



**IN THE CENTRAL MAGISTRATES COURT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS AT HONIARA**  
(Criminal Jurisdiction)

Criminal Cases No. 548 of 2025: REX-V-CHARLES WAEMI AND JEDDY MASARA

Coram: HOLLISON F (PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATE)

Appearances:

Mr Abel Maelanga, Police Prosecutions Department, for the Crown

Mr Lazarus Waroka, Principal Legal Officer, Public Solicitors Office, for the Defendant

Date of Ruling: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

Notice: *This copy of the Court's Reasons for Judgment/Sentence is subject to formal revision prior to publication.*

**SENTENCE**

Introduction

1. The defendants Charles Waemi and Jeddy Masara are charged with one count of simple larceny contrary to section 261(1) of the *Penal Code* [Cap 26]. Mr Waemi had pleaded guilty during the Buala court circuit in May earlier this year and was ordered to pay a penalty fine of \$500 for which he paid. Mr Masara pleaded guilty to the charge this morning and I record a conviction against his name.
2. The offence occurred on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at Kolofaga area in Buala ward in the Isabel Province. The defendants stole the 15 pieces of firewood owned by the complainant Mr Edwin Aleziru.
3. I am guided by the principles of sentencing such as punishment, retribution, deterrence and rehabilitation. The offence carries a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment.<sup>1</sup>
4. After having considered the aggravating factors and also the mitigating factors such as an early guilty plea, remorse shown, first-time offender and his personal circumstances, I am of the view that a penalty fine is appropriate.
5. Therefore, taking into account his co-defendant's penalty and the need for consistency when dealing with co-defendants, I sentence the defendant to pay a penalty fine of \$500 which is due on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2025 at 4:30pm. If the defendant does not pay the fine, he shall be imprisoned for 20 days at the correctional facility at Rofoe in Honiara.
6. Right of appeal applies.
7. The court so orders.

  
PRINCIPAL MAGISTRATE FELIX HOLLISON  
THE COURT



<sup>1</sup> *Penal Code* [Cap 26], s 661(1)