

**In the Central Magistrate's Court
Of Solomon Islands**

Criminal Case No:

196 of 2023



REGINA

V

FRANCIS RAMONI

(DPP) for the Crown
(PSO) for the accused

Date of Hearing: 15th May 2023

Date of Ruling: 15th May 2023

SENTENCE

PM Taeburi,

1. Accused is charged under the liquor act with one count of consumption of liquor in a public place, being the Central Market in Honiara on the 25th of February 2023.
2. He has admitted the charge.
3. He was arrested and charged on the 14th of March 2023. He was bailed by the police to attend court but he did not show up. A warrant was issued for his arrest. He was arrested on the 12th of May and brought to court on the 13th of May. I made orders for him to be remanded at the Juvenile Facility at the Correctional Centre. I adjourned his matter and ordered for a lawyer to be present during plea. I also adjourned for the parents of the accused to be present in court.
4. His background information are as follows;
5. He is 15 years old.
6. He is from Santa Ana, Makira Ulawa Province. His father is from Makira Province and his mother from Isabel Province.
7. He is no longer in school. He attended school last year at Mbokonavera Primary School. He was in Grade 4 last year. He refuses to attend school this year due to reasons only known to him.
8. Both his parents are alive and living together as a couple.
9. They are present in court.

10. He is the second born child in a family of 6 children.
11. He has no previous convictions.
12. Due to his young age, I consider him to be very vulnerable child. Under section 35 of the Penal Code, I refuse to enter criminal conviction against given his young age and also due to the likely effects of a conviction on his future, I also consider section 16 of the Juvenile Offenders which provides various methods that a court can utilise when dealing with a juvenile offender. An order under section 35 of the Penal Code corresponds with the methods provided in the Juvenile Offenders Act.
13. I must make these comments that it is indeed a very sad situation for a child of this vulnerable age to have ended up in our courts. I hope that this child learns from this experience and will in the future refrain from being involved activities that will only bring about problems for himself and his family. Try to avoid associating yourself with the wrong group. Engage yourself in activities that will benefit yourself. Involve in sports and other more beneficial social activities. Reconsider going back to school. It is never too late to learn. Learn to listen to your parents.
14. I also hope that the parents of this young boy also learn from this experience. Parenting is not an easy job. As parents we all are aware of the challenges and the difficulties that we face in raising our children. The responsibilities of a parent to provide, protect, love, care and teach a child comes from God. Although it can be difficult, we must all learn to seek guidance from He who was given us the gift of parenting and the responsibilities that comes with it.
15. As a reminder, as parents we must embrace our children and lead them in the right way although it may seem hard at times. Children must learn to respect and honour their parents. This is what is said in the Bible. If you disrespect and refuse to listen to your parents then you will bring curse upon yourself.
16. I hope that this experience is a turning point for this young boy and his parents.
17. Orders;
 - a) The case is dismissed under section 35 of the Penal Code.
 - b) Francis is committed to the care of his parents, Mr. Seth Waimea and Mrs. Edna Ramoni.
 - c) He is to be released from custody at the rising of the Court.
18. Right to appeal within 14 days.

Principal Magistrate Ms. Fatimah Me'ere Taeburi

