

**IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS MAGISTRATES' COURT
AT HONIARA**
Criminal Case No. 274 of 2019



REGINA

v.

Raymond TAISAU

Before: Principal Magistrate Ms. Fatimah Taeburi
Ms. Patricia Tabepuda for the prosecution
Mr. Lappy Hite for the defendant

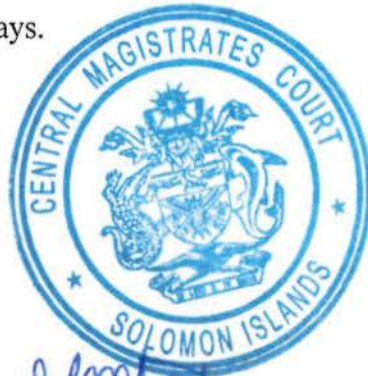
Date of hearing: 16th May 2019

Dated of ruling: 17th May 2019

SENTENCE

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 complainant is an Australian lady. She went to the bulk shop at Point Cruz. You met her there and you wiggled your fingers between her buttocks.
4. I take into account that you pleaded guilty. You have no previous convictions.
5. I agree with your lawyer that rehabilitation is a main consideration here.
6. I also take into account that you have been suffering from mental illness some years ago. At the time of the offending there is no evidence that you are still mentally ill, but there is a possibility that because you have not been taking your medication, that there could be times of relapse.
7. I accept that you did not premeditate committing the offence.

8. The maximum penalty for indecent assault is 5 years imprisonment.
9. 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.
10. I am satisfied that the appropriate sentence is 6 months imprisonment. The time spent in custody is to be taken into account.
11. Right to appeal within 14 days.



Fatimah Taeburi

Fatimah Taeburi
Principal Magistrate