

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

**Criminal**  
**Case No. 22/1558 SC/CRML**

**PUBLIC PROSECUTOR**

**v**

**PAUL YASI**

*Date:* 17 August 2022  
*Before:* Justice V.M. Trief  
*Counsel:* Public Prosecutor – Mr C. Shem  
Defendant – Mr L. Moli

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**SENTENCE**

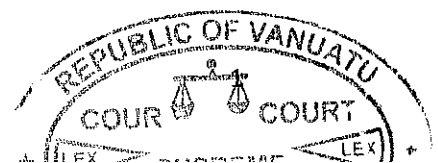
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A. Introduction

1. Mr Yasi pleaded guilty to 2 charges of domestic violence (Charges 1 and 2) and threat to kill (Charge 3). He was convicted on his own pleas and the admitted facts.

B. Facts

2. Mr Yasi was the *de facto* partner of the complainant at the time of the offending.
3. On 4 January 2022, at Teouma area on Efate, the complainant Pascaline Louis was in bed unwell. Mr Yasi entered the bedroom and insisted that she follow him outside to see something behind the bathroom. When she refused, Mr Yasi squeezed her neck and dragged her outside holding onto her neck (Charge 1).
4. When the complainant placed her hand on the wall and the water tank to stop Mr Yasi squeezing her neck, Mr Yasi banged his head against her head causing laceration to her head (Charge 2). Family members intervened and he stopped but he swore at her and demanded that she get her things and follow him to his house.
5. The complainant went to collect her things but her sister told her not to follow Mr Yasi. The complainant went inside and locked the door. When she did not come out, Mr Yasi went after her and found the door locked. He asked her to open the door. She did not. Mr Yasi told her angrily that if she didn't do as he said, he would break the glass window and enter and kill her. In fear, she opened the door and left with Mr Yasi (Charge 3).
6. Mr Yasi was arrested on 5 January 2022. He admitted that he assaulted the complainant.





b. Domestic violence (Charges 1 and 2)                      6 months imprisonment.

16. The sentences are back-dated to commence from 6 January 2022 when Mr Yasi was detained on remand.

17. The seriousness of the offending must be marked by a custodial sentence as is the need for deterrence and to hold Mr Yasi accountable for this offending. There are no exceptional circumstances warranting suspension.

18. Mr Yasi has 14 days to appeal.

**DATED at Port Vila this 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 2022  
BY THE COURT**

*VMolisa*  
Justice Viran Molisa Trief

