taeburi  
Ms. Dalcy Belapitu for the prosecution  
Mr. Bobby Harunari for the defendant

Date of hearing: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Dated of ruling: 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019

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**SENTENCE**

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1. You pleaded guilty to one count of indecent act without consent contrary to section 138 (1) (a) and (b) of the Penal Code (Amendment) (Sexual Offences) Act 2016. You are now before this court for sentence.
2. I convict you on your guilty plea.
3. The victim was 14 years old. You were 20 years of age at the time of offending.
4. You touched her breasts without her consent.
5. I take her young age into consideration. Young girls like this victim must be protected by the courts and by the law.
6. Of course you are older, but I do not find any major disparity in your ages. You are both in the same age group.
7. I take into account that you pleaded guilty. You have no previous convictions.
8. Rehabilitation is a main consideration here.

9. The maximum penalty for indecent assault is now 7 years imprisonment.
10. I have read through the cases referred to by the prosecutor and the defence counsel. I feel that this case is not as serious as the others referred to.
11. In the case of R v Poloso, the case which Mr. Harunari has referred to, the accused grabbed the victim's breasts without consent. He was sentenced to 1 year imprisonment.
12. The facts of this case are similar to that in Poloso.
13. I am satisfied that the appropriate sentence is 1 year imprisonment. The time spent in custody is to be taken into account.
14. Right to appeal within 14 days.



*Fatimah Taeburi*

Fatimah Taeburi  
Principal Magistrate