

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU**  
(Criminal Jurisdiction)

Criminal Case No. 30 of 2010

**PUBLIC PROSECUTOR**  
**V.**  
**MAI METO**

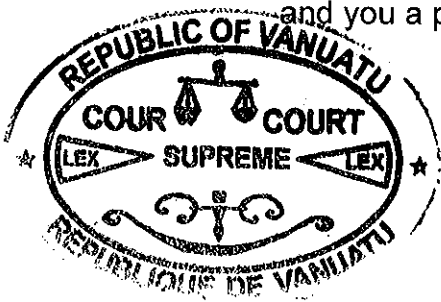
*Coram:* Justice N. R. DAWSON

*Date of Decision:* 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2010

*Counsel:* Mr. T. Karai for Public Prosecutor  
Mr. A. Bal for the Accused

**SENTENCE**

1. Mr. Meto appears in Court today for sentencing on a charge of possession of cannabis. The complainant is a Chief of a village name Emae and made a complaint against Mr. Meto for unlawful possession of cannabis leaves on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2010, which lead to the arrest of Mr. Meto.
2. I note Mr. Meto that you have no previous convictions and you are 25 years of age. I have read the probation report and also submissions filed in the Court on your behalf by your counsel. In sentencing you is necessary to impose a sentence that will promote a new sense of responsibility so you do not offend again and do not come back to Court again. In my view there are no aggravating features I need to take in to account in sentencing you today. There are mitigating factors; the first is you entered a guilty plea at an early stage, you have expressed remorse, and you a person of good character. The Probation Report also notes that

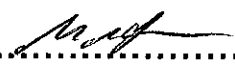


you were remanded in custody from the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 and released on bail on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

3. For an offence of this nature, a sentence of imprisonment would normally be imposed for a term of 3 months. After taken into account the mitigating features I am prepared to reduce that to community work sentence of 100 hours. However I take into account that you spent nearly 2 months in custody while on remand and on that basis you are convicted today for the offence but no further sentence will be imposed. I also made an order that the cannabis material seized in evidence be destroyed.
4. Mr Meto you have the right to appeal the sentence. For any appeal you must lodge a notice of appeal in 14 day of today's dates.

**DATED at Port Vila, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2010.**

**BY THE COURT**

  
.....  
**N. R. DAWSON**  
Judge.

